

127th Session of the Committee of Ministers (Nicosia, 19 May 2017)

Joint Programmes between the Council of Europe and the European Union in 2016 – Information document

I. MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

1. An expression of the EU-CoE partnership and mutual commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, Joint Programme (JP) co-operation has been given a new impetus by the EU-CoE Statement of Intent. This programmatic document, signed in April 2014, intended to further strengthen collaboration in key areas of joint interest. Consequently, the volume of Joint Programmes reached a record level in 2016, both with regard to the global envelope and in annual amounts (detailed statistical analysis can be found in Section II).

2. The Statement of Intent covers three large-scale co-operation agreements aimed at encompassing joint co-operation in the EU Eastern Partnership area, the Southern Neighbourhood and the EU Enlargement region respectively. The first two of these, namely the Programmatic Co-operation Framework for Eastern Partnership (PCF; 33.4 million/3 years; EU 90% - CoE 10%) and South Programme – II (€7.4 million/3 years; EU 95% - CoE 5%) were signed at the end 2014. These multi-country multi-annual programmes were going through their second year of implementation in 2016, allowing to analyse preliminary results and implementation mechanisms (for more information, see Appendix I). The entry into force of the third agreement, operationalising the so-called “Horizontal Facility” for Enlargement countries, became the highlight of JP co-operation in 2016.

3. The Horizontal Facility (€25 million/3 years; EU 80% - CoE 20%) started its implementation in May 2016, with the aim of supporting Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo* to better comply with European standards. The initiative is structured around three priority themes: i) ensuring justice, ii) fight against corruption, organised crime and economic crime, and iii) anti-discrimination and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. Support is provided to the execution of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) within relevant thematic areas. The co-operation approach is two-fold and consists of : i) technical co-operation in the form of 32 different projects tailored to the beneficiaries’ needs and ii) the provision of Council of Europe expertise upon request for legislative analysis and policy advice. Turkey is expected to benefit from mainly the second form of intervention, whilst benefiting from individual country-specific programmes beyond the Horizontal Facility.

4. Two more sizeable multi-annual, multi-country Joint Programmes were negotiated for South - East Europe in order to complete the themes agreed upon in the Statement of Intent: JUFREX, ‘Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe’ (€3.1 million /3 years), which ensures that the freedom of expression and media component is covered, and ROMACTED¹, ‘Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level’ (€3.7 million/3 years). Both complement the Horizontal Facility. The implementation of JUFREX has already started, while the signature of ROMACTED is imminent.

¹ ROMACTED builds on the methodologies of the action in the field of Roma empowerment, which were developed through JPs ROMED and ROMACT.

* All reference to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo

5. The substantial development of thematic multilateral co-operation in other areas of common interest, covered by the EU-CoE Memorandum of Understanding of 2007, such as education, culture, youth and sport, is expected to benefit from a dedicated Statement of Intent, allowing to strengthen visibility of partnership and coherence of joint actions in these fields. Negotiations to this effect are being finalised.

6. In the context of large-scale co-operation undertakings, the CoE continued reinforcing its project management capability. Following the review of its Project Management Methodology (PMM) and production of an upgraded model in 2015, the CoE adapted the PMM to practical tools in 2016, in particular the PMM Handbook and management templates, and started detailing specifications for a bespoke IT tool to support the new PMM model. The roll-out started in May 2016, accompanied by training for all co-operation staff, including field offices. So far more than 250 staff have been trained and the new IT tool will gradually replace the current systems during 2017, with further IT developments to be pursued in 2018 - 2019.

7. Following the entry into force, in June 2015, of the new EU–CoE Framework Administrative Agreement (FAA) on the EU model contract PAGOda (Pillar Assessed Grant or Delegation Agreement), all Joint programmes signed from 2015 onwards were contracted as PAGOda, with preponderance of Pillar Assessed Grant Agreements over Delegation Agreements. The relative complexity of PAGOda as contractual arrangement triggered a need for simplification, towards which the EC legal services proceeded in mid-2016 by producing an improved version of the model contract. Amending FAA in the light of new PAGOda version does not appear to be necessary given the nature of the changes; consultations on this point are expected to be finalised by end March 2017.

II. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

8. Forty-eight Joint Programmes, most of them multi-annual, were in operation between January and December 2016, with their Cumulative Budgetary Envelope (CBE)² amounting to €145.9 million (€127.9 million in 2015)³. The EU's share corresponded to €125.7 million (86.2%) and the CoE's to €20.2 million (13.8%) (€111.4 million (87%) and €16.5 million (13%) respectively in 2015).

9. The Annual Budgetary Envelope (ABE prorated)⁴ amounted to €43.6 million (€36 million in 2015). The EU's share in ABE 2016 amounted to €37.5 million (85.9%) and CoE's to €6.1 million (14.1%) (€30.7 million (85%) and €5.3 million (15%) respectively in 2015).

10. The Annual Amounts under Joint Programmes, registered between 1 January and 31 December 2016, amounted to €40.5 million (€25.8 million in 2015; increase by 56.8%). The EU share corresponded to 66% of the CoE's total resources from extra-budgetary contributions in 2016 (49% in 2015). With an additional €2.7 million of EU voluntary contributions other than JPs, the EU is the largest external contributor to the CoE co-operation activities.

11. Twenty new Joint Programmes, worth €38.5 million, have seen their negotiations concluded in 2016 (21 programmes worth €43 million in 2015), with some of them starting in the first trimester of 2017.⁵

12. All main JP statistical parameters demonstrated positive dynamics in 2016. The increase in CBE (14.07%) and ABE (21.4%) is mainly a result of the efforts invested by the CoE and the EU in the concretisation of the mutual commitment expressed in the 2014 "Statement of Intent". The increase in the annual amounts under Joint Programmes (56.8%) results both from the aforementioned efforts and the attainment of the disbursement thresholds by running Programmes in 2016.

² The Cumulative Budgetary Envelope corresponds to the total budgetary envelope of all multi-annual JPs active in a given year.

³ List of programmes included in calculation of CBE 2016 is presented in Appendix II.

⁴ The Annual Budgetary Envelope is a statistical parameter, calculated *pro rata temporis* to CBE.

⁵ Programmes with a start date in 2017 are not included in calculation of CBE 2016; these programmes are presented separately, in Appendix III.

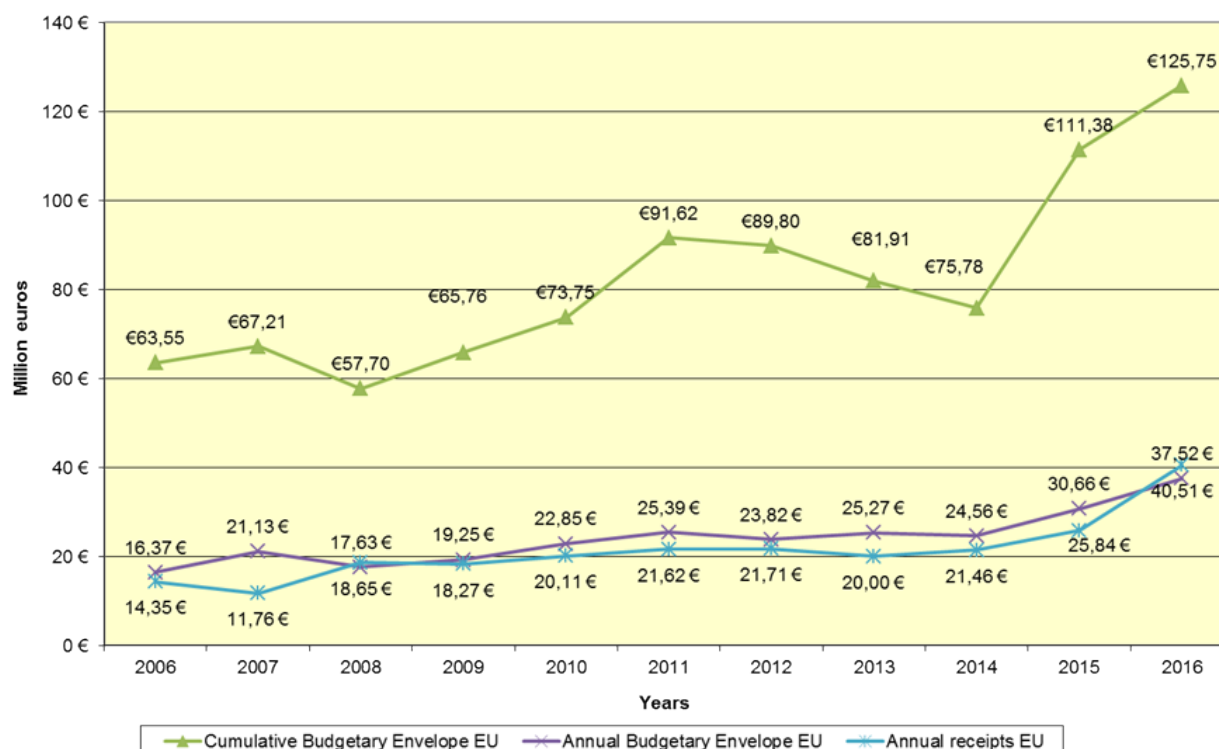
13. The charts below illustrate the evolution of the CBE and of EU and CoE contributions to the Joint Programmes from 2006 to 2016.

