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About the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Pre-accession assistance is an investment in the future of the EU, making Europe safer and more prosperous by supporting the stability and prosperity of our closest neighbours. IPA creates incentives for EU future members to work on the transformation of their societies, legal systems and economies.

IPA 2007–2013

With over EUR 11 billion of funding committed from 2007 to 2013, IPA has already contributed significantly to reforms in the enlargement countries. At the same time, the funds help the EU reach its own objectives for a sus-

tainable economic recovery, the environment and climate change, transport, and energy supply etc.

IPA II 2014–2020

IPA will continue the process in order to:

- Increase good governance and capacity building to align with EU laws and standards
- Support socio-economic development in line with the EU 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

EU Enlargement

“The EU’s enlargement policy makes Europe a safer and a more stable place; it allows us to grow stronger, to promote our values and enables us to assume our role as a global player on the world stage. Enlargement policy is not a policy that is being made in isolation just for its own sake, it was from the very beginning – and still is – one of the core functions of the European Union together with the deepening of integration.”



Štefan Füle,
Member of the European Commission
responsible for enlargement

Where do we stand?

Croatia is the most recent Member State, having joined the European Union on the 1st of July 2013.

The EU enlargement agenda currently covers the Western

Balkans, Turkey and Iceland. The countries are at different stages of the process. Before joining, they must meet all political and economic conditions and align their legislation with EU law.

For more information: ec.europa.eu/enlargement

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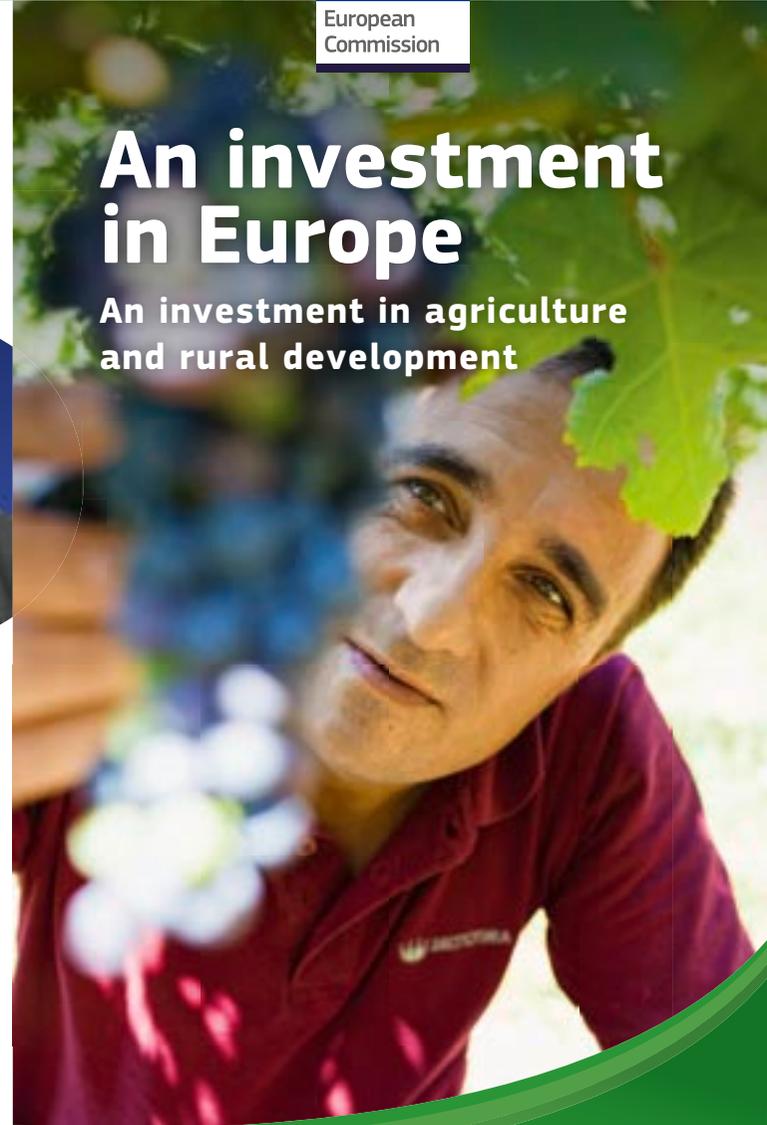
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European
Commission

An investment in Europe

An investment in agriculture and rural development



Instrument for
Pre-accession Assistance

Enlargement



GROWING TOGETHER



Regular monitoring improves food safety

Agriculture and rural development

The Common Agricultural Policy of the EU aims at ensuring a fair standard of living for farmers and providing a stable and safe food supply at affordable prices for consumers. Producing good-quality products should go hand-in-hand with meeting high environmental and animal welfare standards. Farmers are supported in using sustainable farming methods. They are also encouraged to produce and market the food specialities of their region.

An investment in agriculture and rural development

Agriculture is one of the most complex and sensitive issues in the enlargement countries. This is evident in its relatively large share of the Gross Domestic Product and the high percentage of the population active in agriculture. There are also structural deficiencies within the sector.

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) provides assistance towards restructuring agriculture and adapting it to EU standards. It contributes to sustainable rural development. Its final goal is to help a smooth integration of the agricultural sectors of the enlargement countries to that of the EU, to the benefit of both farmers and consumers.

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sustainable rural development

The EU funded a comprehensive project created by a network of collectors, breeders, processors and purchasers of medicinal and aromatic plants, named the Machinery Ring. It consists of machines for harvest, distillation, storage, product processing and packaging.

Higher quality of products

This project provided equipment to be used by a network of 2,165 members, educational workshops and venues for exchanging experiences. The initiative produced positive results, which are visible in the higher added value of certified products, increased competitiveness of the sub-sector of medicinal



and aromatic plants and the higher profits of the network members and their cooperation partners. The networking also solved the problem of the lack of equipment for the project beneficiaries. Transferring this kind of best practice is already applied in the Sisak Moslavina County of the neighbouring country Croatia.

Western Balkans – Sustainable farming methods

In the Bar and Boka-Bay area in Montenegro and Dubrovnik Neretva County in Croatia, olive production and processing were improved and made more competitive, resulting in more economic opportunities and local employment possibilities. This project was implemented by six local partners, including associations of olive producers, and was highly successful in developing the agrotourism sector in this cross-border region. Promo-

tion and marketing focused on niche markets for nature and authentic local products.



Agricultural production is one of the oldest industries in Southeast Europe

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Providing a stable and safe food supply

The support the EU provided to the country's Food and Veterinary Agency focused on the inspection services, control of animal diseases, animal waste disposal and an animal identification and registration system. Some of the key results are: improvements

in the rabies diagnostic capacity; preparation of an animal by-products strategy and a solution for the safe disposal of animal origin waste; and the establishment of an adequate monitoring and reporting system on animal diseases in the country.