

## Concept Note

### Priority areas for ENPI Inter-Regional Programme (SP/NIP) for 2011-13

#### I Introduction

In parallel to the mid-term review of the Country Strategy Papers for all ENP partner countries in preparation for a series of new country-specific National Indicative Programmes (NIP) to cover 2011-2013, the EC is also conducting a review of the Strategy Paper 2007-13 and the Indicative Programme 2007-10 for the ENPI Inter-Regional Programme.

The main aim of the ENPI Interregional Programme (IRP) is to provide effective and efficient support for the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) as well as the Strategic Partnership with Russia. However, it should be noted that the IRP acts primarily to fund activities that are best implemented at inter-regional level (ie East and South) for reasons of visibility, coherence or administrative efficiency while also aiming to gradually strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the whole ENPI region and between Eastern and Southern neighbours. Thus, it has to be seen in the context of the overall structure of the ENPI-funded programmes: national, regional and cross-border as well as in its role to support and fulfill a number of specific commitments made by the EC.

As adopted in the second-half of 2007, the IRP Strategy Paper foresees five priorities for the period 2007-13

1. Promoting reform through European advice and expertise (*TAIEX, SIGMA*)
2. Promoting higher education and student mobility (*Tempus, Erasmus Mundus*)
3. Promoting cooperation between local actors in the partner countries and in the EU
4. Promoting implementation of the ENP and the Partnership with Russia
5. Promoting Investment projects in ENP partner countries (*N.I.F*)

Funding for the Indicative Programme for 2007-2010 amounted to 523.9 €million, with the following indicative breakdown (see annex)

A mid term review of the CSP assessed that its priorities largely remain valid for the next programming period 2011-2013. Moreover, the policy framework for the IRP still prevails in that it aims to provide effective and efficient support for the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy through specific activities which, by their nature, are best implemented at an inter-regional (East-South) level. In addition, the framework still remains valid with regard to the strengthening of dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the whole ENPI region and in particular between Eastern and Southern neighbours.

However, the experience of implementation of the Black Sea Synergy<sup>1</sup>, the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean in July 2008 as well as the imminent inauguration of the Eastern Partnership in May 2009 alongside a re-assessment of EC bi-lateral co-operation with Russia require a re-consideration and realignment of certain strategic objectives in order to take account of these developments as well as of other policy initiatives of inter-regional significance which have emerged since 2006, notably in the area of culture and the new possibility of cooperation between ENP partners and EC Agencies.

This paper serves as a basis for discussions with interested stakeholders, including civil society, EU Member States, and other donors, with a view to identifying the key priorities and sub-priorities for a revised Country Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme for the period 2011-13.

The conclusions it draws with regard to each priority area represent an initial desk-assessment for further discussion. The EC welcomes input from all stakeholders on specific needs and opportunities in key areas of policy interest, on those of higher priority and in relation to those which may need revision or adaptation taking account of lessons learned during the first programming period of 2007-10.

## **II – Changes in External EU policies and their Inter-Regional implications**

In December 2006, the Commission adopted a Communication on ‘On the general approach to enable ENP partner countries to participate in Community agencies and Community programmes’<sup>2</sup> outlining a general and gradual approach to enable ENP partners to participate in Community agencies and Community programmes on their merits and where the legal basis so allows. With regard to Community agencies, the Council endorsed the approach in March 2007<sup>34</sup> encouraging – the Commission, Community agencies and all ENP partners, particularly those implementing Action Plans to explore through direct consultations, their potential to this end. This endorsement provided the necessary political guidance for the establishment of various forms of sector-specific cooperation between EC agencies and ENP partners in light of the former’s policy mandate and the progress of the latter in the implementation of sector reforms and convergence with EC technical requirements and standards. As is the case with cooperation between EC agencies and candidate and potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey, progress in implementing this additional reform initiative in the ENP would be greatly influenced by (and operationally contingent upon) the availability of specific additional external cooperation resources.

