



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

FCO DIPLOMATIC INFLUENCE & VALUES: REUNITING EUROPE PROGRAMME STRATEGY

FY 2015/16

Western Balkans & Enlargement Department

Programme Name	Diplomatic Influence & Values: Reuniting Europe (RE)
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Programme Overview

What is the Programme seeking to achieve?

The Reuniting Europe (RE) Programme helps drive reform and maintain Britain's influence in the Western Balkans (Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo) and Turkey, by promoting British values and diplomatic influence. Working with Partners Across Government (PAG), the programme supports reforms identified by the Commission's annual progress reports on the Western Balkans and Turkey, thereby promoting further conditions-based EU enlargement.

Across Europe the prospect of EU membership is a key driver of reform. The UK can set the policy reform agenda by being able to move quickly, to target politically difficult issues (e.g. minority rights or policy reform) and to get UK advice and advisors into key positions. The programme allows the UK to support candidate countries deliver reforms of direct national interest – including sustained action on the rule-of-law, organised crime and corruption, and illegal migration which all come under the EU Reform Agenda for eventual accession. The programme also helps deliver UK policy priorities in each country.

The RE programme is an important tool in influencing and leveraging EU Twinning and TAIEX programmes in the Western Balkans and Turkey through the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II fund. Twinning-focused programmes help the UK to achieve its overseas objectives and develop strong bilateral relations and cooperation. IPA II has a budget of about €11.7 billion for the period of 2014-2020.

Four Year Goals

These are the longer term outcomes you are expecting to deliver

How will you know when these have been achieved – what is your "measure of success"

1. Promote stability and prosperity throughout the Western Balkans through delivering the reforms necessary – including improving rule of law, democratic institutions and processes, and economic governance – to maintain momentum towards EU membership
2. Reform and democratisation process in Turkey makes significant progress, increasing its credibility as a potential EU member state.
3. Strengthen the alignment of the EU Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II) with UK priorities through positioning UK public sector to leverage EU Twinning projects.

Measures of Success

- Serbia and Montenegro continue to implement reforms, moving closer to achieving EU membership. Positive assessments on the implementation of reforms in annual EU Country Progress reports, particularly for chapters 23 and 24. All chapters open, and the majority closed by 2018/19. Serbia fully implements its recently introduced legislation on media freedom and successfully holds a second consecutive Pride march. Montenegro responds effectively to recent assaults on journalists. Both countries develop a strong track record of tackling organised crime and corruption.
- Turkish state institutions and Civil Society aligns further with European standards, enhancing democracy and increasing respect for human rights. Progress should be evident on the judiciary and fundamental rights issues, freedom of expression and minority rights. Evidence of stronger relations forged between government and Civil Society as shown in annual EU Progress Reports.

- Macedonia continues to implement key reforms, particularly in the three pillars of EU enlargement e.g. rule of law and fundamental rights (including media freedom) economic governance and public administration reform and shows continued commitment to democratic processes within democratic institutions.
- Albania continues on the reform track, particularly on rule of law issues (as set out in Chapters 23 and 24) working towards the set conditionality agreed at the General Affairs Council in June 2014 for Candidate Status and accession negotiations. Progress highlighted in subsequent annual EU Country Progress reports.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) agrees reforms needed to allow its Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) to enter into force. It continues reforms necessary for EU membership including electoral and socio-economic reform and develops more effective institutions. Progress in these areas is shown in annual EU Country Progress reports.
- Kosovo continues to implement broader reforms necessary for EU Membership and makes progress on SAA implementation. In particular, focus on trade and internal market issues and strengthening the accountability and transparency of public administration. Progress is highlighted in subsequent annual EU Country Progress reports.

Foreign Policy Priorities

Which FPP will you help deliver and how

*Please note any **Priority Outcomes** that your Programme will help deliver*

Security: Safeguarding Britain's national security by working to reduce conflict

The Coalition agreement states that the government will work to promote stability in the Western Balkans.

Reuniting Europe Programme activity is part of The Diplomatic Influence and Values (DIV) Fund. This has been created to support the Foreign Secretary's Implementation Plan under which the FCO will, "pursue an active and activist foreign policy, working with other countries and strengthening the rules-based international system in support of our values". Underpinning the Fund are projects which tackle Organised Crime and promote Anti Corruption efforts.

Prosperity: Increasing exports and investment, opening markets, ensuring access to resources, and promoting sustainable global growth.