EU/CoE Contribution to the Total Cumulative Budgetary Envelope (in million Euros)



14. The following chart shows the evolution of the EU's share in CBE and ABE in comparison with the JP Annual amounts.

Annual Receipts for the last decade.



15. With regard to geographical distribution, both main geographical regions of Joint Programme co-operation, i.e. South-East Europe and Turkey on the one hand and Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus on the other, benefitted from a significant volume of on-going Joint Programmes (totalling €60.5 million and €44.5 million respectively in 2016; €48.7 million and €48.9 million respectively in 2015). In both geographical regions, there is a trend to reduction in the number of individual country-specific Joint Programmes due to the establishment of the geographical framework programmes (PCF and Horizontal Facility) resulting from the 2014 Statement of Intent. This trend does not affect only Turkey, where large individual country-specific programmes remain the main vehicle of the CoE assistance.

16. With respect to the Southern Mediterranean and Central Asia, support for the reform processes continued to develop within the framework of the CoE policy towards neighbouring regions (totalling €11.4 million in 2016; €10.6 million in 2015). In the South Neighbourhood, the South Programme II (€7.4 million) remains the main channel of the CoE assistance and co-operation activities, with a separate Morocco-specific programme in the judiciary field being implemented in parallel (€1.8 million). The global volume of programmes in support to reforms in the neighbouring countries of Central Asia amounted to €2.2 million (€2.7 million in 2015), with the launch of a new programme for Kyrgyzstan in anti-corruption field (€0.6 million).

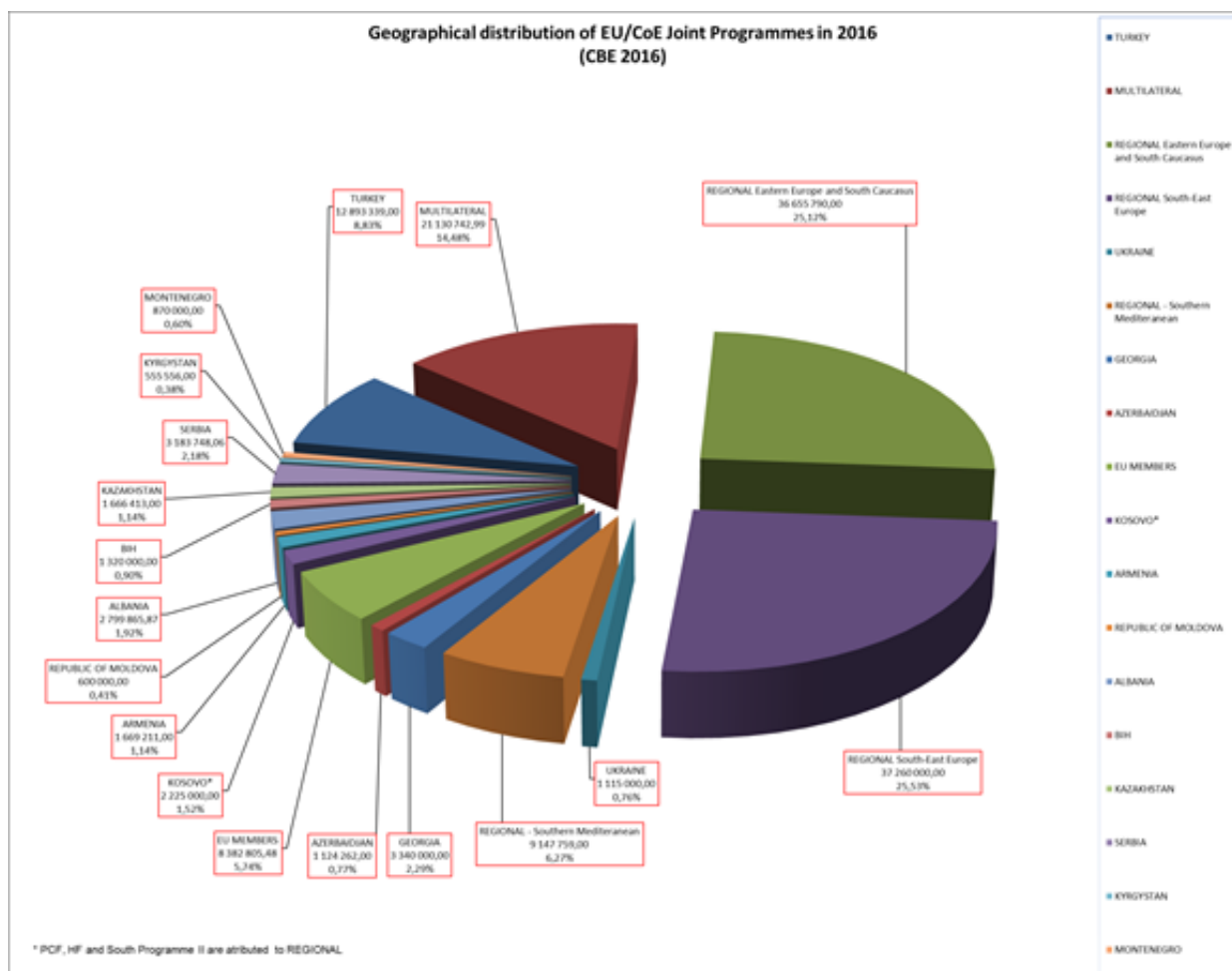
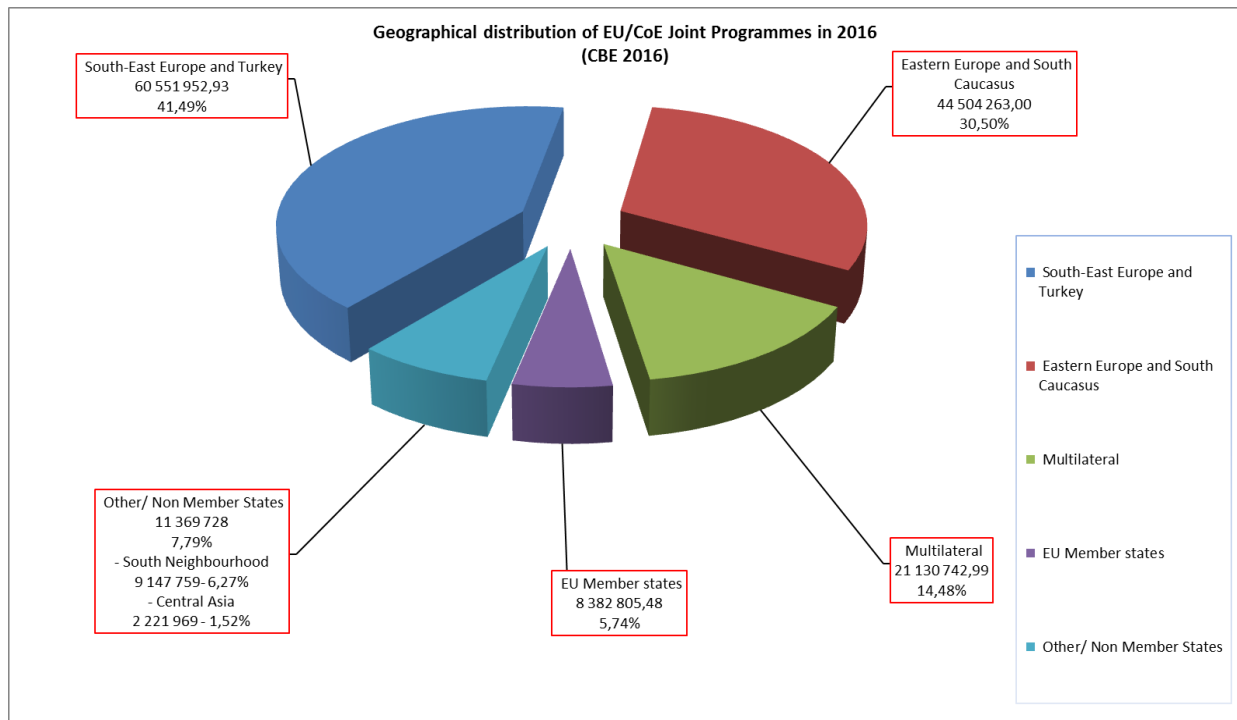
17. The financial volume of JPs targeted exclusively at EU member States continued to increase (€8.4 million in 2016; €6.7 million 2015). Additionally, EU member States are involved in a number of thematic multilateral JPs.

