



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



Preparation of Western Balkan countries for IPARD (Instrument for Pre-Accession Rural Development Component)

Preparation for IPARD implementation in potential candidate
countries

4 - 5 SEPTEMBER 2008

W. Schiessl, DG AGRI

“Preparation for IPARD implementation” needs to know about:

- IPA = Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
- IPARD = **IPA Rural Development Component**
- What must be done to benefit from IPARD – next steps to be taken?

IPA Introduction

Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishes the Pre-Accession Instrument IPA for assistance of candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, FYRoM and potential candidate countries (Western Balkan countries)

- It constitutes the IPA legal Framework
- based on this IPA Regulation an implementing regulation with clarified rules for setting up IPA programmes was adopted by the Commission

IPA Structure

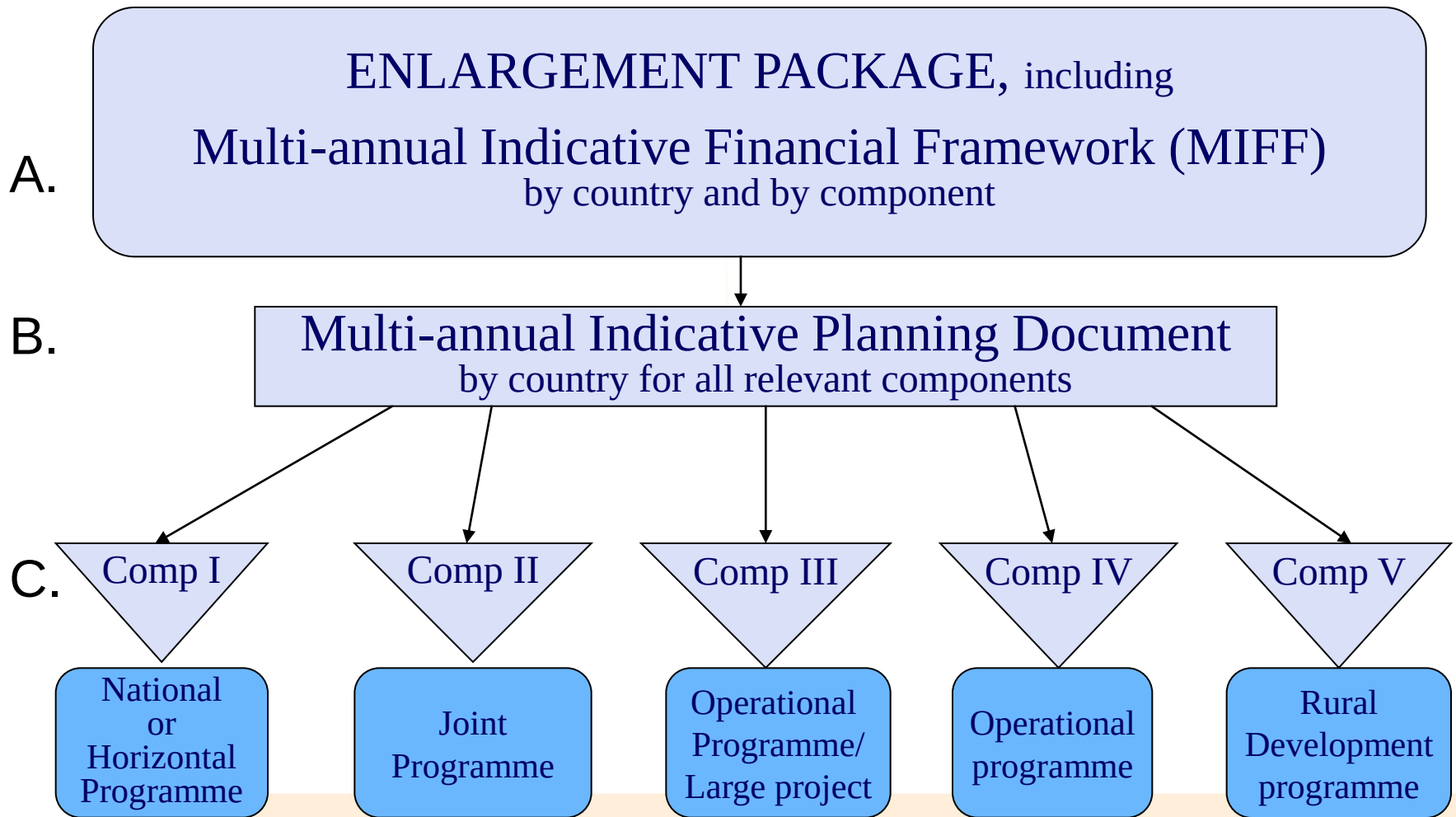
Five components:

