



Brussels, 31.1.2018  
C(2018) 652 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 31.1.2018**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 5667 approving the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Romania – Serbia" for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

**CCI 2014TC16I5CB002**

(ONLY THE ROMANIAN TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5667, the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Romania – Serbia" was approved.
- (2) On 6 November 2017, Romania on behalf of Romania and Serbia submitted a request for an amendment to the cooperation programme.
- (3) The request was accompanied by a revised cooperation programme, in which Romania proposed an amendment to the elements of the cooperation programme referred to in Article 34(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014<sup>3</sup> in conjunction with points (b)(ii) and (iv) of the first subparagraph of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013<sup>4</sup> subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 5667.
- (4) The amendments relate to the inclusion of the missing performance framework. Its absence came to light at the time of the submission of the 2015 annual implementation reports and the preparations of the SFC2014 system templates for IPA-CBC 2014-2020 programmes. Pursuant to Article 34(1) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 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) (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p. 32).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

447/2014 and Article 8(2)(b)(v) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, IPA-CBC programmes must include a performance framework. The performance framework is an essential element to ensure that EU-supported programmes are sufficiently focused and result-oriented. By official letter of 6 October 2016 of the Commission, Romania was requested to submit a programme modification in order to complement the programme.

- (5) In accordance with Article 31(5) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the request for the amendment to the cooperation programme is duly substantiated by Romania and sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>.
- (6) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 38(6) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the monitoring committee at its meeting of 18 May 2017 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the cooperation programme taking into account the text of the revised cooperation programme.
- (7) The Commission assessed the revised cooperation programme and did not make observations pursuant to Article 31(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014. Nevertheless, Romania submitted a revised version of the cooperation programme on 28 November 2017.
- (8) The amended elements of the revised cooperation programme should therefore be approved.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision do not fall in the categories of measures for which the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 is required. The IPA II Committee should, however, be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.
- (10) Implementing Decision C(2015) 5667 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Annex I of Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5667 is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

This Decision shall be implemented by means of an amendment to the financing agreement concluded between the Commission, Romania and the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The Director-General of the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy is hereby mandated to sign the amendment to the financing agreement on behalf of the Commission.

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).

*Article 3*

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Romania.

Done at Brussels, 31.1.2018

*For the Commission*  
*Corina CREȚU*  
*Member of the Commission*