Reuniting Europe Programme activity is designed to help countries deliver reforms in line with EU standards. Since FY 14/15, the Fund has also focussed on economic governance, in line with EU Progress Reports. Progress in this area should help to create a more favourable business climate providing increased trade and investment opportunities for UK companies.

Thematic and/or Geographic Priorities and Objectives

Geographic

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thematic

- Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kosovo - Macedonia - Montenegro - Serbia - Turkey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Democratic Institutions and Processes - Economic Governance and Development 	
<p>We encourage Posts to focus on two of the following objectives which most closely fulfil the objectives of their Country Business Plans.</p>		
Theme	Objective	Focus Issues and Indicators of Success
<p>Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights</p>	<p>A. Enable Strong rule of law, including through strengthening reforms in the justice sector, countering corruption, organised crime, and promoting human rights</p>	<p><i>A.1) To establish processes and develop operational capacity to increase the efficiency, transparency, and public confidence in the judicial system, border management and law enforcement;</i></p> <p><i>A.2) Develop operational capacity to support the fight against organised crime and corruption, through better inter-agency and cross-border co-operation leading to an increase in serious crime prosecutions in each country;</i></p> <p><i>A.3) To develop and implement systems and undertake capacity building to reduce the burden on courts and prisons, including through inter-agency co-operation;</i></p> <p><i>A.4) Enhance capacity and commitment to integrate marginalised and minority groups, which meet international human rights standards. Safeguard the rights of vulnerable communities in the justice system</i></p> <p><i>A.5) Improve frameworks to facilitate free and fair elections.</i></p> <p><i>A.6) Support influential non-governmental stakeholders in promoting human rights in line with EU standards in their respective countries.</i></p>
<p>Democratic Institutions and Processes</p>	<p>B. To establish and promote proper functioning core institutions necessary for democratic governance and economic reform in the</p>	<p><i>B.1) To support measures which deliver an effective and politically neutral civil service. These include transparent recruiting on the basis of merit, strengthened business planning and performance management systems and effective financial and HR management;</i></p> <p><i>B.2) Establish and implement best practice models for policy-making, service delivery and performance measurement.</i></p> <p><i>B.3) To implement structures to support planning and co-ordination of the EU integration process. These include</i></p>

	<p>Western Balkans and Turkey</p>	<p><i>developing capacity in local and regional authorities to improve their chances of gaining access to, and effectively deploying, EU funds;</i></p> <p><i>B.5) To establish legal and institutional checks and balances in support of greater transparency in policy-making and implementation;</i></p> <p><i>B.6) To support and develop processes that enable citizens to engage with elected political representatives, supporting countries improve their ranking in the Transparency International index;</i></p> <p><i>B.7) To improve media capacity to act as an agent for transparency and accountability; including activity in support of media freedom and wider freedom of expression.</i></p>
<p>Economic Governance and Development</p>	<p>C. To support economic and financial reforms in the Western Balkans and Turkey which spur the development of inclusive, rules-based market economies that meet the conditions for Enlargement.</p>	<p><i>C.1) To update financial management procedures and support rigorous economic policy-making to reduce fraud, corruption and waste, increase transparency and confidence in public sector economic decisions, and prioritise the allocation of resources appropriately, at both national and sub-national levels;</i></p> <p><i>C.2) To support reforms that ensure a rules-based system by increasing legal certainty, improving access to timely adjudication of disputes, and demarcating the roles of economic and political power.</i></p> <p><i>C.3) To support the business environment through facilitating their involvement in the policy-making process, which helps to improve business regulatory frameworks. Progress will be checked against World Bank Ease of doing business rankings.</i></p> <p><i>C.4) To strengthen labour markets and reduce emigration push factors, by helping lower barriers to employment, facilitating the transition of workers from the informal to the formal sector, supporting the provision of education and skills relevant to labour market needs at all levels, and encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship.</i></p>
<p>Programme Delivery Indicators</p>		<p>i). <u>Impact and Strategic Alignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of projects operating at the policy-making level, influencing the development of policy or the public and media debate;

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 30% of projects have the involvement or active participation of PAGs either at the operational delivery level or within the approval of projects (to be assisted by better targeting of input from PAG representatives);- 100% of projects work to support Posts' Country Business Plans and enhance the UK's overall diplomatic effort; |
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ii). Leveraging

- 70% of project bids should provide clear evidence of how the project fits into future EU funding plans and therefore has the potential to leverage IPA (EU) funds on behalf of HMG after project completion;
- 100% of successful project bids demonstrate:
 - (a) evidence of consultation with other donors;
 - and
 - (b) provision for sustainability.