

FINANCING - IPA II (2014-2020)

- (1) On 11 March 2014, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance¹ (“IPA II Regulation”). This instrument is a legal base for providing financial assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to the IPA II Regulation (“IPA II beneficiaries”), in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to the Union's rules, standards, policies and practices, with a view to Union membership.
- (2) On 11 March 2014, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action² (“Common Implementation Regulation”).
- (3) On 2 May 2014, the Commission adopted the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)³, (“IPA II Implementing Regulation”) laying down applicable provisions for management and control.
- (4) IPA II beneficiary shall be eligible for funding under IPA II as provided in the IPA II Regulation.
- (5) According to Article 8 the Commission and the respective beneficiaries shall conclude framework agreements on the implementation of assistance.
- (6) **On 27 March 2015 the Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the European Commission on the arrangements for implementation of Union financial assistance under IPA II was signed.** It was ratified by the Assembly of the RNM on **10 June 2015**.

The most important novelty of IPA II is its strategic focus. **Strategy papers of IPA II beneficiary countries, are specific documents for strategic planning**, tailor-made for each beneficiary over the 7-year period. These documents shall allow for increased ownership by the beneficiaries through integration of their own reforms and development agendas.

The multi country strategy papers of IPA II beneficiary countries will cover priorities regarding regional cooperation or territorial cooperation.

The National Strategic Document for the Republic of North Macedonia was adopted on August 19, 2014. This indicative strategic document (Strategic Document) sets out the priorities for EU financial assistance for the period 2014-2020 to support the Republic of North Macedonia on the path to EU accession.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 No of 11 March 2014 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) (Official Journal L 77, 15 March 2014, pg. 11).

² Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 No of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action (Official Journal L 77, 15 March 2014, pg. 95).

³ Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (Official Journal L 132, 3 May 2014, pg. 32).