1. Transition Assistance and Institution Building
2. Regional and Cross-Border Co-operation
3. Regional Development
4. Human Resources Development
5. Rural Development - IPARD

IPA components and Beneficiaries

Countries

- Candidate countries: **Turkey, FYROM and Croatia** are eligible for assistance under all five components
- The potential candidate countries: (**Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo**) are eligible for assistance only under component I and II (Institution Building and Cross Border Co-operation)



MIPD - Strategic Guidance Document *for IPARD*

- Describes the current situation, major areas of intervention, main priorities and objectives, expected results and time frame, forms of assistance and financial indications
- **Defines the key priorities for the next 3 years along the 3 priority axis**
- Identifies the complementarities to other IPA components (in particular component III: Regional Development and component IV: Human Resources Development)
- Identifies possible complementary programmes financed by other international organizations

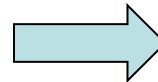


Legal basis - Legal Framework

FR = Financial Regulation

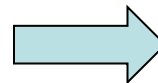
IPA IR = IPA Implementing Reg.

Financing decision (Art. 75.2 of FR
and Art. 8(1) of IPA IR)



Commission decision adopting the
programme

Budget commitment (Art. 75.2 of
FR and Art. 39(1) of IPA IR)



Commission after programme
decision is adopted

Legal commitment
(Art. 77.1 and 78.2 of FR and
Art. 39(2) of IPA IR)



Multi annual financing agreement
(MFA)
implemented according to the
provisions in

- *rural development programme*
- *framework agreement*
- *sectoral agreement*

IPARD Objectives

- Contribution to the implementation of the *acquis communautaire* concerning the Common Agricultural Policy and related policy areas by the candidate countries
- Contribute to sustainable development of rural areas in the candidate country

The objectives to be met by implementation of 9 different measures under 3 priority axis



Priority Axis

- **Axis 1** Improving Market Efficiency and Implementation of Community Standards
- **Axis 2** Preparatory actions for implementation of the agri-environmental measures and Leader
- **Axis 3** Development of the Rural Economy

Axis 1 - Improving Market Efficiency and Implementing Community Standards Measures

1. Investments in agricultural holdings to restructure and upgrade to the EU standards
- 2 Investments in processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products to restructure and upgrade to the EU standards
- 3 Supporting the setting up of producer groups

Axis 2- Preparatory actions for implementation of the agri-environmental measures and Leader

Measures

4. Preparation for implementation of actions relating to environment and the countryside
5. Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies

Axis 3 - Development of the Rural Economy **Measures**

- 6. Improvement and development of rural infrastructure
 - 7. Development and diversification of rural economic activities
 - 8. Training
-

