



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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COMMISSION DECISION

of 05/05/2011

on the adoption of a work programme in the Environment policy area for 2011 for the pilot projects and preparatory action covered by budget lines 07 03 26, 07 03 29 and 07 03 31, serving as a financing decision

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹ (hereinafter referred to as "Financial Regulation"), and in particular points (a) and (b) of Article 49(6), and Articles 75 and 110 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities², and in particular Article 90 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 75, of the Financial Regulation and Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, the commitment of the expenditure from the budget of the European Union shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (2) In accordance with Article 110 of the Financial Regulation, an annual work programme must be adopted for grants.
- (3) The budgetary authority has earmarked specific funding in the General Budget of the European Union for 2011, namely on budget line 07 03 26 for a pilot project on literature review on the potential climate change effects on drinking water protected areas across the EU and the identification of priorities among different types of drinking water supplies, on budget line 07 03 29 for a preparatory action on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe and on budget line 07 03 31 for a pilot project on comparative study of the pressures and measures in the major river basin management plans in the EU.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 48.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

- (4) The 2011 Work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 90(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, this Decision constitutes a financing decision for the expenditure provided for in the Work programme.
- (5) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 83 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and Article 106(5) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (6) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 90(4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme in the Environment policy area for 2011 for the pilot projects and preparatory action covered by budget lines 07 03 26, 07 03 29 and 07 03 31 (hereinafter "Work programme") set out in the Annex is adopted. It constitutes the financing decision in the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the Work programme is set at EUR 3 000 000 and shall be financed from the following lines of the General Budget of the European Union for 2011:

- budget line 07 03 26 - Pilot project - Literature review on the potential climate change effects on drinking water protected areas across the EU and the identification of priorities among different types of drinking water supplies: EUR 500 000;
- budget line 07 03 29 - Preparatory action - Development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe: EUR 1 000 000;
- budget line 07 03 31 - Pilot project - Comparative study of the pressures and measures in the major river basin management plans in the EU: EUR 1 500 000.

The appropriations referred to in the first paragraph shall cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the Work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such changes in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and the principle of proportionality.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Janez Potočnik
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Work programme in the Environment policy area for 2011 for the pilot projects and preparatory action covered by budget lines 07 03 26, 07 03 29 and 07 03 31.

1. **PILOT PROJECT - LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON DRINKING WATER PROTECTED AREAS ACROSS THE EU AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES AMONG DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 26)**

2. **PREPARATORY ACTION - DEVELOPMENT OF PREVENTION ACTIVITIES TO HALT DESERTIFICATION IN EUROPE (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 29)**

3. **PILOT PROJECT ON COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PRESSURES AND MEASURES IN THE MAJOR RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE EU (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 31)**

1. PILOT PROJECT – LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE POTENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS ON DRINKING WATER PROTECTED AREAS ACROSS THE EU AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITIES AMONG DIFFERENT TYPES OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. Budget line: 07 03 26

1.1.2. Budget amount: 500 000 EUR

1.1.3. Basic Act:

Pilot project within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1).

1.1.4. General objectives:

Given climate change impacts, protected areas play an important role in ensuring long-term security of the (sustainable) supply of drinking water (e.g. bank-filtered water protection areas or other types of drinking water protection areas).

Given climate change impacts, long-term security of public drinking water supply can be achieved through the utilisation of vulnerable water reserves (e.g. bank-filtered water protection areas or other types of drinking water protection areas).

A literature review on the potential effects of climate change on drinking water protection areas across the EU will be a first step in a further analysis, alongside results from other projects, to identify with greater certainty the vulnerability of existing and prospective strategic drinking water reserves in order to better future planning.

1.1.5. Specific priorities for 2011:

The pilot project will be implemented through an open call for tender for a service contract.

1.1.6. Expected results:

Literature review of the operating and natural recharge mechanisms - under extreme climate conditions - of water resources providing for public drinking water supply (ground waters, surface waters, karstic waters, riverbed and riverbank-filtered waters) across the EU, taking into consideration regional differences of climate change effects;

Review of those effects of climate change that significantly influence different types of drinking water protected areas. Identification of priority topics and areas. Assessment of potential measures.