The inclusion of specific references to cooperation with two EC agencies in the agreed “*statut avancé*” with Morocco, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) underline the growing importance of this aspect of external cooperation. It is not to be excluded that

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<sup>1</sup> COM (2008) 391 final 19.6.2008 Report on the first year of implementation of the Black Sea Synergy

<sup>2</sup> COM (2006) 724 final 4.12.2006

<sup>3</sup> GAERC Conclusions of 5 March 2007, 6755/07 (Press 38)

<sup>4</sup> COM (2007) 242 19.6.2007

specific requests for cooperation with other EC agencies – EFSA, EASA, ECDC, EEA – may emerge from policy dialogue with other ENP partners in the period 2011-13.

In June 2007, the Commission adopted a Communication on ‘A European Agenda for Culture in a Globalizing World’<sup>5</sup> committing the EU to enhance cultural cooperation as an integral part of its external relations. The SI Presidency organised a conference in Ljubljana<sup>6</sup> in May 2008 on culture in EU external relations focusing on ENP and the Western Balkans whose conclusions were subsequently endorsed by the European Council on 19-20 June. The Council specifically mentioned the Conference, underlining the “*importance of cultural cooperation in addressing political processes and challenges, based on dialogue with civil society, in promoting people-to-people contacts and in fostering good neighbourly relations*”. In addition, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Cultural Ministers of June 2008 in Athens launched discussions on a Euro-Mediterranean Strategy on Culture to encompass dialogue between cultures and cultural policy with a specific reference to the latter as a “*trans-sectoral development activity*” with linkages to job creation and sustainable development. Further EU deliberations in November resulted in Council conclusions calling for enhanced financial support for the training and mobility of cultural professionals and artists as well as capacity development of the cultural sector in third countries<sup>7</sup>. As a major external relations policy instrument, the onus is now clearly on ENPI to creatively build on the above developments and political instruction. The activities undertaken during the 2008 European Year of Inter-Cultural Dialogue and under the Euro-Mediterranean Year of Dialogue between Cultures present an additional opportunity to carry forward and further externalize key political messages with regard to respecting diversity while promoting better governance and improved civic participation in reform processes.

The adoption of the Union for the Mediterranean and Eastern Partnership in 2008 and 2009 respectively underline the necessity to continue provision of targeted technical assistance in support of sector reforms while facilitating contacts and mobility between higher education institutions, local and regional authorities and civil society actors. Higher education<sup>8</sup> is accorded particular importance alongside sustainable urban development as part of the former while enhanced contacts between people and mobility feature prominently in the latter. A similar emphasis on the importance of mobility in the context of higher education links is made with regard to cooperation under the Black Sea Synergy which includes the Russian Federation.

A second phase of Erasmus Mundus, adopted in December 2008 as the Erasmus Mundus 2009-13 action programme, aims to promote European higher education and improve and enhance the future career and employment prospects of students. In addition, it acts to

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<sup>6</sup> New Paradigms, New Models – Culture in the EU External Relations, Ljubljana 13-14 May, 2008

<sup>7</sup> Council Conclusions of 20 November 2008 on the Promotion of Cultural Diversity and inter-cultural dialogue in the external relations of the Union and its Member States

<sup>8</sup> Higher Education and Research: Euro-Mediterranean University is the 5<sup>th</sup> Flagship Initiative of the Union for the Mediterranean : Annex to Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean , 13 July 2008. The Euro-Mediterranean University was inaugurated in Piran, Slovenia in June 2008

promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries and to increase mobility flows between the European Union and third countries. The incorporation of joint doctoral programmes and the integration of the former Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EMECW) directly into the programme as it new Action 2, stand as the main innovations of Erasmus Mundus II.

### **Cross-cutting Issues**

The EU Drugs Strategy 2005-12 and the international cooperation aspects of the EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-12 will need to be taken into account when approaching how best to facilitate future sector cooperation with key interested ENP partners in the area of drugs. The importance of providing capacity to develop evidence-based drugs policies in the context of balanced national anti-drugs strategies has been highlighted in recent ENP Progress Reports alongside coordinated approaches on information- and best practices exchange<sup>9</sup>. The relevant international aspects of EU policies in the areas of food safety, health and disease prevention and environmental protection will also need to be actively considered regarding future requests from interested ENP partners for enhanced sector cooperation with relevant EC agencies

In addition, the adoption of the first Mobility Partnership with Moldova in June 2008 and the expected Mobility Partnership with Georgia during the course of 2009 highlight the future importance to be accorded to the development of core competences and higher education skills in the context of future regulated labour-migration flows between certain ENP countries and the EU.