- 9. Technical assistance

Decentralized management of IPARD

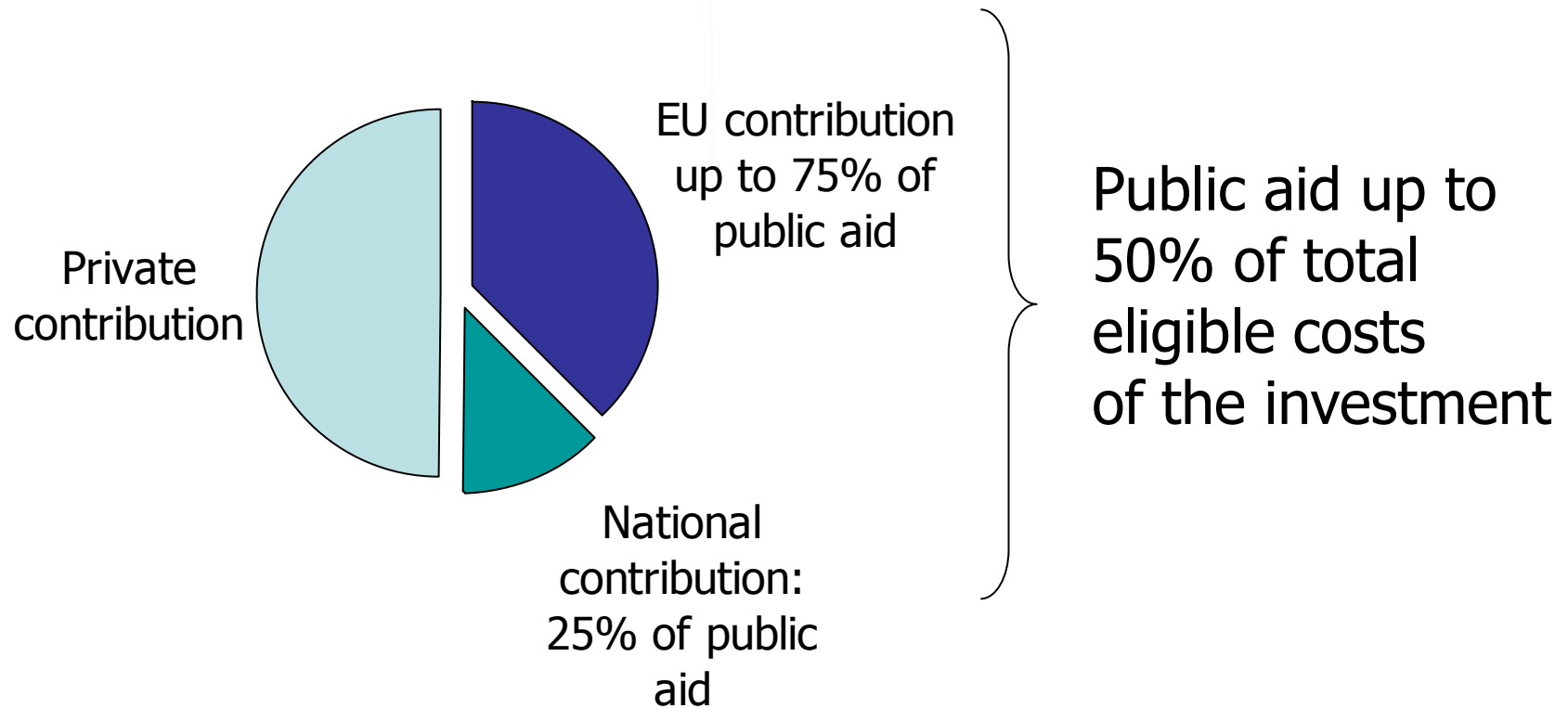
Commission may decide to entrust management of certain actions to the authorities of beneficiary third countries, after having established that the beneficiary third country or countries are in a position, in the management of Community funds, to apply in whole or in part the following criteria according to the degree of decentralisation agreed:

- (a) effective **segregation of the duties** of authorising officer and accounting officer;
- (b) existence of an **effective system for the internal control** of management operations;
- (c) for project support, **procedures for the presentation of separate accounts** showing the use made of Community funds;
- (d) existence of a national institution for **independent external auditing**;
- (e) **transparent, non-discriminatory procurement procedures** ruling out all conflicts of interest.

Decentralized Management of IPARD

- Full financial responsibility conferred to the candidate country
- National accreditation and monitoring of the accredited agency
- Commission approval by conferral of management decisions
- Monitoring and ex-post control

