



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND INCLUSION

Annual work programme for the operational technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the framework of the European Social Fund and in the framework of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived for 2020 – First update

[Commission implementing Decision C(2020)3758 of 12 June 2020]

ANNEX

The Annex I is amended as follows:

(1) the introductory paragraph of point 1 is replaced by the following:

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1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of 17 December 2013, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2020 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2): EUR 3 393 205
- for prizes (implemented under direct management) (point 3): N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 4): EUR 8 598 795
- for actions implemented under indirect management (point 5): N/A
- for contributions to trust funds (point 6): N/A
- for financial instruments (point 7): N/A
- for contributions to blending facilities (point 8): N/A
- for other actions or expenditure (point 9): EUR 508 000”

(2) point 2 is amended as follows:

(a) the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

“the global budgetary envelope for grants under this work programme amounts to EUR 3 393 205.”

(b) the following points 2.2 and 2.3 are added:

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2.2 Call for proposals on national social innovation competence centres (2020_04.030201_56)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

In a rapidly changing world social innovation is becoming increasingly important to shape the challenges ahead (transition to a low-carbon economy, demographic changes, the shift towards an IT-based economy...) in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The objective of this call for proposals is to support the establishment of social innovation competence centres in the EU Member States to build capacities of national authorities on social innovation, in particular on how to best promote it and facilitate the transfer and

upscaling of innovative solutions under shared management.

In view of the diverse landscape in terms of experience in promoting and scaling social innovation under the ESF and the high importance given to social innovation by the new Commission and the proposals for the future ESF+ Regulation, the call aims in particular at transferring knowledge and tools for the support to social innovation from ESF managing authorities and social innovation stakeholders in Member States, with a long-standing and deep experience in the promotion and scaling of social innovation, to Member States with a shorter and less systematic experience in this field. A mentoring relationship between competence centres of both types of Member States will be instrumental in this respect. Especially in view of the future programming period, the purpose of the competence centres is also to create further synergies between the EaSI and the ESF in this area.

Description of the activities to be funded

The call will fund the development and establishment of national competence centres, their activities to promote social innovation in the country (in particular by assisting stakeholders in the design, implementation and scaling up of successful innovative actions), and mutual learning, including mentoring of less advanced centres by more experienced ones as well as networking between the competence centres for an indicative period of 24 months.

As the purpose of the call is to improve the capacities of competence centres in Member States that have a less deep and long-standing experience in the promotion and scaling of innovative solutions through mentoring by competence centres in Member States with a longer and deeper experience and through financial support to third parties. In this context, the Commission may consider exceeding the maximum amount of financial support specified in the article 204 of the Financial Regulation.

Type of applicants targeted by the call

a) Place of establishment

Legal entities properly established and registered in the EU Member States are eligible as lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entities and associated organisations.

In derogation from this requirement, international organisations with their registered headquarters outside the EU Member States are also eligible.

b) Type of entities

The lead applicants, co-applicants and affiliated entities must be legal entities.

c) Consortia

Only consortia are eligible.

To be eligible as consortium, actions must include a lead applicant and at least one co-applicant from at least two EU Member States. For every EU Member State covered, the consortium must include at least one national managing authority of the European Social Fund^[1] or a (public or private) entity with an endorsement from the national managing authority confirming that it will recognise it as (part of the) competence centre for social innovation for that EU Member State.

^[1] As foreseen in articles 123 and 125 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013

d) Affiliated entities

Affiliated entities may participate in the implementation of the action. Legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation and which satisfy the eligibility criteria may take part in the action as affiliated entities, and may declare eligible costs. For that purpose, applicants shall identify such affiliated entities in the application form.

e) Associate organisations

Associate organisations are eligible. An associate organisation can participate in the action but may not declare eligible costs.

Implementation

Directly by the DG in Q2. Joint call with the EaSI programme

2.3 Direct grant to Euronews for reporting on ESF implementation via the Real Economy Magazine (2020_04.026301_57)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Supporting ESF implementation, contributing to disseminating information about what can be achieved under the ESF during the preparation of the post 2020 programmes.

Description of the activities to be funded

Euronews will be asked to produce and broadcast three episodes in 2020 on ESF implementation, raising awareness among the general public on the impact of ESF funding on the ground. The episodes are part of the established TV magazine “Real Economy”, which is distributed on air, online and via social media. Euronews is specialised in reporting on EU affairs from a European perspective on a multilingual basis and contributes to a sense of European identity. Its magazine Real Economy is specialised in economic, social and employment related matters. The action will allow the Commission to reach out to new audiences strengthening the visibility of the ESF. In 2018, Real Economy had in average 130 000 views on Facebook of each episode, 220 000 pages views and reached around 8.1 million individuals on TV during the first quarter of the year. The planning of the episodes to be produced will be done in close cooperation with Euronews and DG ECFIN. The latter is the Commission’s coordinator of the cooperation with Euronews Real Economy. Due to its editorial independence, Euronews is free to adapt these objectives and target groups to the editorial concept of the Real Economy Magazine.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

According to Art. 195(f) of the Financial regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. Euronews, who will produce and broadcast the documentaries, fulfils these criteria.

Implementation

Co-delegation to DG ECFIN

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(3) point 4 is amended as follows:

(a) the first sentence is replaced by the following:

“The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2020 amounts to EUR 8 598 795”

(b) point 4.1 is replaced by the following:

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4.1. Support to capacity building activities for better ESF implementation

General description of the contracts envisaged

Assist the Commission and Member States in implementing ESF (including through outsourced audits, organisation of conferences, meetings, events, trainings and other actions), the development of SCO (financing based on conditions) and development of ESF communication tools (website, publications, campaigns), including to help Member States tackle the COVID19 crisis and its social and economic consequences. In addition, continuing its activities in relation to the support platform to facilitate peer counselling and cooperation between Member States and stakeholders. These procurement actions will also support managing authorities and other stakeholders by providing relevant training and guidance, including for tackling the COVID19 crisis and moving towards recovery.

Implementation

Directly by the DG and co-delegation to DG REGIO

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(c) point 4.6 is replaced by the following:

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4.6. Reports and analysis

General description of the contracts envisaged

The actions will include support for thematic analysis and studies to enhance results and improve the evidence-based management of ESF and for developing data collection systems, including in relation to Member States’ reform efforts to make structural reforms and to tackle the COVID19 crisis and its socio-economic impact.

Implementation

Directly by the DG and co-delegation to DG REGIO and DG REFORM

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(4) point 9 is amended as follows:

(a) the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

“The overall budgetary allocation reserved for other actions in 2020 amounts to EUR 508 000.”

(b) the following point 9.2 is added:

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9.2. Communication activities

Publications related to the promotion of the ESF actions
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Implementation

Co-delegation to DG OP

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