

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE – MAY 2015

The Regional Conference of the IPA Audit Authorities was held in Belgrade on 28 and 29 May 2015. It was organized by the Audit Authority Office of EU Funds in Serbia.

The Conference was attended by representatives of the Audit Authorities from Albania, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey as well as by representatives of EC DG AGRI, DG EMPL, DG NEAR, DG REGIO and the European Court of Auditors addressing various topics.

The General IPA Auditor and the Assistant General IPA Auditor (AGIPAA) for the IPARD component were representatives of the Audit Authority in the Republic of Macedonia. The presentation done by the AGIPAA made a parallel between IPA I programming period 2007-2013 and IPA II programming period 2014-2020 regarding the legal framework and Audit Authority tasks and responsibilities, as well as the Main Risks and Audit Findings drawn from our audit work under IPA I so far.

The topics of the presentations of DG representatives were as follows: DG AGRI - Audit Authority: a partner for DG AGRI; Independence; Competence and avoidance of high rotation of staff etc. DG EMPL - Lessons from IPA 2007-2013: Building audit assurance; Preparing for closure; Preparing the future period. DG NEAR - Experiences of the Audit Authorities with IPA I (2007-2013) and preparation/main challenges for IPA II (2014 - 2020); DG REGIO - Building assurance process; Economic governance after financial crisis: EU and national economic policies. European Court of Auditors - IPA audit activities, ECA organization – who audits IPA. Cooperation with Developing Countries, Pre-Accession and Neighborhood Policies etc. and Technical support to IPA countries.