



Methodology for becoming a member of the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG)

The objective of the IISG is to improve collective efficiency by mapping needs and coordinating responses concerning security threats in the Western Balkan region.

An important feature of the IISG is reflected in its regional character with strong EU involvement. While the IISG is a regional process, co-owned and recognized by all Western Balkans (WB) partners, it is implemented via a multi-level mechanism incorporating EU and WBs high-level presence at the Board, and wide membership of EU agencies, UN agencies, regional and international actors contributing to mapping efforts in the WB in the Support Group of the IISG.

In order to reach its full potential, the IISG must become a recognised coordination mechanism and ensure a large buy-in from the WB and the international community: the more partners join in to participate, the more information is collected in the security needs and response assessment, and the higher synergy can be created among security actions.

This methodology has been developed to specify the procedure for becoming an IISG member.

This Methodology has been approved by the IISG Board on 02 February 2021.

1. IISG membership

IISG Membership is composed of four main groups:

- Six Western Balkans partners;
- Western Balkans' relevant international partners operating in the region (international organisations, EU Member States, other states, other international actors), subject to approval by the Board as referred to in point 2.3.1 b). Former lead partners of the IISG and the hosting entity of the IISG Secretariat are automatically IISG members;
- European Commission and European External Action Service;
- Any EU Justice and Home Affairs agency upon notification to the Board.

The IISG members participate in the corresponding bodies: the IISG Board and IISG Support Group, supported by the IISG Secretariat.

The **IISG Board** is composed of IISG Board Members. IISG Board Members are one representative of each Western Balkans partner and one representative of the European Commission. All other IISG members may attend Board meetings as observers. The Western Balkans may meet in informal Working Groups meetings to provide expert contribution to all processes and products of the IISG, prior to their submission to the IISG Board.

The **Secretariat** provides support to the IISG Board and IISG Support Group.

The three pillars under **Support Group** (WB CTi, WB BSi, WB CSCi) are technical structures and are composed of representatives of IISG Members (Western Balkans and relevant international partners operating in the region (international organisations, EU Member States, other states, other international actors)).



The representatives of IISG Members should be technical experts in the specific IISG pillar. The Support Group is a technical forum where its members meet on a regular basis.

It works with the Secretariat as regards all of the Secretariat's tasks enumerated above under 2.3.2 b), including by:

- Contributing to the “Biennial Needs Mapping” and the “Annual Response Mapping”. Each member of the Support Group commits to informing the Secretariat of any ongoing or future development in the area of each relevant pillar (such as new laws and implementing decisions, strategies and action plans, actions in general).;
- Stimulating debate and generating new ideas for increased synergies and cooperation;
- Assisting the Secretariat in reaching out to relevant stakeholders nationally and regionally and gathering information.

2. Criteria for inclusion of new IISG members

New members of the IISG are approved by the IISG Board.

In order to become IISG member, the potential member (Western Balkans' relevant international partners operating in the region such as international organisations, EU Member States, other states, other international actors) will undergo an assessment whether it fulfils the following criteria:

- like-minded partner;
- commitment to regional cooperation in the WB;
- Support for EU values, EU policies and the EU perspective for the region.

The EU Justice and Home Affairs may become an IISG member, upon notification to the Board.

2.1. Procedure

The procedure for becoming an IISG member is as follows:

- IISG Secretariat makes in-house identification of all possible partners that can be interested in the IISG process and extends official invitation to all identified partners;
- Alternatively, any interested partner may reach out to the IISG Secretariat directly;
- The future potential members express interest for membership by using Annex – expression of interest form);
- IISG Secretariat prepares the list of potential members to the IISG Board as well as a brief assessment on the above-mentioned criteria for its approval either during a Board meeting or through a silent written procedure;
- IISG Board checks that the criteria for membership as specified in the ToRs are fulfilled and confirm that the interested partner is an IISG member;
- IISG Secretariat maintains a list of IISG Member and requests a focal point be nominated for official correspondence as well as for attendance of the technical meetings of the Support Group.



2.2. Obligations and benefits stemming from IISG membership

The partnership within the IISG process is seeking to:

- Provide the necessary contribution and support in technical discussions related to the policy dimensions in the three pillars (identification of needs and responses);
- Provide general information on its ongoing and future actions in the three pillars;
- Assess and contribute to the analysis of bridging capacity gaps and identify overlaps in view of ensuring of obtaining a comprehensive picture of the security needs and responses;
- Participate in relevant pillar meetings and exchange information with other members of the Support Group in one or several pillars.
- Participate in the needs and response mapping exercise;
- Become a core lead partner of a pillar of the Support Group in order to steer the discussions of a pillar in coordination of the Secretariat, if interest;
- Gain access and provide input on a regular basis to the Secure Database gathering information on the needs and responses, as provided by other IISG members.



ANNEX – application form



Application of interest to become an IISG member

Name of the country/Organisation:...

Having in mind the need to improve collective efficiency by mapping needs and coordinating responses concerning security threats in the Western Balkan region;

Confirms interest to become an IISG member and to participate in the relevant meetings of the Support Group's three pillars and as an observer to the Board meetings;

Understands that information will be requested and gathered on each IISG member's Actions in the security area in the WBs and that access to a Secure Database containing this information will be provided, enabling all IISG members to obtain a comprehensive overview of all actions and to increase synergies/avoid duplications;

Understand that an IISG Member is not expected to share sensitive information, such as operational law enforcement information or intelligence information and that all activities under the IISG should be carried out without prejudice to existing forms of operational cooperation;

Informs that it will provide focal points in the following pillars of the Support Group:

- WB CTi: ...
- WB CSCi: ...
- WB BSi: ...

Expresses support to the IISG processes and by this document would like to request to be part of the IISG processes.

Name	
Signed	
Date	