18. The global volume of thematic multilateral programmes significantly increased, amounting in 2016 to €21.1 million (€13 million in 2015). Along with long-standing co-operation exemplified by the "Youth Partnership" and "European Heritage Days", thematic multilateral co-operation has been enriched by relatively new undertakings, in particular in such fields as fight against cybercrime (GLACY and GLACY+) and Roma inclusion and empowerment (ROMACT).

19. With regard to Joint Programmes directed to a single beneficiary, co-operation with Turkey remained in a leading position although experiencing a decrease in global volume in comparison to 2015 (€12.9 million in 2016; €20.3 million in 2015). The decrease is of a circumstantial nature, given the on-going negotiation of several sizable Joint Programmes, the signature of which is expected in 2017. These Programmes will focus on the penitentiary reform, judiciary and bar associations, and on education for democratic citizenship.

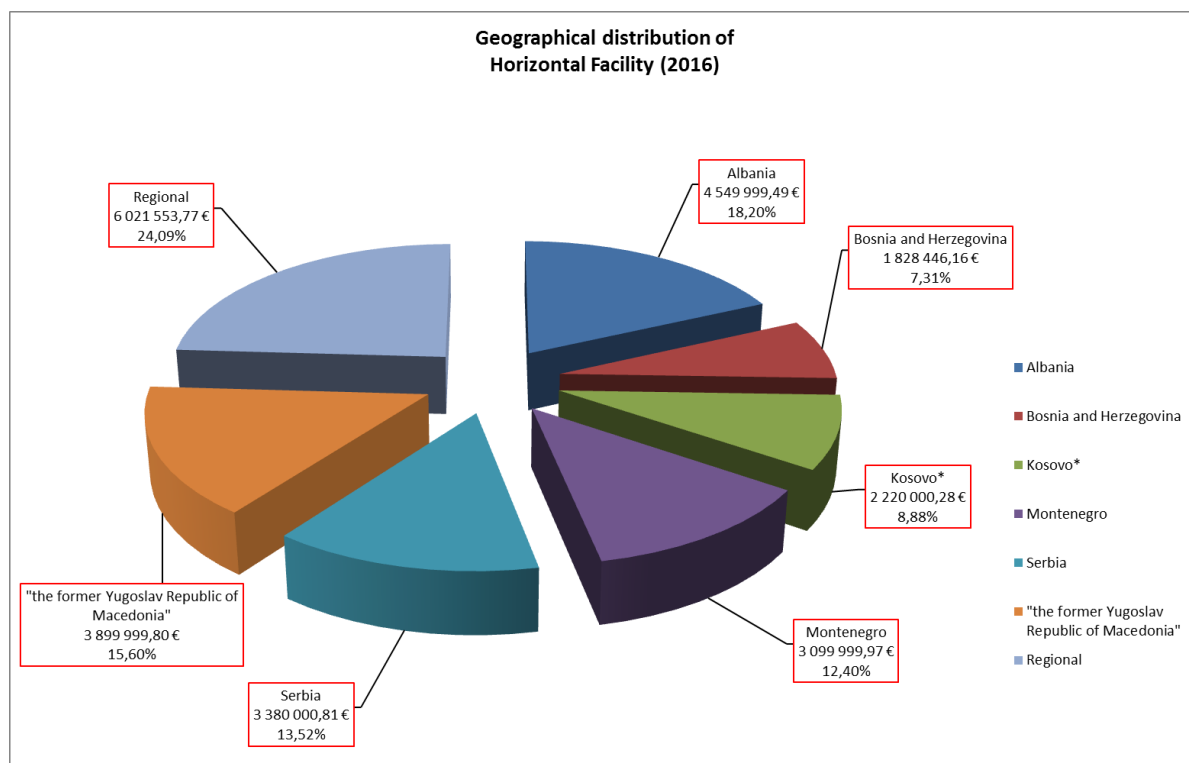
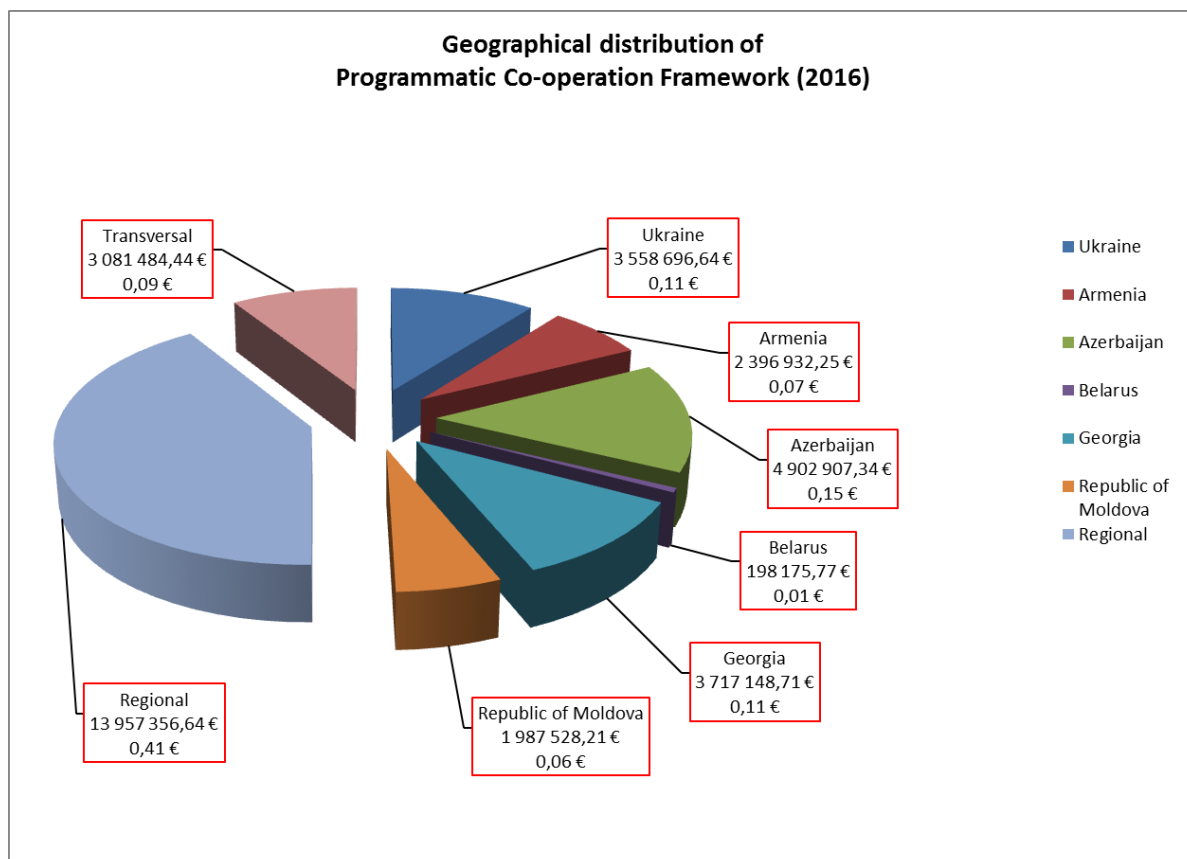
20. Country-specific co-operation in other countries showed positive dynamics overall, since the geographical framework programmes (PCF, Horizontal Facility and South Programme II), although being multi-beneficiary in nature and having a regional dimension, cater for substantial country-specific assistance.

21. The charts below show the geographical distribution of Joint Programmes in 2016.



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22. The charts below show the distribution of country-specific actions versus regional actions within PCF and Horizontal Facility (indicative, budgetary envelopes by beneficiary are prone to modifications).



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23. Rule of Law Programmes continued to prevail in number and volume in the context of the thematic distribution of JP co-operation (including PCF, Horizontal Facility and South programme II), accounting for 56.1% (€81.9 million) of CBE 2016 (45%, €57.6 million in 2015). These programmes cover the full range of the thematic sectors of the Rule of Law pillar:

- Countering threats to the rule of law (anti-corruption, anti-money-laundering, fight against cybercrime, sport and integrity) - €36 million;
- Ensuring justice (judicial and penitentiary reforms)- €35.4 million;
- Strengthening the rule of law (comprising Venice Commission's assistance to constitutional and para-constitutional reforms as well as programmes focused on media/information society/internet governance and on integrity in sport) - €10.5 million.