Contribution to efforts in the area of energy, climate change, aid for trade and rising food prices will be pragmatically advanced in the context of the relevant priorities as explained below taking into full account other available funding opportunities in the relevant bi-lateral and thematic co-operation programmes.

### **III Lessons Learned**

As compared to other donors, the EC retains a distinct comparative advantage in provision of technical assistance to support sector reforms as demonstrated by the cumulative success of both **TAIEX**<sup>10</sup> and **SIGMA**<sup>11</sup> in meeting specific reform-related requests from the majority of ENP partners.

Support to **Tempus IV** (the programme which promotes the modernisation of higher education in the EU neighbouring countries) and to mobility of students and academics

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<sup>9</sup> ENP Progress Reports 2007 and 2008

<sup>10</sup> Average number of monthly requests increased from 20.2 in 2007 to 27.7 in 2008. However, as TAIEX is a demand driven facility, 7 ENP partners account for more than three-quarters of requests: Georgia, Egypt, Jordan, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Israel and Ukraine.

<sup>11</sup> In February 2008, SIGMA, was extended to nine ENP partner countries, *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Egypt, Jordan, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine* and the Russian Federation. To date, preparatory activities for future civil service and public procurement reforms took place in *Armenia, Georgia, Moldova* and *Ukraine*.

under Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (**EMECW – now replaced by Erasmus Mundus Action 2**) have yielded significant benefits in terms of support to higher education reforms across ENPI and greater institutional links between universities, student and academic staff<sup>12</sup>. Continuing support to Tempus IV and to scholarship actions under Erasmus Mundus/Action 2 will serve to underpin future policy dialogue and enhanced contacts with ENP partners in the context of the Bologna Process<sup>13</sup> and implementation of external aspects of the Lisbon Agenda. Various evaluations have shown that a bottom up programme like Tempus can successfully test new approaches and methods at institution-level, which can then be multiplied and implemented at national-levels.

The first CfP for the new **CIUDAD** programme promoting cooperation between local and regional governments in capacity building for improved governance in sustainable urban development and planning was launched in early 2009. As yet, no specific lessons have been learned in relation to its implementation. However, consideration may be given to additional measures in order to emphasise the inter-regional (East-South) nature and policy intent of the programme in relation to the promotion of thematic cooperation in areas such as energy & environment; social cohesion; good governance and urban planning.

Bi-lateral cooperation with Russia advanced in the context of the launch of negotiations for a new EU-Russia Agreement to replace the 1997 Political and Cooperation Agreement and the steady implementation of the Four Common Spaces agreed at the St Petersburg Summit in 2003. As Russia is keen on developing its institutional capacity as an independent donor, the earlier need to provide significant amounts technical assistance no longer prevails. A change in approach focusing on support to university cooperation, student and academic mobility as well as limited actions in support of implementation of the roadmaps for the Four Common Spaces is now foreseen. ,

The **Neighbourhood Investment Facility** (NIF) was established in 2008 to provide grant funding in support of lending operations by International Financial Institutions in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure interconnection, the environment including climate change and support for small and medium size enterprise and the social sector. The EC grant contribution of €100 M in 2007-8<sup>14</sup> was complemented by Member State grant funding contributions to the ‘NIF Trust Fund’ of approximately €37 million for the period 2008-2010, testifying to its viability as a source of complementary

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<sup>12</sup> A total of 1137 mobility flows were realised under EMECW in the academic year 2007-8 while 530 proposals were received for the first CfP under Tempus IV with a high interest in multi-country projects testifying to the strong demand for inter-regional cooperation (ENPI East and South)

<sup>13</sup> The 1999 Bologna Declaration of June 1999, signed by 29 European Ministers of Higher Education, foresees the establishment of a European Higher Education Area by 2010.

