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**Turkey-Ankara: IPA — Town twinning between Turkey and the EU  
2016/S 065-111728**

**Service prior information notice**

**Location — Turkey**

1. **Publication reference:**  
EuropeAid/137984/IH/SER/TR.
2. **Procedure:**  
Restricted.
3. **Programme title:**  
Annual action programme for Turkey for the year 2014 under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II).
4. **Financing:**  
IPA budget item 22.02.03.01 of the general budget of the EU (90 %) and national contribution (10 %).
5. **Contracting authority:**  
Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU), Ankara, TURKEY.
6. **Nature of contract:**  
Fee-based.
7. **Contract description:**  
The overall objective of this contract is to improve administrative capacity at local level in the EU accession process. The purpose of the contract is to create sustainable structures for exchange between local administrations in Turkey and EU Member States in areas relevant for EU accession. The contractor will provide technical assistance services such as:
  - capacity-building activities for key institutions in Turkey involved in town twinning with the EU and preparation and publishing of a roadmap to give guidance for structural improvements,
  - strengthening networking structures and sustaining relations with key partners in the EU and Turkey for town twinning,
  - capacity-building activities for Turkish local authorities in areas relevant for EU accession in order to disseminate the best practices, increase the quantity and quality of town twinning as well as effectively promote the action and involvement of the key stakeholders such as civil society and citizens at local level,
  - technical assistance for the preparation and implementation of a town twinning grant scheme.
8. **Indicative budget:**  
1 900 000 EUR.
9. **Intended timing of publication of the contract notice:**  
April 2016.
10. **Additional information:**  
Not applicable.
11. **Legal basis:**

Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11.3.2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11.3.2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II), OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11.

**Remarks:**

There must be a minimum period of 30 calendar days between the publication of this prior information notice and the publication of the corresponding contract notice.

No applications or requests for information should be sent at this stage.