24. Human Rights Programmes represented 25.9% (€37.8 million) of the total value of JPs 2016 (26%; €32.8 million in 2015). This category continues to be characterised by strong concentration on:

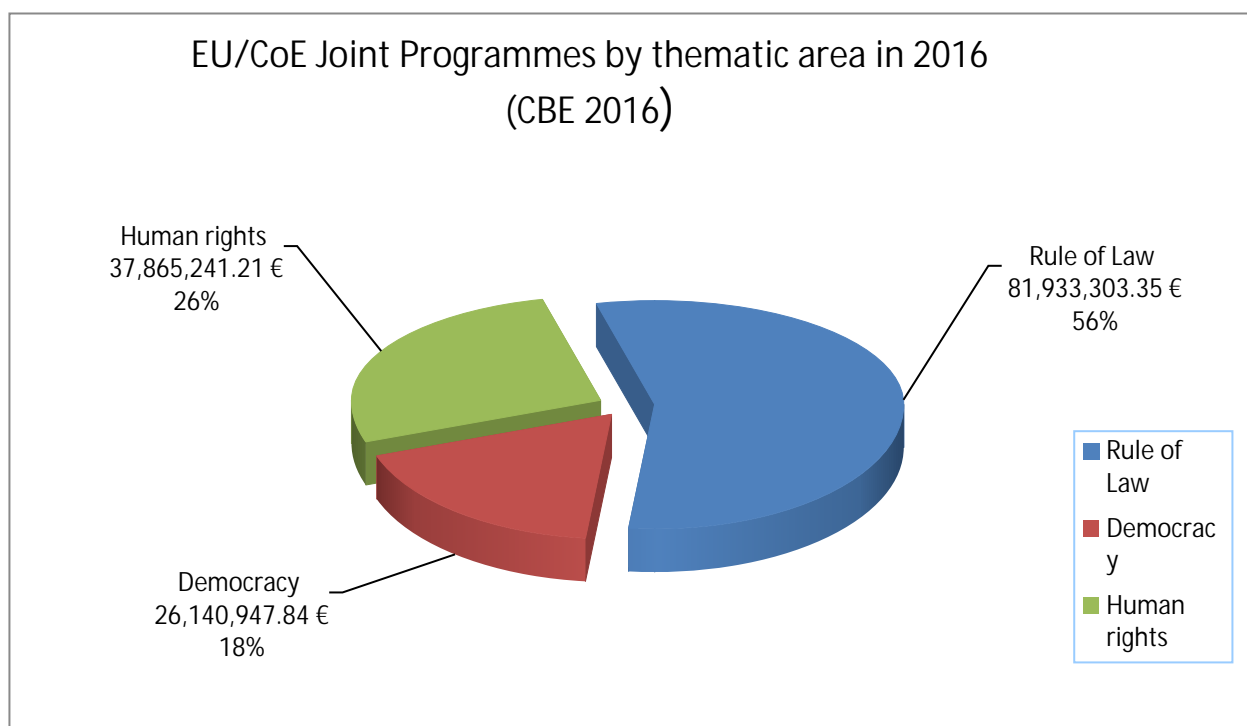
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the ECHR system at national and European level - €25.9 million.

The remainder of funding is channelled to other actions promoting human rights, including equality, minority rights, Roma inclusion, etc. - €11.9 million.

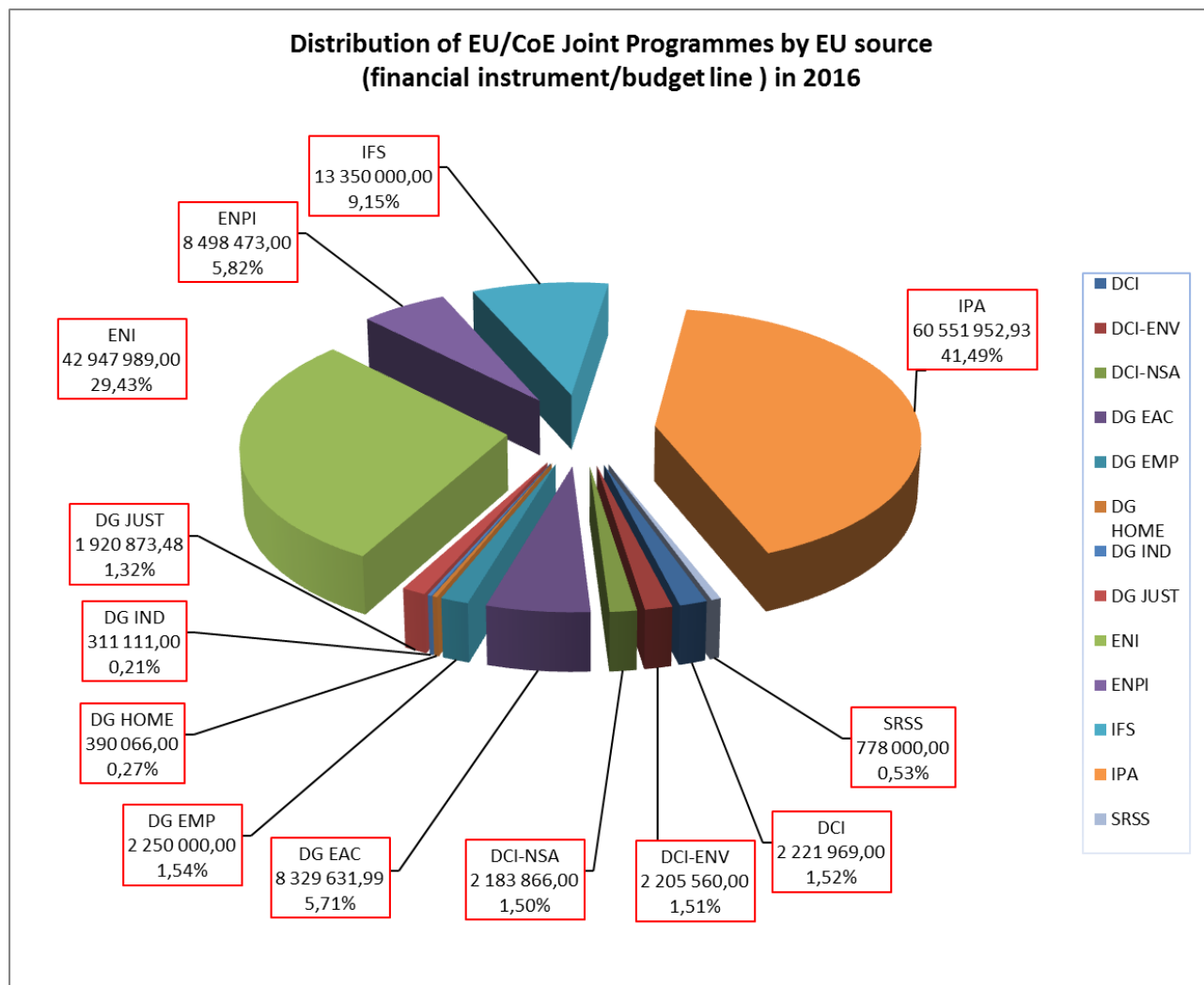
25. Democracy Programmes represented 17.9% (€26.1 million) of the total volume of JPs in operation in 2016 (29%; €37 million in 2015), out of which:

- Promoting participation and diversity (education for democratic citizenship, youth for democracy, valuing culture, nature and heritage, etc.) - €15.9 million;
- Strengthening democratic governance and fostering innovation (PACE, Congress, local self-governance etc) - €10.2 million.

26. The chart below shows thematic distribution of JP co-operation in 2016:



27. In terms of funding sources, bulk of Joint Programme co-operation is funded by the EU geographical instruments of external action (primarily IPA and ENI). The chart below shows detailed distribution by funding source.



IPA Instrument of Pre-Accession
 ENPI European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument
 ENI European Neighbourhood Instrument
 IFS Instrument for Stability
 EIDHR European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
 DCI Development Co-operation Instrument
 DG Funds from different EC Directorates General
 SRSS Structural Reform Support Service

Appendices

Appendix I. Achievements of Joint Programme co-operation

Appendix II. Joint Programmes active in 2016

Appendix III. Joint Programmes contracted in 2016, starting in 2017

APPENDIX I

Achievements of Joint Programme co-operation

The present Appendix focuses on large-scale (beyond €5 million) Joint Programmes, including geographical framework programmes deriving from the Statement of Intent (PCF, Horizontal Facility, South Programme II), and a thematic multilateral (global) action in the field of fight against cybercrime (GLACY/GLACY+).

