



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union

Skopje, 19 February 2013

Official closing of the EU-funded project:
***Strengthening the capacity of the Institutions for efficient
management of EU funds***

(Hotel Stone Bridge)

H.E. Mr. Aivo ORAV
Head of EU Delegation

Dear Ambassador Schuurman,

Dear State Secretary Mr Andonovski,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all for coming to the Final Conference of the EU-funded project that supported the administration for setting up systems for efficient management of EU funds.

Building administrative structures in the pre-accession period is of high importance. Institutions and human resources dealing with programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU funds represent the key benchmarks of absorption capacity of an individual state. They are the indicators of a country's readiness to spend the allocated EU funds fully, in an effective and efficient manner.

The experience with the fifth enlargement in 2007 showed that in this preparatory phase the creation of efficient and adequate capacities for absorption of EU funds are crucial. It is of great significance that a policy of strengthening capacities for EU funds management is developed as a priority at the highest political level.

The European Commission believes that improved monitoring and evaluation systems are necessary for supporting the move to a more results-oriented approach. It is necessary that clear and measurable targets and indicators are agreed in advance, which can be used to assess the outcomes of IPA Programmes in the country.

In the past two years, EU supported the enhancement of the administrative structures for implementation of the ongoing IPA Programmes, with 1.5 million EUR, by achieving the following:

- Around 400 public administration staff were trained, as well as on-the-job trainings were organised for more than 100 operatives in the IPA structures;
- Moreover, 48 people participated in three study tours in Slovakia and Spain;
- Senior experts trained 64 trainers on monitoring and evaluation;
- Training plans on practical tools and 8 (eight) training curricula were produced.
- Trainers' toolkits made available in local languages;
- Numerous operating procedures have been developed or revised, to reflect and put into function the EU IPA Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines and to standardize work procedures among the relevant institutions, in

accordance with best practices from the EU member states and recommendations from auditors and evaluators.

With all this, we are assured that the country will have well-functioning monitoring and evaluation system, which will contribute to efficient and transparent delivery of services, responding to the needs of the citizens.

The system and the sustainability of our efforts in the past two years through the implementation of this project would be put to the test with the preparation of the new Instrument for pre-accession assistance, so called IPA 2, covering the period 2014-2020.

The challenges that also the EU Member States are facing concerning the implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy we will hear from Professor Molle, from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

At the end, I would like to thank all the partners in the project for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you.