

## **Nederlandse inbreng voor de publieke consultatie over de thematische evaluatie van EU-steun voor de hervorming van het openbaar bestuur vanuit het Instrument voor Pre-Accessiesteun en het Europese Nabuurschapsinstrument**

**1. Are you aware of the Public Administration Reform (PAR) strategy, being pursued in your country/in beneficiaries of ENI and IPA assistance supported by the European Union (EU)?**

**YES**

**2. Do you think EU support is targeting the appropriate priorities?**

**YES**

***Which priorities are the most appropriate?***

Operational priorities should focus on the six core areas of PAR. In particular, we highlight public financial management/anti-corruption measures, improving the transparency of the recruitment process of civil servants, and the strengthening of administrative capacities. In addition, coordinating bodies need to have the necessary authority to implement priorities.

**3. Can EU support play a role in improving the professionalism and accountability of the public sector in your country/in beneficiaries of ENI and IPA support?**

**YES**

***Please explain:***

The EU can play a crucial role by supporting the functioning of the public sector within the various levels of government (see answer to question 2). By supporting professionalization of the public sector and improving accountability, other EU efforts - including those aimed at the rule of law - are also strengthened.

**4. Has the EU played this role in the past?**

**YES**

**5. In your opinion is EU support to PAR in your country/beneficiaries of ENI and IPA support delivered in an effective and efficient way?**

**NO**

***If no, how could these aspects be enhanced?***

Partially it has, but in some countries (e.g. Albania, BiH, Georgia), the implementation of PAR is behind schedule. Firstly, the EU could focus more on policy development and coordination by streamlining and enhancing the current system of policy planning, monitoring and reporting. Policies and action plans should go hand in hand with the allocation of adequate human and financial resources. Secondly, the EU would be more effective by more regularly using its political leverage.

**6. Are the achievements through EU support to PAR well quantified and adequately publicised; for instance on the EU Delegation website, and is it supported by well quantified data?**

**NO**

***Please explain:***

Basic information is usually provided, but progress and achievements resulting from EU engagement in PAR could and should be publicized better to inform citizens and enhance EU visibility. In order to increase attention, the EU programs must include communication and visibility actions. Aside from the EU, there is also a role for implementing partners and beneficiary institutions to be played.

**7. Do the reforms in public administration take into account the needs of men and women?**

**YES**

***Please explain and, if possible, please suggest how this could be improved:***

In general, the legislation seems to take into account the needs of men and women by establishing recruitment procedures based on the principles of merit, equal opportunity and open competition. In some cases, however, we see that in practice this is not always the case.

**8. Should you have other views on EU support to PAR in beneficiaries of ENI and IPA support, please, provide them here:**

- Important that the EU Delegation coordinates with Member States on the ground. PAR is a highly complex issue, and the EU Delegation should inform EU MS in line with PAR Strategy and priority areas – EU should create a common understanding and shared values on PAR priorities by its MS and external donors.
- With regard to preliminary conclusion 7 (sustainability) we would like to highlight that high staff turnover remains a point of concern in several countries (e.g. Serbia, Montenegro). Low salaries remain one of the main reasons, making achieving improvements in this area highly dependent on economic progress in general. Other reasons however can and should continue to be addressed.
- The often considerable time lag between programming and implementation hampers the effectiveness and visibility of EU support.