

SEMINAR DG NEAR, BEROVO, FEBRUARY 2016

Seminar for the Audit Authorities & NAO Support Offices was held in the period 22-25 February 2016 in Berovo, organised and supported by the EC Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations.

The seminar will be attended by over 100 representatives from the Audit Authority for audit of instrument for pre-accession assistance and the National Authorising Officer Support Office (NAOSO) of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as by representatives of relevant institutions from the countries in the region – Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Turkey.

The experts – lecturers came from the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations from Brussels, and from Bulgaria, Croatia, Turkey and Estonia.

This seminar aimed to give general guidance to the Audit Authorities and the NAO Support Offices as to the entrustment steps towards the instrument for pre-accession assistance II (IPA II) and the tasks and challenges this process might involve for the audit authorities and NAO support offices in the control of the use of IPA funds. The seminar was also an opportunity to point out the increasing role of the audit authorities and NAO support offices in re-performance of controls (both administrative and on-the spot) in order to protect the financial interests of the European Union and the Republic of Macedonia.

Apart from the lecturing, there were practical exercises by visiting two projects financed with IPA 1 funds, component 2, Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Macedonia – Bulgaria 2007-2013, in Berovo (Project Restoration of nature for good quality of life) and Vinica (Building cross-border cultural cooperation) to check the effectiveness and sustainability of the projects.

Seminar was ended with presentation of best on-the spot control practices and lessons learned.