EU-COE PROGRAMMATIC CO-OPERATION FRAMEWORK IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Geographical scope:	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.
Duration (first phase):	1 January 2015 – 31 December 2017
Budget:	€33 800 230
Implementation status:	Active

The European Union/Council of Europe Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) was developed as a new co-operation modality to support the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in their efforts to enhance the rule of law, respect human rights and to promote democratic governance. The PCF builds upon the EU policy priorities in the context of the Eastern Partnership and on the CoE expertise in standard - setting, monitoring and cooperation. It translates priorities of co-operation identified within the framework of the CoE country-specific Action Plans, developed in close consultation with the targeted countries' national authorities and adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

The PCF comprises 48 country-specific and regional actions structured around 14 thematic programmes compounded under five themes (protecting and promoting Human Rights, ensuring justice, combating threats to the rule of law, addressing challenges of the information society and promoting democratic governance).

An evaluation of the first 12-18 months of the three-year Programme was commissioned by the European Commission/DG Near and conducted from July 2016 to January 2017. Whilst the evaluators recognise the relevance of PCF interventions, they recommend greater focus on the definition of measurable indicators and a traceable results chain. They also point at shortcomings with regard to a clearly demonstrated gender mainstreaming dimension. These issues, as well as additional efforts with regard to "branding" the Joint Programme logic, are underway in cooperation with DG Near. European Union Delegations in the beneficiary countries joined the original consultation process between Brussels and Strasbourg late. They wish to be more closely associated.

The present report highlights some of the PCF achievements during the second year of implementation.

Support to legislative reforms

Strengthening Human Rights protection and promotion, the PCF projects supported Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in bringing their legislation in line with European Human Rights standards. The support was three-fold: firstly to review draft bills (Armenia and Ukraine), secondly to help developing legislative amendments (Armenia and Ukraine) and thirdly to prepare documentation in anticipation of planned legislative reforms (Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine). The legislative work pertained to different Human Rights areas, including criminal justice in Armenia and Georgia, police reform in Ukraine and non-discrimination legislation in Republic of Moldova, including civil society in the process. An example is the joint legislative work resulting in the revised draft Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) in Armenia, where a number of controversial provisions were harmonised with CoE requirements.

In anti-corruption and anti-money laundering field, through regional and country-specific activities, the CoE contributed to legislative reforms in all EaP countries. As a result of regional initiatives, the EaP countries are now equipped with model laws on the liability of legal entities, integrity testing and lobbying, readily available as a blueprint for their on-going or future reforms. Several EaP countries, including Ukraine and Georgia, followed up with requests for further assistance to incorporate proposed solutions in the model laws into their national legislative and regulatory frameworks. At the beginning of 2017, Azerbaijan adopted additional legislation concerning the liability of legal entities pursuant to guidance given through the PCF regional initiative and 2015 capacity-building efforts. In Ukraine, the Council of Europe reviewed the draft Civil Confiscation Law, draft amendments to legislation on the prosecution service and draft legislative provisions regulating financial control of asset declarations. These reviews prompted the reconsideration of certain measures, with possible amendments being considered to align the existing legislation with the international standards and good practices. Georgia was provided with the legislative expertise pertaining to the AML/CFT legislation on the non-profit sector and leasing, casinos and gambling institutions. Georgia's Revenue Service took into account the expertise when developing the relevant legislative amendments concerning the non-profit sector.

In anti-cybercrime area, criminal legislation reforms were supported in several EaP countries. In the Republic of Moldova, the Venice Commission – with the support of PCF project experts – assessed the draft law amending and completing the Republic of Moldova's legislation in the field of cybercrime. Experts' findings became part of the Venice Commission opinion adopted in December 2016 and will serve as a basis for further project activities. The Venice Commission specifically calls on the authorities of the Republic of Moldova to make use of the support of Cybercrime@EAP projects. In Ukraine, CoE experts reviewed the current legislative framework for procedural powers and drafted cybercrime-related legislative acts. A set of recommendations was formulated in a report, guiding further project work. Strengthening domestic legislation was discussed with the rest of EaP countries. In Armenia, the amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure are still pending for adoption and for Georgia suggested legislative changes are being considered by the authorities. A regional workshop on criminal law reform was held in Belarus in order to encourage reform of the procedural law in line with the Budapest Convention also in this country. Overall, progress was thus made with regard to reforms of criminal procedure law but given the complexities of the reform process, this field will remain a challenge for some time.

Aligning the media legislation and regulations with European standards, the CoE continued to provide bilateral assistance to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine to support the development of legal and institutional mechanisms for freedom of expression, higher quality of journalism and pluralistic media landscape. In Ukraine, an expert support was provided to drafting of the law on audio-visual services, thus contributing to reinforcing legal and institutional mechanisms for freedom of expression and higher quality of journalism and pluralistic media landscape in Ukraine. The Council of Europe also contributed to the media decentralisation process through specific assistance provided to develop legislative provisions on community media and to raise awareness of Parliament members, journalists and civil society on European standards on community media. In Azerbaijan, the Council of Europe continued to raise public awareness and mediate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on how to improve the national legislation on defamation and journalistic practice. Despite the legislative setback in November marked by the adoption of new legislative amendments criminalising defamation on line, PCF will continue to raise awareness and dialogue with the Parliament in 2017.

The report on Georgian Internet Law and Telecommunication Market was prepared and provided background for discussions with the Georgian Internet service providers to review their role, duties and the responsibilities. In the light of principles announced in the Council of Europe Recommendation on protecting and promoting the right to freedom of expression and the right to private life and EU Regulation 2015/2120 on Open and neutral Internet, an expert report on Network Neutrality in the Republic of Moldova addressed the current legal gaps in protection of Human Rights online and provided recommendations to improve legal provisions on law enforcement, copyright, protection of minors and network security. To ensure the implementation of the recommendations, the report was presented to the national authorities, civil society and ICT companies.

Supporting further development of legislative and regulatory data protection frameworks, the CoE identified priorities and areas of enhancement for Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, as a result of the legal expertise of the data protection legislation. Based on CoE expert recommendations subsequent legislative drafts were prepared in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova and will be submitted to National Parliaments for adoption before the end of 2017. The PCF project team reached an understanding of the importance of sound data protection legislation with the respective national authorities in Azerbaijan and Belarus and agreed on roadmaps for actions in 2017.

Through PCF support, the CoE assessed and improved the compatibility of legislation on elections and political parties in Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine with European Electoral Heritage. The assessment resulted in six opinions, mostly produced jointly by the Venice Commission and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR), and pointing out shortcomings in the draft laws in the light of existing practices. Armenia and Georgia took into account a significant number of recommendations in the amended electoral codes, while the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine still need to amend their legislation accordingly, so as to fully meet international commitments and standards and good practices.

Institutional reforms and capacity-building

The capacities of the national Human Rights institutions in the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Ukraine were reinforced in specific fields, such as ill-treatment, data protection or anti-discrimination. A harmonised and high quality approach to Human Rights training in Europe was ensured though applying the HELP methodology. Pools of qualified trainers were created in Azerbaijan and Armenia with substantive specialised Human Rights training material being integrated in the courses of national training institutions in four EaP countries. Altogether, in 2016 the CoE trained around 5000 professionals on Human Rights in four EaP countries. Encouraging feedback on the application of the transferred skills indicates good prospects for Human Rights protection of citizens.

PCF actions to ensure justice concentrated on providing quality and timely justice, strengthening penitentiary reforms and supporting constitutional processes. The pilot courts in Azerbaijan (five) and the Republic of Moldova (six) now use the CEPEJ methodology and tools to assess their performance and conduct satisfaction surveys among users. Surveys also show that lawyers in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova already benefit from the Bar Associations' gained ability to better defend their interest as they have been equipped with strategic tools and training to function more effectively. Constitutional reviews resulted in improved legislation in Ukraine and Georgia in line with the Venice Commission recommendations; peer-to-peer exchanges ensured references to international law and case-law in constitutional courts' judgments, as demonstrated in the CODICES database. Penitentiary reforms produced concrete effects by setting up a new inspection unit in Ukraine and advancing with the implementation of the prison health care strategy in Georgia. In Armenia, the prison health care reform was given more prominence through the adoption of a Government's Decree and a Concept paper outlining further legislative and institutional reforms. A regional study analysed the reasons behind overcrowding in prisons and suggested ways to combat it in four EaP countries.