<sup>14</sup> For the 2007-2013 period, the European Commission has earmarked a total amount of €700 million for the NIF

development funding<sup>15</sup>. Through the financing of these large projects, the NIF supports the reform priorities of agreed with ENP partner countries and contributes to the investments necessary to further integrate the EU and its neighbours, particularly with regard to the financing of transport and energy interconnections.

**Culture** has been underplayed and insufficiently articulated in terms of its capacity to promote programmes and activities which can equally deliver on the key political objectives of ENP: the promotion of reforms, democracy and good governance.

While the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of the Barcelona Process has promoted cooperation on culture and inter-cultural dialogue to date, the Anna Lindh Foundation (through its 'network of networks') has not yielded the expected results in terms of engagement with civil society on the above objectives. Phases II and III of the the Euromed Heritage Programme - though highly valuable in terms of drawing attention to heritage conservation and preservation across the Mediterranean –remained too institutionally focused and did not target other potential cultural actors within civil society. However, the recently launched Euromed Heritage IV is centred on the appropriation of cultural heritage by the wider public and as such, there is greater expectation in terms of its engagement with civil society actors.

The CBC programme offers some limited scope for regional cooperation on culture through the Mediterranean, Baltic and Black Sea programmes but in absence of an additional complementary action – targeting the contribution of cultural actors to intra-regional development - the potential positive benefits of CBC investment in this area risks dissipation, resulting in weak impact.

Culture features as a major sector for financial cooperation with the Russian Federation and is a priority theme in the strategic Common Spaces framework. The IBPP programme on EU-Russia Cultural Cooperation Initiatives aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations through partnerships. The low participation rates for Russian and the ENP East organizations under the "Investing in People - Access to local culture, protection and promotion of cultural diversity" may also be due to an absence of capacity of interested cultural actors. The future Eastern Partnership Cultural Programme (2009) provides the prospect of promoting regional cooperation between civil society cultural organizations as a means to achieve sustainable regional development while also supporting cultural policy reform through capacity building for public authorities and the professionalization of cultural operators.

Active consideration therefore needs to be given to extending similar approaches<sup>16</sup> across the ENPI region in order to support the emergence independent cultural operators as an

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<sup>15</sup> In its first year of operations, 15 projects were approved for financing to the value of €71.03 million (€ 35 million in grants and €36.03 M in Technical Assistance), leveraging loans from European Finance Institutions of €1.65 billion

<sup>16</sup> Under the Culture Programme 2007-2013 managed by DG Education and Culture (EAC), a Special Action (strand 1.3) will be used in 2009 and 2010 to support a limited number of cultural cooperation projects between cultural operators from the EU and from those ENP countries which have ratified the

additional and complementary means to realise the long term ENP policy goals– better governance, democracy and the promotion of sustainable reforms.

Experience of cooperation between **EC agencies** and candidate and potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans and Turkey under Enlargement has clearly shown that real progress in implementing this additional reform incentive is critically influenced by (and operationally contingent upon) the availability of specific additional external cooperation resources. A programme similar to that in place under the IPA instrument for regional cooperation would be required for the ENP.

### **Donor Coordination and aid effectiveness**

Funding for technical assistance to assist economic and social transition similar to **TAIEX** and **SIGMA** is not provided by any other donor at an inter-regional level. Moreover, TAIEX expertise is provided by Member State public national experts, as is the case for the Twinning actions. SIGMA is EC-funded but implementation is assured by OECD where the issue of donor coordination is fully attended to in all its missions. Actions funded by either the World Bank or USAid in the area of governance reforms complement the latter facility in the context of pre-agreed donor coordination in specific countries in both ENP East and South.

