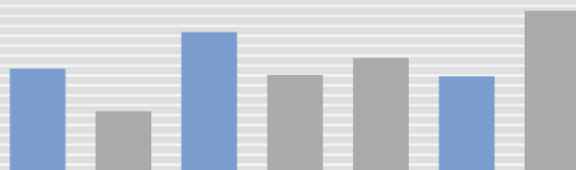




Fact sheet

from the EU drugs agency in Lisbon



INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA)

EMCDDA conference to take stock of achievements as IPA5 project draws to a close

(21.6.2017, LISBON) The **EU drugs agency (EMCDDA)** is organising a conference in Sarajevo today marking the end of a two-year technical cooperation project with beneficiary countries of the **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)** ⁽¹⁾. The conference is being held in association with the **Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina** and the **Delegation of the EU** to the country. **Deputy Minister of Security, Mijo Krešić** will attend the opening session ⁽²⁾.

The EU-funded project (**IPA5**)⁽³⁾, operating within the framework of the **EU Enlargement Policy** ⁽⁴⁾, was designed to prepare candidate and potential candidate countries to the EU for future participation in the work of the **EMCDDA**. Kicking off in July 2015, it promoted knowledge transfer and capacity building in the area of drug monitoring and provided scientific support for information collection and analysis and for product development corresponding to national, EU and EMCDDA needs.

The IPA5 beneficiary countries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia. The project goals included:

- Objective 1: consolidate cooperation with each IPA beneficiary at institutional level;
- Objective 2: foster scientific cooperation in data collection, analysis and interpretation;
- Objective 3: develop, increase and promote the added value of the cooperation.

The conference will look at how these objectives were implemented as well as related activities, lessons learned and next steps. The event will gather around 55 participants from the Western Balkan region representing a range of institutions (e.g. Ministries of health, internal affairs and the interior; customs authorities; forensic laboratories; public health institutes; the police; universities and clinics).

Under Objective 1, the **EMCDDA** organised national stakeholder meetings in each of the six beneficiary country capital cities to ensure national adherence to the project goals and expected outcomes.

Activities under Objective 2 included a data-collection exercise on assessing drug seizure data in the region, which included training sessions and analysis of national data. In cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the **EMCDDA** supported the development of national treatment monitoring systems, helping interested countries launch treatment-facility surveys. Also financed under the project was the implementation of the first national general population survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and in Montenegro.

The **EMCDDA** supported countries in developing national early-warning systems on new psychoactive substances (NPS) under Objective 3. Coaches from selected EU Member States were assigned to the interested beneficiary countries to implement capacity-development activities with key stakeholders.

Notes

(¹) The European Commission's IPA programme is designed to help candidate countries and potential candidate countries in their efforts to meet accession criteria, to align with EU policies and standards and to foster socio-economic development.

(²) For a full programme, see https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/instruments/overview_en

(³) IPA5 (July 2015–June 2017): 'Towards a further preparation of IPA beneficiaries for their participation in the activities of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) activities'
www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/cc/ipa5

(⁴) For more on the EU Enlargement Policy, see <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement>

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*