**Project Summary**

**Project Background**
In the European Parliament's resolution on the Commission's 2007 enlargement strategy paper, adopted in July 2008, the European Parliament called for lessons to be learnt from previous enlargements and that in the future the EU should act more rigorously when following-up the monitoring and evaluation reports on progress achieved by the candidate countries, in particular regarding administrative and legal reforms, the ability of the pre-accession states to manage European funds and the rule of law in general.

**Main Objective**
This Research Study aims at assessing the following key issues with regards to Romania and Bulgaria:

- The experience with the management of pre-accession funds in the two countries
- The establishment of systems for managing the Structural and Cohesion Funds in the two countries
- The experience with the “Cooperation and Verification” mechanism
- The effectiveness of the specific pre-accession instrument Twinning in the two countries

In addition, case studies conducted in Croatia and Iceland, supported by an online survey, aimed at assessing if and to what extent identified Lessons Learned have been/ are transferred to the pre-accession countries (mainly from the EC point of view, but also from Romania’s and Bulgaria’s and/or other new Member States’ point of view. Furthermore, it was assessed to what extend the two countries are actively seeking for Lessons Learned from new Member States.

**Activities**
4 Evaluators analysed relevant documents, undertook field trips, conducted an online survey and prepared a detailed final report.

**Implementing Features**
This contract has been implemented under the framework contract for “Provision of External Expertise on Regulatory & Policy Issues within the Fields of Budget and Budgetary Control in the different EU Policy Areas

**Services Provided**
- Research Study and preparation of final report
- Online Survey
- Recommendations to EU Parliament

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**Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Iceland**

**Pre-accession financing for Bulgaria & Romania: What lessons can be learned for future enlargements**

**Client**
EU Parliament

**Duration**

**Personnel**
- 4 STE

INTEGRATION