



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

The Director-General

Brussels,

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF
HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, HEADS OF COOPERATION,
AND HEADS OF UNITS IN CHARGE OF INTERVENTIONS FINANCED UNDER IPA II**

Subject: Launch of the 2018 Results Reporting exercise for IPA II

The purpose of this note is to launch the annual exercise of results reporting for 2018 for IPA II. Last year a results reporting exercise was carried out, only at Action level, through the encoding of results data in MIS by the operational services of the Delegations and Headquarters. For the first time, this annual exercise will be largely based on ongoing or recently completed interventions¹ managed in your Delegations and/or Headquarters Units. The approach will be similar to that already followed for ENI countries².

The 2018 IPA II results reporting exercise is the first time that the performance data will be collected on a wide scale. This will allow us to report more and with a more harmonised approach between IPA II and ENI on the interventions funded by the current MFF 2014-2020. It will also support the transition from MIS to OPSYS. The 2018 exercise will begin in the course of the month of August and it is planned to be concluded by year's end but some activities might be finalised early 2019. The number of IPA II interventions subject to screening for results are in the order of 300. Interventions have been selected on the basis of their starting date (from 1 January 2014), budget (above € 200,000) and maturity (under implementation for at least 12 months). Budget support contracts and selected blending operations are included.

The exercise will be coordinated by DG NEAR A4 and, for the first time, will make use of the ROM contractor for the Western Balkans and Turkey. External experts will assist operational managers in the consolidation of results data either through dedicated missions or remote assistance. A first message has been sent in July by the ROM contractor to the ROM focal points and further communication on all the practical aspects will be provided following this note.

I would also like to highlight that all information encoded for this 2018 results reporting exercise will be imported into OPSYS, the new IT platform under development.

¹ This term is part of OPSYS harmonised terminology, which was approved by NEAR with Ares note (2018)1314563 dated 09/03/2018. An intervention is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. It corresponds, broadly, to the definition of "project" in the EAMR.

² See Ares note (2018)3741081 dated 13/07/2018.

Specific functionalities of OPSYS have been designed to allow for enhanced monitoring and reporting on results at intervention level.

The first production release of OPSYS in the field of results will be rolled-out across Delegations and Headquarters Units during the second half of this year, and has already started in July with 11 pilot Delegations³. To avoid duplication of work, this roll-out will only concern interventions that are not included in this year's results reporting exercise. For the enlargement region this means mainly interventions with a budget below € 200,000. The aim is that, as of 2019, we will be able to perform the entire annual results reporting exercise through OPSYS. Indeed, the update of results information in OPSYS will become an integral part of the approval process of contractors' progress reports and invoices.

Let me remind you that these initiatives are instrumental in strengthening the results-based culture in our organisation and aim to enhance our capacity to communicate the impact of EU pre-accession assistance to our citizens.

In case of questions, please contact NEAR A4 at the functional mailbox: NEAR_EVAL_MONITORING@ec.europa.eu.

I count on your active collaboration to make this important exercise succeed.

[E-signed]

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³ Turkey, Morocco, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Thailand, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Malawi, India, China. The exercise was launched with Ares note (2018)3805278 dated 17/07/2018.