Countering threats to the rule of law, the PCF actions strived to reinforce the capacities to combat corruption, money-laundering and cybercrime relying on Budapest Convention, GRECO and MONEYVAL recommendations. Ukraine introduced a highly advanced mechanism to prevent corruption in public administration. The capacities of Azerbaijan's commissions to prevent corruption were strengthened. Belarus' public sector institutions learned how to carry out corruption risk assessments and better implement the recently introduced administrative sanctions. Through an additional regional project to combat cybercrime, gap analyses in public-private cooperation were produced, providing a road map for further project implementation; an on-line resource was installed to link up existing initiatives in order to improve transparency.

Addressing challenges of the information society, the PCF projects continued to enhance knowledge of public officials, journalists, internet service providers and civil society representatives on European media standards. Multi-stakeholder dialogue on internet governance has been developed through the regional PCF platform.

Democratic governance was promoted through participation in elections and local governance. Providing targeted support to the Central Election Commissions in Georgia and the Republic of Moldova prior to the elections held in 2016 improved the election administration, as noted by the international election observation mission. A regional study developed specific recommendations to enhance the participation of women as voters and candidates, which now have to be translated into clear and tangible actions in EaP countries. Contributing to local government reforms, the PCF addressed institutional challenges across the region through improving ethical standards of locally elected representatives. Fostering local economic development through regional exchanges and bilateral support to local government has successfully led to the formulation of individual targets and implementation programmes to local financial management.

PCF's regional activities facilitated peer-to-peer exchanges. Regional co-operation helped professionals to compare their approaches and identify best practices to advance domestic reforms.

TOWARDS STRENGTHENED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN (SOUTH PROGRAMME II)

Geographical scope:	South Mediterranean Region (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestinian National Authority)
Duration:	1 January 2015 – 31 December 2017
Budget:	€ 370 000 (EU 95%; CoE 5%)
Implementation status:	Active

The Programme 'Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean' (South Programme II) is open to all Southern Mediterranean region partner countries. The main partners of the programme continue to be Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan since the Programme is now well established in the three countries with various on-going activities on bilateral level. Other Southern Mediterranean partner countries are involved in the programme's regional and sub-regional activities.

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to reinforcing human rights, rule of law and democracy in Southern Mediterranean partner countries in accordance with European and other international standards, based on a demand-driven approach.

The South Programme II works on three specific clusters of activities, namely:

- Component 1 - Support constitutional processes in Southern Mediterranean countries, the development of new legislation and the setting-up and functioning of human rights institutions and democratic governance structures;
- Component 2 - Promote the creation and the consolidation of a common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean by raising awareness on key CoE Conventions and other European and international standards as well as to strengthen human rights, good governance and democratic values in the Southern Mediterranean region;
- Component 3 - Promote the exchange of best practices between Europe and countries of the Southern Mediterranean region and within the region with a view to supporting and consolidating on-going democratic reform processes, in particular through the creation of formal and informal networks.

The South Programme II operates in 12 thematic areas: Prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment; Fight against trafficking in human beings; Data protection; Drug abuse and drug trafficking; Independence and efficiency of justice; Constitutional reform, new legislation and new governance bodies; Common legal area; Information society; Combating corruption, money laundering and terrorism; Inter-parliamentary co-operation; Democratic governance at local/regional level; Participatory democracy and civil society; Training in human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Under component 1, the bulk of the activities are in the field of justice and constitutional reforms through the intervention of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) and the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission). Initiatives under this cluster featured the continued support to the main target countries (Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco) in the field of anti-corruption and money laundering with the continuation and further development of the SNAC II project, and the institutionalisation of mechanisms for the fight against torture (Tunisia and Morocco).

The major highlight in 2016 was the contribution of CoE support to Tunisia and Morocco's adoption of laws on the fight against human trafficking with provisions which are, to a great extent, in line with the CoE Convention.

In the field of the fight against corruption and money-laundering, the CoE's provided legislative and institutional support to the anti-corruption bodies of Morocco and Tunisia.

In the field of prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, progress was made in fulfilling the needs of Morocco and Tunisia and to contributing to the establishment of the National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Torture for the two countries.

In Jordan, the CEPEJ continued to familiarize the stakeholders with the CEPEJ tools and methodologies and had the opportunity to assess and redefine priorities of the CEPEJ intervention in Jordan through high level meetings.

Another feature under this component is support to the establishment of the new legal frameworks and to drafting of organic law process. This expertise is provided by the Venice Commission which continued with its institution building activities in 2016. In particular, it has contributed to strengthening the capacities of the staff of the Ombudsmen of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen (AOM) and of the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of the Francophonie (AOMF) through the organization of a training session in Rabat on 22-24 November. In Morocco, it has continued to support the reform process through an exchange of experience and good practices. In Jordan, it has provided legal advice in the framework of the parliamentary elections which took place on 20 September 2016.

Under component 2, the CoE has the long-term objective to increase the compliance between the European and the Southern Mediterranean standards based on the Council of Europe conventional acquis and according to the partner countries' needs. In addition to accession to some major CoE conventions in the field of human rights, the rule of law and democracy, partner countries are invited throughout the South Programme II to take part in the various conventional and other intergovernmental committees and have the unique possibility to exchange on an equal footing with their European partners.

The major highlight in 2016 was the entry into force of the Cybercrime Convention in Israel on 1 September which constitutes an important development contributing to the creation of a common legal space.

Also in 2016, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia confirmed their interest in several CoE conventions. Tunisia's particular interest focused on those relating to Medicrime and Fight against trafficking of human organs which were presented in specific roundtables on 14 November 2016 in Tunis. The country has also shown a special regard for conventions on the violence against women and children, prevention of torture, terrorism, and especially the new protocol on foreign terrorist fighters for which a Working group was dedicated on 23 November 2016 in Tunis.

Under component 3, the aim is to ensure the progressive involvement of partner countries in various CoE networks such as the Schools of Political Studies (Morocco and Tunisia), the CoE Pompidou Group, the Programme for advanced training in the field of human rights (PATHS), the Intercultural Cities Network and the North-South Centre. Tunisia became member of the latter in December 2016.

In 2016, participants and managing staff of Schools of Political Studies in Morocco and Tunisia have contributed to the development of exchanges of best practices between Europe and non-state actors' representatives of countries of the Southern Mediterranean region, particularly at the occasion of the 5th edition of the World Forum for Democracy held in Strasbourg (7-9 November 2016) dedicated to democracy and equality. A regional seminar of the Schools of Political Studies held in Marrakech on 16-18 November 2016 strengthened the co-operation within Southern Mediterranean.

In the field of combatting drug trafficking and drug abuse, the Pompidou Group, went on sharing its expertise with partner countries with regard to the development and implementation of drug policies based on the human rights approach, in particular through regular Mediterranean School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (MedSPAD) Committees, attended by representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia as well as Israel, who joined the committee for the very first time.

PATHS is a programme designed to provide a structured, comprehensive framework for training, based on demand and tailored to the needs of Southern Mediterranean partner countries. In 2016, the third module "Human Rights in practice" presented participants from Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine* the practices of the rights enshrined in the Council of Europe conventions.

Intercultural Cities (ICC) is a capacity-development project which supports cities in developing, implementing and evaluating local diversity and inclusion strategies based on the expertise developed through the running of the ICC European network of 75 cities in 21 European countries. After having completed a series of workshops in Israel in 2015, in 2016 the CoE initiated co-operation with Morocco and Jordan on a local level through the Intercultural Cities approach. This has led to the launch of the Moroccan Network of Intercultural Cities in Tangier in July 2016.

The North-South Centre organises annually the Lisbon Forum, a distinctive platform bringing together high-level participants from Europe, neighbouring regions and other continents to share experience, good practice and expertise. Migration and Human Rights were the focus of the 22nd edition of the event held in 2016.

Finally, in the framework of the South Programme, substantial developments were achieved in the co-operation with Palestine* through the official adoption by the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Neighbourhood Co-operation Priorities on 14 September 2016 endorsed by President Abbas and the CoE Secretary General in the margin of the UN General Assembly meeting. The main areas of co-operation identified are (1) the prevention of domestic violence; (2) justice reform; (3) the prevention and combating of corruption.

Interparliamentary co-operation and institutional capacity building will complement all the co-operation activities in a transversal manner. During the needs assessment mission held on 8-10 November 2016 to Jerusalem and Ramallah international partners and Palestinian authorities were met to discuss the implementation of the Neighbourhood Cooperation Priorities 2016-2017 (Ramallah, Palestine*) and an agreement reached to begin the technical implementation thanks to the funding by the South Programme II in early 2017.