The EC is still by far the main actor with regard to the promotion of higher education modernisation and academic mobility in the ENPI region via **Tempus** and **Erasmus Mundus/Action 2**. Member States do provide targeted support for student and academic exchanges in relation to some ENPI partner countries but their breadth of coverage is not as comprehensive as that of external cooperation programmes funded by the Community budget. In terms of division of labour, Member State actions fully complement that of the Community. The inter-governmental Bologna Process<sup>17</sup> continues to act as a point of reference for higher education reform for most ENP partner countries and the Russian Federation with increasing interest by Southern partners in particular in aligning their reforms with its priorities and policy framework

The implementation of **CIUDAD** (Cooperation in Inter Urban Development and Dialogue) complements the actions of the CBC programme as its aims to strengthen capacity of local and regional authorities in sustainable and effective development with particular emphasis on transfer of knowledge and experience in good governance, urban planning and accountability mechanisms. It enables local authorities and regions to reach beyond partnerships facilitated through CBC country- and Sea Basin programmes by linking up with experienced inter-urban networks in the areas of key policy interest:

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2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and have signed an Association or Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU (Armenia, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova, occupied Palestinian Territory and Tunisia – 2009 list) With a limited budget (around 2M€ for the two years), this action allows for cooperation to effectively extend to some ENP partners. It remains open to other ENP partners pending their ratification of the above convention.

energy efficiency, waste management, urban economic development and cohesion; public participation and civic dialogue.

The effectiveness of the **NIF** has been complemented by additional Member State contributions of some €37 million by end of 2008, a clear demonstration of its effectiveness in coordinating donors albeit within the EU framework. 26 Member States responded to the invitation to make a minimum annual contribution of €1 million to the NIF in 2008, adding further to the grant funding of €250 million allocated through the Community budget for the period 2007-10. NIF has also proven to be an adequate platform for donor coordination, division of labour and harmonisation of procedures amongst the eligible multilateral and bilateral finance institutions involved in the projects and the EC, in line with the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. The NIF also plays an important role in underpinning regional plans for investment in energy and climate-change mitigation programmes as well as the interconnection of transport infrastructure, thereby providing positive ‘spin-offs’ for economic development and employment creation as an additional measure to counter the financial crisis

In the ENP-East, only the Council of Europe (Kyiv Initiative) and Open Society Institute are working in the area of **culture** with most of the funded activities on a small scale with equally small budgets. No critical mass of donor activity exists with capability to transform the cultural sector. UNESCO, through the World Heritage Centre, the World Bank, EBRD, and UNDP have worked on culture and tourism but at country level only as have French, Italian and British Council cooperation and USAID. In ENP-South, the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation under Euro-Mediterranean cooperation has to some degree created a sense of complementary action between Member State donors while EC Euro-Med Heritage programme (Phases II & III) has provided valuable support for institutional-based cultural cooperation at regional level. However no means has been provided to complement these various national and regional actions with activities at an inter-regional (East-South) level with a particular focus on the emergent independent cultural sector.

Member States have traditionally acted as the main interested donors in the area of **cultural** cooperation in the ENP region but their respective efforts focus (almost exclusively) on bi-lateral cultural projects and interests and are not necessarily coordinated. No sense of inter-regional donor action or coordination exists in relation to the ENPI region as a whole

The issue of donor coordination has not yet impacted on future cooperation between **EC agencies** and ENP partners.

### **Civil Society Cooperation**

By their nature, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus and CIUDAD address civil society actors through supporting the development of viable academic links and partnerships between universities, higher education institutions and civil society organizations as well as between the latter and local and regional authorities across the ENPI region. The proposed new action on culture will specifically target the involvement of independent

and civil-society based cultural actors in the establishment of new inter-regional (East – South) cultural partnerships.

#### **IV – Possible priorities/key issues to be addressed**

On the basis of the information provided under Sections **II** and **III** above, it is proposed that a further two priorities on *Promoting Co-operation between ENP partners and EC agencies* and *Promoting Inter-Regional Cultural Action*, be added to the revised Strategy Paper and integrated in the Indicative Programme for the period 2011-13. In addition, it is proposed to earmark specific funds for cooperation with the Russian Federation on higher education and student mobility under Priority Area 2, thereby obviating the need to retain the old Priority Area 4.