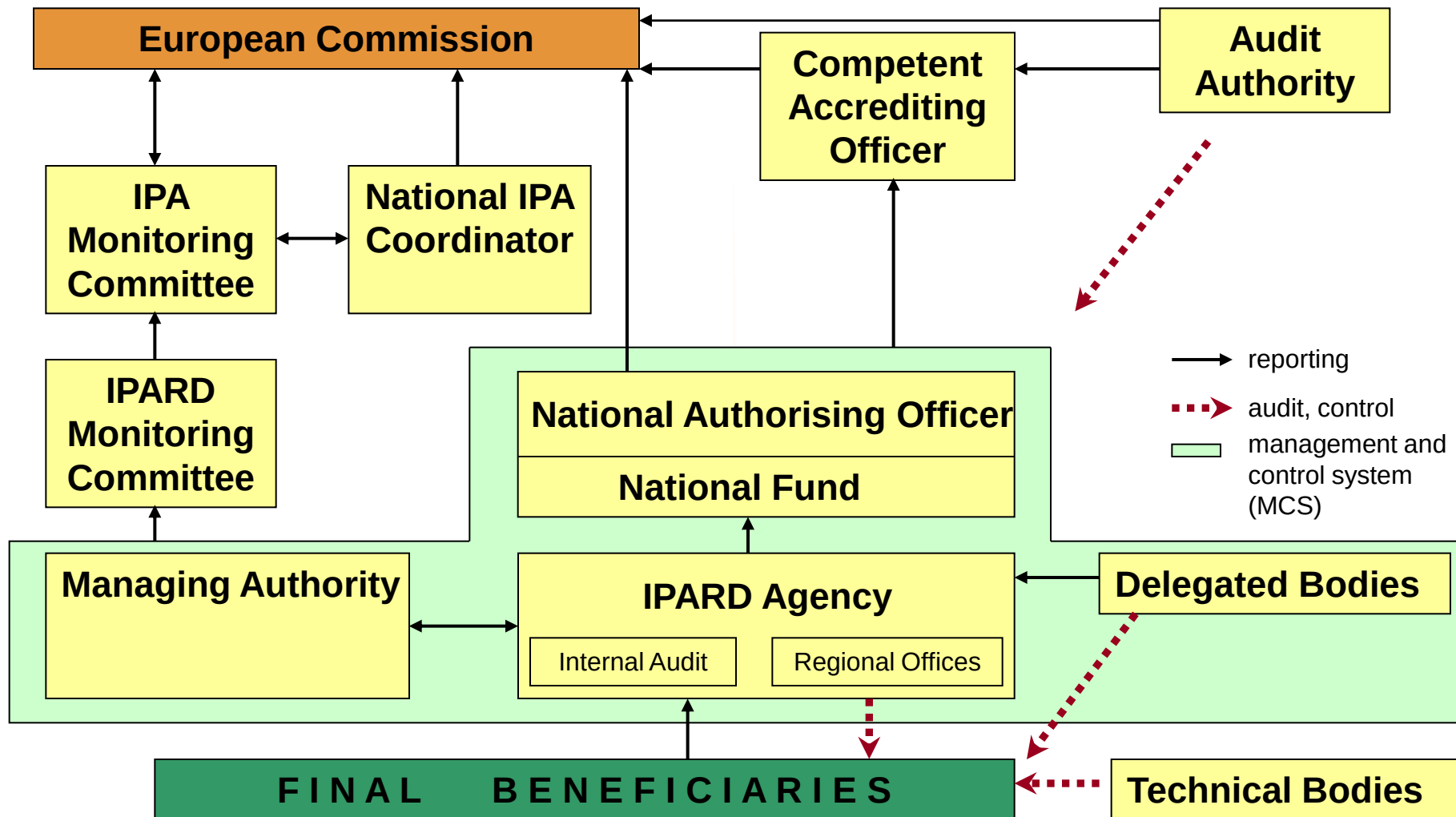
Co-financing principle (in general)



IPARD structures



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development



What must be done to benefit from IPARD?(I)



- Enhancing the knowledge of the Agricultural and Rural situation (rural census, farm register, land cadastre, price statistics, sector analysis for the more important agricultural sectors, etc);
- Starting with the elaboration of a National Strategy for Rural Development;
- Starting to develop national standards

What must be done to benefit from IPARD?(II)



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

- Establishing administrative structures able to define strategies, programmes, management and monitoring conditions for IPARD type programmes;
- Involving other public bodies as well as civil society partners (farmers, food processors, environment and local rural development associations) at all stages

What must be done to benefit from IPARD?(III)



- Start addressing the rural credit and the advisory services issues (actions not eligible under IPARD)
- Try to gain experience through well defined and targeted 'pilot projects '
- Make use of all types of support through a coordinated and strategic approach
- Think about how the legal framework necessary for IPARD can be set up in your country



What must be done to benefit from IPARD?(III)



but above all and to start with:

Rural Development needs the commitment of the general public, of the politicians and of the responsible authorities

It must be understood as part of overall spatial planning and as a responsibility of society

Only then the preparation for IPARD can start

Beneficiary: public bodies/adiminstration

- **Administrative cooperation (twinning, TAIEX)**
- **Investments in the regulatory infrastructure, in particular to support alignment with EU norms and standards (laboratories, equipment for Paying agency, IT software etc.)**
- **For PCCs: measures and actions of a similar nature as those under IPA components III, IV and V**



Comp I – activities in regard to Comp V (IPARD)

- **Strengthening of administration to draft/implement/manage RD strategy/programme**
- **Activities to enhance knowledge/transparency on the economic situation of the sector: rural census, farm register, land cadastre, price statistics, sector analysis**
- **Support the organisation of civil society partners related to agriculture and RD (farmer's association, food producers, environmental and local rural development associations)**
- **Facilitation access to credit for farmers and rural businesses**
- **Establishment of advisory/extension services for farmers**



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

SAPARD / IPARD

WEB-SITES

DG Agriculture

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/external/enlarge/index_en.htm

Commission Manual on Procurement Rules:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europaid/index.htm>