HORIZONTAL FACILITY FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

Geographical scope:	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', Turkey and Kosovo*.
Duration:	24 May 2016 – 23 May 2019
Budget:	€25 000 000 (EU 80% CoE 20%)
Implementation status:	Active

The Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey (hereafter: the Horizontal Facility) started implementation on 24 May, with the aim of supporting Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Kosovo* to comply with European standards.

* All reference to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo./

** This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

The initiative supports three priority themes: 1) ensuring justice, the 2) fight against corruption, organised crime and economic crime, and 3) anti-discrimination and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups. Further support is provided to the execution of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) within these thematic areas. Freedom of expression and the media is being addressed separately through a regional Joint Programme, called 'Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe' (JUFREX).

The Horizontal Facility follows a complementary two-fold approach in providing support to the beneficiaries: i)) technical co-operation tailored to help beneficiaries in achieving increased compliance with European standards (in the form of 32 different Actions divided over the aforementioned three themes and specific to each of the Beneficiaries) and ii) the provision of Council of Europe expertise to respond to requests from Horizontal Facility Beneficiaries for legislative analysis and policy advice. Turkey's involvement will be limited to receiving legal analyses/advice through the Council of Europe Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism and from potential regional activities.

The Horizontal Facility successfully completed its inception phase and has already organised more than 120 activities across 26 Actions during its first seven months. At this early stage, the following achievements can be noted:

- the operational structure of the Horizontal Facility, with a co-ordination hub in Belgrade, was established and staff was recruited to Council of Europe field and programme offices for the implementation of the Actions;
- focal points on the side of the authorities (called Horizontal Facility Beneficiary Co-ordinators) were appointed in each of the six Beneficiaries and a first introductory meeting was held;

Furthermore, specifically as regards the technical co-operation component of the Horizontal Facility:

- 27 inception visits were carried out in the six Beneficiaries, to discuss logical framework and draft workplans with the beneficiary institutions, the EUDs and other stakeholders, which led to the finalisation of the Tri-Annual Plans of Action (TAPAs) for the six Beneficiaries;
- the six finalised TAPAs were translated into 32 Action-specific workplans and budgets, which have been endorsed by the relevant authorities (and local EUDs/EUO) at the Beneficiary level;
- following the provision of training to more than 30 project staff working on the Horizontal Facility in Council of Europe field and programme offices, staff started using the new Council of Europe project management methodology, advancing the overall implementation of the Horizontal Facility.

Moreover, the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism became operational, with four requests being received which inter alia led the Constitutional Court of Albania to decide on 22 December that the law on the transitional re-evaluation (or 'vetting') of judges and prosecutors in Albania was in line with the Constitution, following an amicus curiae brief by the Venice Commission under the Expertise Co-ordination Mechanism, clearing the way for the evaluation of judges and prosecutors in Albania as part of the large-scale judicial reform.

Finally, there has been a strong focus on developing the communication tools and visibility of the Facility.

GLOBAL ACTION ON CYBERCRIME

'Global Action on cybercrime' is a large-scale multilateral programme composed of two (successive) contracts (GLACY and GLACY + (extended)).

Geographical scope:	Global
Duration:	1 November 2013 - 29/02/2020
GLACY:	1 November 2013 - 31 October 2016
GLACY +	1 March 2016 – 29/02/20

Budget:	€13 350 000 (EU 90% CoE 10%)
GLACY	€ 3 350 000
GLACY+	€ 10 000 000

Implementation status: Active

The overall objective of the Programme is to prevent and fight cybercrime in line with international legal instruments and human rights norms, standards and good practices, targeting in particular international co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence on the basis of the Budapest Convention. The programme is global in nature (covering variety of geographical regions including Europe), targeting in its first phase (GLACY) seven “priority countries” (Mauritius, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tonga). In its second phase (GLACY+), the programme extends in scope, with GLACY priority countries serving as hubs to share their experience with other countries of their respective regions. Moreover, the Dominican Republic and Ghana have been added to the list of GLACY+ priority countries and potential hubs/regional centres of expertise. Furthermore, countries of Latin America and the Caribbean may now also benefit from programme support.

In its first phase, the Programme was structured into several clusters: i) engagement of decision-makers; ii) harmonisation of legislation; iii) judicial training; iv) law-enforcement capacity-building; v) public/private and interagency information-sharing ;vi) international law enforcement and judicial co-operation ; vii) assessment of progress. In its second phase, the action is centred on i) promoting consistent cybercrime and cyber-security policies and strategies; ii) strengthening the capacity of police authorities to investigate cybercrime and engage in effective police-to-police co-operation; iii) enabling criminal justice authorities to apply legislation and prosecute and adjudicate cases of cybercrime and electronic evidence and engage in international co-operation. The second phase of the programme is implemented in co-operation with INTERPOL, responsible, in particular, for the law-enforcement component of GLACY+.

The Programme, managed by the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC) in Bucharest, was subject to the Result-Based Monitoring (ROM), mandated by the European Commission in summer 2016. The ROM assessed the Programme’s relevance, effectiveness and efficiency positively.

The achievements of the Programme can be summarised as follows:

Legislative developments: Mauritius and Sri Lanka acceded to the Budapest Convention. New legislation has been drafted in Tonga and South Africa in order to align the national legislation with the provisions envisaged by the Budapest Convention. Taking into account the focus of the programme on ensuring compliance of national legislation with the requirements of the Convention, more accession documents are expected in the second phase (GLACY+) from those countries that are more prepared from a legal, institutional and strategic standpoint to implement their obligations under this treaty (Philippines, Senegal and Tonga).

Consistent effort has been dedicated to the production of a solid base of materials to support the training activities. Materials for magistrates, prosecutors and law enforcement officers have been consolidated and adapted to the national contexts of CLACY priority countries. The Electronic Evidence Guide and the Advanced Judicial Training Course have been updated. Appropriate training strategies for law enforcement and judiciary have been drafted through the organization of dedicated workshops.

Indicated as one of the major issues affecting transversally all the priority countries in their capability to effectively address cybercrime, the effectiveness of the reporting systems has been assessed through the organization of specific advisory missions.

The Programme has been particularly active and successful in providing support and enhancing criminal justice capacities to enable increased investigation, prosecutions and adjudication of cases involving cybercrime and electronic evidence.

All priority countries have been actively pursuing efforts to develop more comprehensive policies, strategies and actions on cybercrime. To this extent, it is worth mentioning the joint effort provided in drafting the “Strategic priorities for cooperation on cybercrime and electronic evidence”, a document that was formally adopted at the end of GLACY, during October 2016 Conference held in Bucharest (closing conference for GLACY/ launching conference of GLACY+). Over 80 participants from the 7 GLACY priority countries plus Ghana and the Dominican Republic, several international organisations and EU institutions and agencies gathered in Bucharest to review the progress made within the framework of the GLACY and to set the way forward within GLACY+.

The selection of the priority countries and regional hubs was finalised and agreed with the EU at the early stages of the GLACY+ inception phase: Mauritius, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal and Sri Lanka remain GLACY+ priority countries and become regional hubs, respectively, for East Africa, Maghreb, South East Asia, West Africa and South Asia. Moreover, the list of priority countries was extended to Ghana and the Dominican Republic. Cap Verde will be further assessed and can be potentially included as an additional GLACY+ priority country. Assessment visits were completed by the end of October 2016 in all 9 priority countries by a joint team CoE – INTERPOL; the team reviewed the current status of cybercrime and cyber- security policies and strategies, the law enforcement capacities and capabilities, the criminal justice capacities and the relevant international cooperation systems.