#### **Retained and changed intervention priorities**

It is proposed that the priorities below be fully retained and integrated into the Indicative Programme for the period 2011-13, with sector updates as necessary

- ***Priority Area 1: Promoting reform through European advice and expertise*** (TAIEX and SIGMA)
- ***Priority Area 3: Promoting cooperation between local actors in the partner countries and in the EU*** (CIUDAD II)
- ***Priority Area 5: Promoting Investment projects in ENP Partner Countries*** (Neighbourhood Investment Facility, NIF)

With regard to the priority below, it is proposed to change its indicative title to enable the support for mobility of students and scholars from ENPI countries to be covered under the new Action 2 of Erasmus Mundus II which replaces the former Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EMECW). This will contribute to the further medium-term development of human resources in ENP partner countries and in the Russian Federation as well as enhancing the international cooperation potential of their higher education institutions. The former Priority Area 4 - “*Promoting the implementation of the ENP and of the Strategic Partnership with Russia*” - will thus be incorporated into the revised Priority Area 2 which will foresee an appropriate reserved allocation for cooperation in the area of higher education modernisation and academic mobility with the Russian Federation in the context of the Tempus IV programme and Erasmus Mundus II/Action 2.

- ***Priority Area 2: Promoting higher education and academic mobility*** (TEMPUS, ERASMUS MUNDUS II/ Action 2)  
*Incorporating the former Priority Area 4*

## **New intervention priorities**

- ***Promoting cooperation between ENP partners and EC agencies***

During the course of 2008 and on the request of ENP partners, information seminars on the initiative to enable them to participate in Community agencies and programmes were held in Moldova, Jordan, Tunisia and Ukraine. EC Agencies in turn have requested the Commission in October 2008<sup>18</sup> to provide specific assistance to meet ENP partners' requests for cooperation along the lines of a similar programme for pre-accession and potential candidate countries under the IPA instrument.

In addition, the inclusion of references to specific cooperation with EC agencies (EASA, EMCDDA) in the *statut avancé* with Morocco in September 2008 as well as the inclusion of a specific article on cooperation with EC agencies in the future Association Agreement with Ukraine (currently under negotiation) underlines the need to respond creatively and comprehensively to expected future requests for support from other ENP partners in relation to the former agencies as possibly others such as EFSA, ECDC, EEA. Gradual approximation to EU standards and technical requirements across key economic sectors can be facilitated in the medium term through assisted cooperation between interested ENP partners and EC agencies.

- ***Promoting Inter-Regional Cultural Action***

The Council's conclusions in 2008 on culture as part of external relations underlined *inter alia* its role as vector to address political processes, improve dialogue with civil society and as a means to contribute to economic development through the training and mobility of cultural professionals and artists. Culture is equally a means to strengthen advocacy in favour of increased civic participation, improved public governance and greater attention to inter-ethnic/religious tolerance, all of which respond to overriding ENP policy goals. Small cultural actors could well have the potential to deliver more effectively on these aspects than formal, institution-based or inter-governmental cooperation mechanisms. For these reasons, investment in inter-regional cooperation through the opening of a specific ENP Window for the Culture programme would contribute to the realisation of long-term strategic policy goals while supporting economic exchanges and development and improved social cohesion. This ENP Window would specifically aim to sustain and create East-South cooperation between interested cultural actors.

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<sup>18</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> European agencies informal meeting on network building, EFSA, Parma 22 October 2008

## **Conclusion**

From the above, six priority areas including the NIF are proposed for the revised IRP Strategy Paper for 2011-13 as follows:

1. Promoting reform through European advice and expertise (*TAIEX, SIGMA*)
2. Promoting higher education modernization and student mobility (*Tempus, Erasmus Mundus, Action 2*)
3. Promoting cooperation between local actors in the partner countries and in the EU (*CIUDAD II*)
4. Promoting Investment projects in ENP partner countries (*N.I.F*)
5. Promoting cooperation between ENP partners and EC agencies
6. Promoting Inter-Regional Cultural Action (*People to People*)

The indicative allocation is €712.6 million over the three year programming period of which €450 million is reserved for the NIF.

## **Next Steps**

Initial feedback to the concept note is expected from interested stakeholders and donors. The inputs required would be views from stakeholders on the key priorities and sub-priorities for a revised Country Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme for the period 2011-13. On the basis of feedback and an assessment of programme implementation, a revised Country Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme 2011-13 will be prepared including respective financial allocations.

