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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement)

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European  
Commission

# An investment in Europe

## An investment in sustainable economy



Instrument for  
Pre-accession Assistance

Enlargement



GROWING TOGETHER



The "Strawberry Tree Mini" solar charger is accessible in public places

## Economic development, transport, energy and environment

*Enlargement policy gives a strong push to economic integration with the EU. The agreements the EU has with the enlargement countries liberalise trade for almost all goods and establish cooperation in areas like energy, transport and the environment. These agreements and the negotiating process lead to the adoption of EU rules, extending the EU's Single Market and giving new opportunities to EU firms.*

To embrace new economic possibilities, the enlargement countries need to strengthen competitiveness. They also need to implement reforms to guarantee the functioning of a market economy, improve regulation and support SMEs. A sound business environment and the fight against corruption are key to attracting investors. Experience of past enlargements shows that the best reformers can reap

economic benefits before the accession takes place. IPA support to economic development is diverse and depends on the countries' economic structure. Actions include preparing feasibility studies for loans from the International Financial Institutions, support to SMEs to improve access to finance, setting up quality infrastructure agencies, and boosting the energy and transport infrastructure.

## Serbia – Funding innovation

The Innovation Serbia Project is funded through the EU's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance. It supports innovation in the priority areas of science and technology. The grants also help the commercialisation of technology transfers.

### Delivering energy

One of the many beneficiaries is Strawberry Energy, a start-up company from Belgrade that has developed a unique global technological innovation – the transportable mini solar charger "Strawberry Tree Mini". Using pure solar power and converting it into electrical energy, the innovative prod-

uct can be used for charging small portable devices such as cell phones, smart phones, cameras, and mp3 players.

The developer's goal is to make renewable energy available to everyone; this is why they arrange to have their devices in places accessible to the public.



## Turkey – New economic possibilities

Started in 2010, the Greater Anatolia Guarantee Facility represents a credit volume of over €900 million to be channelled into underdeveloped regions of Turkey with the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance. An EU contribution of €43.5 million, topped up by a Turkish contribution of €7.7 million, leveraged an overall lending volume of €900 million (€450 million in loans provided by the European Investment Bank, coupled with another €450 million by local banks) for small and medium-sized enterprises



(SMEs) and some €37.5 million credits for micro-enterprises in Turkey.

Female workers at enterprises in Turkey learn about business finance

## Kosovo\* – Transferring know-how

The Enterprise Growth Programme and Business Advisory Services addressed small and medium-sized enterprises, leading to individual companies acquiring industry-specific management expertise. With the advice of consulting companies, 86 small

enterprises developed new business skills at senior management level, 47 female entrepreneurs were supported, three companies obtained ISO standards certification and some of the companies have received further financial investments.

\* 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.