APPENDIX II

JOINT PROGRAMMES IN OPERATION IN 2016						
Financing instrument	Contract title	Start date of covenant	End date of covenant	Total programme envelope in €	Contribution of the European Union	Contribution of the Council of Europe
South-Eastern Europe and Turkey						
Albania						
IPA	Enhancing the effectiveness of the Albanian system of human rights protection and anti-discrimination	01/12/2015	30/11/2017	1 650 000,00	1 485 000,00	165 000,00
IPA	EU-CoE Project to increase the efficiency of the Albanian justice system, in line with European standards	06/01/2014	05/04/2016	1 149 865,87	1 000 000,00	149 865,87
Bosnia and Herzegovina						
IPA	Harmonisation of sanctions policies and practices with European Standards	01/01/2013	30/06/2016	1 320 000,00	1 200 000,00	120 000,00
Montenegro						
IPA	Support to the National Human Rights Institutions in Preventing Discrimination in Montenegro" (PREDIM)	01/01/2016	31/12/2017	870 000,00	700 000,00	170 000,00
Serbia						
IPA	Strengthening the capacities of law enforcement and judiciary in the fight against corruption in Serbia (PACS)	15/12/2012	31/01/2016	1 183 748,06	1 056 968,64	126 779,42
IPA	Improving the human resources management in the local self-government	04/03/2016	20/12/2017	2 000 000,00	1 800 000,00	200 000,00
Turkey						
IPA	Strengthening the Capacity of Turkish Judiciary on Freedom of Expression	02/09/2014	31/03/2017	2 800 000,00	2 520 000,00	280 000,00
IPA	Supporting the Implementation of the Individual Application to the Constitutional Court of Turkey	19/12/2015	18/12/2018	6 382 228,00	5 882 228,00	500 000,00
IPA	Strengthening judicial ethics	19/12/2015	18/12/2017	3 711 111,00	3 340 000,00	371 111,00
Kosovo*						
IPA	Project against Economic Crime in Kosovo* (PECK II)	01/01/2016	31/12/2018	2 225 000,00	2 000 000,00	225 000,00
REGIONAL South-East Europe						
IPA	Promoting Human Rights and Minority Protection in South-East Europe	30/11/2011	28/12/2016	3 600 000,00	3 600 000,00	0,00
IPA	JUFREX - Reinforcing Judicial Expertise on Freedom of Expression and the Media in South-East Europe	20/04/2016	19/04/2019	3 100 000,00	2 500 000,00	600 000,00
IPA	Cooperation on Cybercrime: targeting crime proceeds on the Internet (project "Cybercrime Proceeds")	15/12/2015	14/06/2019	5 560 000,00	5 000 000,00	560 000,00
IPA	European Union / Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey	24/05/2016	23/05/2019	25 000 000,00	20 000 000,00	5 000 000,00

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

JOINT PROGRAMMES IN OPERATION IN 2016

Financing instrument	Contract title	Start date of covenant	End date of covenant	Total programme envelope in €	Contribution of the European Union	Contribution of the Council of Europe
Eastern Europe and South Caucasus						
Armenia						
ENPI	Strengthening the independence, professionalism and accountability of the Justice System	20/05/2014	19/12/2016	1 669 211,00	1 500 000,00	169 211,00
Azerbaijan						
ENPI	Further support to the penitentiary reform	01/09/2016	30/04/2018	556 000,00	500 000,00	56 000,00
ENPI	Civil Society Dialogue - Azerbaijan	01/03/2016	28/02/2018	568 262,00	300 000,00	268 262,00
Georgia						
ENPI	Human rights and healthcare in prisons and other closed institutions	26/03/2013	25/02/2016	3 340 000,00	3 000 000,00	340 000,00
Republic of Moldova						
ENPI	Promoting media freedom and pluralism	17/12/2016	16/12/2018	600 000,00	540 000,00	60 000,00
Ukraine						
ENPI	Consolidation of Justice Sector Policy Development	23/12/2014	22/12/2016	1 115 000,00	1 000 000,00	115 000,00
REGIONAL Eastern Europe and South Caucasus						
ENI	Programmatic Co-operation Framework	01/01/2015	31/12/2017	33 800 230,00	30 400 000,00	3 400 230,00
ENPI	COMUS - Community-led Urban Strategies	01/01/2015	30/06/2017	650 000,00	430 000,00	220 000,00
DCI-ENV	European Union - Council of Europe joint Programme for the Preparation of the Emerald Network of Nature Protection Sites, phase II	09/10/2012	08/04/2017	2 205 560,00	2 000 000,00	205 560,00
Multilateral						
DG EAC	ROMED II Democratic Governance and Roma Community Participation through Mediation	01/03/2015	30/08/2016	1 100 000,00	550 000,00	550 000,00
IFS	Global Action against Cybercrime (GLACY)	01/11/2013	31/10/2016	3 350 000,00	3 000 000,00	350 000,00
IFS	Global Action on Cybercrime extended (GLACY+)	01/03/2016	29/02/2020	10 000 000,00	9 000 000,00	1 000 000,00
DG EAC	'Human Rights and Democracy in Action' - Pilot Projects Scheme	01/05/2015	30/04/2016	380 000,00	200 000,00	180 000,00
DG EAC	Innovative methodologies and assessment in language learning	21/09/2015	20/09/2016	574 108,00	430 581,00	143 527,00
DG EAC	Framework Partnership Agreement in the field of Youth 2014-2016	01/01/2014	31/12/2016	3 400 000,00	1 700 000,00	1 700 000,00
DG IND	Cultural Routes 2015-2016	01/09/2015	28/02/2017	311 111,00	280 000,00	31 111,00
DG EAC	'Human Rights and Democracy in Action' - EU/CoE Joint Programme for international cooperation projects	01/05/2016	31/12/2017	770 000,00	450 000,00	320 000,00
DG EAC	European Heritage Days 2016	01/01/2016	31/12/2016	300 000,00	150 000,00	150 000,00

JOINT PROGRAMMES IN OPERATION IN 2016

Financing instrument	Contract title	Start date of covenant	End date of covenant	Total programme envelope in €	Contribution of the European Union	Contribution of the Council of Europe
DG EAC	ROMED2 Transition: Democratic Governance and Roma Community Participation through Mediation	01/09/2016	30/04/2017	400 000,00	250 000,00	150 000,00
DG EAC	Innovative methodologies and assessment in language learning	21/09/2016	20/09/2017	545 523,99	409 142,99	136 381,00
EU Member States						
DG JUST	HELP in the 28	01/04/2015	31/03/2017	1 670 873,48	1 332 354,51	338 518,97
DG EMP	ROMACT III	01/01/2016	31/12/2017	2 250 000,00	2 000 000,00	250 000,00
DG EAC	Keep Crime out of Sport – together against criminal manipulations of sports competitions	01/01/2016	30/06/2017	390 066,00	351 060,00	39 006,00
DG EAC	Balance in Sport – Tools to implement Gender Equality	01/01/2016	31/12/2016	280 000,00	200 000,00	80 000,00
DG EAC	Promoting Council of Europe Standards on safety, security and services at football matches and other sport events	01/01/2016	31/12/2016	280 000,00	200 000,00	80 000,00
DCI-NSA	iLEGEND : Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue	26/07/2016	25/07/2019	1 333 333,00	1 000 000,00	333 333,00
DG EAC	STePs – Building specialisation strategies on local participation and heritage resources	01/12/2016	30/11/2018	300 000,00	150 000,00	150 000,00
DG JUST	Roma and Traveller Women's Access to Justice	01/10/2016	31/03/2018	850 533,00	680 426,00	170 107,00
DG JUST	Network of SPACE National correspondents and network of national prison monitoring bodies (especially NPMs)	01/10/2016	31/03/2018	250 000,00	200 000,00	50 000,00
SRSS	Technical Assistance Project on Institutional Enhancement for Local Governance – Greece	15/08/2016	14/02/2018	778 000,00	699 966,60	78 033,40
Non-member States						
DCI	Support to authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the justice system	25/07/2014	24/07/2017	1 666 413,00	1 666 413,00	0,00
DCI	Project to Strengthen Prevention and Combating of Corruption in Kyrgyz Republic (SPCC-KY)	01/08/2016	31/07/2018	555 556,00	500 000,00	55 556,00
ENI	To improve efficiency and quality of justice in Morocco through implementation of CEPEJ tools	01/01/2016	31/12/2017	1 777 778,00	1 600 000,00	177 778,00
ENI	Towards Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean (South Programme II)	01/01/2015	31/12/2017	7 370 000,00	7 000 000,00	370 000,00

APPENDIX III

JOINT PROGRAMMES CONTRACTED IN 2016 STARTING IN 2017						
Financing instrument	Contract title	Start date of covenant	End date of covenant	Total programme envelope in €	Contribution of the European Union	Contribution of the Council of Europe
DG EAC	European Heritage Days 2017	1/01/2017	31/12/2017	400 000,00	200 000,00	200 000,00
DG EAC	The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth 2017	1/01/2017	31/12/2017	1 200 000,00	600 000,00	600 000,00
DG EMP	ROMACT 4	1/01/2017	31/12/2017	625 000,00	500 000,00	125 000,00
DG EAC	ProS4+ / Promoting and strengthening the CoE standards on safety security and service at football matches and other sports events	1/01/2017	30/06/2018	420 000,00	300 000,00	120 000,00

IPA - Instrument of Pre-Accession

ENPI – European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

ENI – European Neighbourhood Instrument

IFS – Instrument for Stability

EIDHR - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

DCI – Development Co-operation Instrument

DG – funds from different EC Directorates General

SRSS – Structural Reform Support Service