**Deadline for response – 20 May 2008**

## ANNEX – Outline of the current ENPI Inter-Regional NIP 2007-2010<sup>19</sup>

### **ENPI Inter-Regional Programme**

The ENPI Inter-Regional Programme for the period 2007-2010 outlines five priority areas with an allocation of €523 million in financial assistance:

<b>Priority Area 1:</b> <i>Promoting reform through European advice and expertise</i>	<b>€40m</b>
<b>Priority Area 2:</b> <i>Promoting higher education and student mobility</i>	<b>€218.7m</b>
<b>Priority Area 3:</b> <i>Promoting cooperation between local actors in the partner countries and in the EU</i>	<b>€14.3m</b>
<b>Priority Area 4:</b> <i>Promoting implementation of the ENP and Partnership with Russia</i>	<b>p.m.</b>
<b>Priority Area 5:</b> <i>Promoting Investment in ENP Partner Countries</i>	<b>€250</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€523</b>

#### ***Priority Area 1: Promoting reform through European advice and expertise***

***Sub-priority 1:*** Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Programme (TAIEX)

##### *Overarching Objective*

Promote the implementation of the ENP and in particular the Action Plans through the provision of targeted advice based on European experience.

***Sub-priority 2:*** SIGMA

##### *Overarching objective*

Improved public administration institutions in the neighbouring countries in order to enhance economic well-being and political freedom and facilitate closer economic integration and political cooperation between the EU and its neighbours.

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<sup>19</sup> Text taken verbatim from ENPI Inter-Regional Programme  
[http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi\\_interregional\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_interregional_en.pdf)

***Priority Area 2: Promoting higher education and student mobility***

***Sub-priority 1: Promoting institutional cooperation in higher education (TEMPUS)***

*Overarching objective*

Modernization and strengthening of higher education in the partner countries through cooperation with EU higher education institutions.

*Specific objectives*

- Reform and modernization of higher education to promote convergence with developments in the EU such as the Lisbon agenda and the Bologna process;
- Enhanced quality and capacity of higher education institutions;
- Development of human resources;
- Qualitative improvement of skills and better match with labour market needs
- Enhanced mutual understanding between students and teaching staff in the EU and the partner countries;
- Sustainable partnerships and exchanges between institutions of higher education in the EU and in the partner countries.

***Sub-priority 2: Promoting student mobility (Erasmus Mundus –EMECW)***

*Objective*

A high-profile student scholarship programme with balanced participation of women and men with regard to countries, subjects and social origins, with sustainable results with regard to mutual understanding, increased employability for the students in their country of origin and reinforcement of partner institution capacity and links between EU and Partner country institutions of higher education.

*Allocation* €218.7 million

***Priority Area 3: Promoting cooperation between local actors in the EU and in the partner countries***

*Overarching objective*

Closer understanding, dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the partner countries.

*Specific objectives*

Modernization and strengthening of local and regional government, in particular with regard to capacity building for democratic governance and sustainable development.

*Allocation* €14.3 million

***Priority Area 4: Promoting the implementation of the ENP and of the Strategic Partnership with Russia***

*Overarching Objective*

Prosperity, stability and good governance in the EU's immediate vicinity.

*Specific objective*

Effective and efficient implementation of the ENP and the Strategic Partnership with Russia. Improved mutual understanding between the citizens in the EU and the partner countries.

*Allocation*

The allocation for priority area 4 depends on future development of the ENP and the Strategic Partnership with Russia and will be decided in the annual action programmes

***Priority Area 5: Promoting Investment projects in ENP Partner Countries***

*Overarching Objective*

Mobilise additional investments to support the establishment of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the EU and neighbouring countries.

*Specific Objectives*

- Establishing better energy and transport infrastructure interconnections between the EU and neighbouring countries and among neighbouring countries themselves;
- Addressing threats to our common environment including climate change;
- Promoting equitable socio economic development and job creation through the support for small and medium size enterprise and the social sector.

*Allocation* €250 million