Drafting of a methodology for a proper consideration of potential effects of climate change on drinking water protection areas in river basin management, to be further discussed under Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy.

Roadmap for further research.

1.1.7. Breakdown of resources between strands / actions to be implemented:

One single action.

1.2. Procurement procedures

1.2.1. Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged and if possible their subject in generic terms

One Service Contract is envisaged.

Service contract for an assessment of the operating and natural recharge mechanisms, under extreme climate conditions, of water resources providing for public drinking water supply across the EU and identification of priority measures in river basin management.

1.2.2. Indicative budget and timetable

500.000€

For a proper and timely contribution to the 2012 Blueprint to safeguard EU Waters, it is essential that the work starts as soon as possible, and delivers by mid-2012 at the latest.

The key steps are:

- Financing decision April 2011
- Publication call for tender April 2011
- Start contract September 2011
- Literature review completed by January 2012
- Methodology and action plan ready by June 2012 (End of the contract).

2. PREPARATORY ACTION - DEVELOPMENT OF PREVENTION ACTIVITIES TO HALT DESERTIFICATION IN EUROPE

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. *Budget line: 07 03 29*

2.1.2. *Budget amount: 1 000 000 EUR*

2.1.3. *Basic Act:*

Preparatory Action within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1).

2.1.4. *General objectives.*

This appropriation is intended to continue the identification and development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe that started in 2009.

2.1.5. *Specific priorities for 2011*

The preparatory action will include:

- a call for proposals on developing a holistic approach to water management with a view to halting desertification in 5-6 selected pilot river basins.
- a service contract to provide a link between the pilot basins and EU-wide water and ecosystem accounts.

2.1.6. *Expected results.*

5-6 pilot projects are carried out in the priority river basins where water scarcity, droughts and desertification are a major problem.

Contribution to the development of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water) through specific information on water balances in EU river basins where water scarcity, droughts and desertification are a major problem.

The pilot projects and the service contract will link with the European Commission research activities on desertification through the creation of synergies with the ongoing projects such as:

- DESURVEY (Assessing and Monitoring of Desertification),
- DESIRE (Desertification Mitigation and Remediation of Land – a Global Approach for Local Solutions),

- LEDDRA (Land and Ecosystem Degradation and Desertification: Assessing the Fit of Responses),
- UNDESERT (Understanding and Combating Desertification to Mitigate its Impact on Ecosystem Services),
- PRACTICE (Prevention and Restoration Actions to Combat Desertification. An integrated assessment),
- LUPIS (Land Use Policies and Sustainable Development in Developing countries).

The benefit of these synergies will be the acquisition of existing knowledge, input and experience, such as scientifically-based information on the environmental state (biophysical and socio-economic parameters), sound practices of responses to land degradation and drought as well as on practices of ecosystem restoration over desertification affected areas.

2.1.7. *Breakdown of resources between strands / actions to be implemented:*

700.000 EUR for 5-6 grant agreements.

300.000 EUR for 1 service contract.

2.2. Grants / Calls for proposals

2.2.1. *Expected results:*

The call for proposals intends to identify pilot initiatives aimed at developing dynamic water balances as well as identifying management, technological and economic measures allowing for optimal water management in the priority pilot river basins.

Within the scope of the call the priority river basins are those where water scarcity, droughts and/or desertification is a major problem.

2.2.2. *Target beneficiaries*

Public and private bodies, NGOs, universities, research institutes.

2.2.3. *Number of projects expected to be financed: around 5-8*

2.2.4. *Main eligibility, selection and award criteria:*

Eligibility criteria for the applicants	<p>Applicants and their partners could be public and private bodies, NGOs, universities, research institutes. Applicants must be registered in an EU Member State.</p> <p>Projects may associate authorities, private bodies or non governmental organisations of candidate countries, potential candidates, and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries, where this would serve the objectives of the actions</p>
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	<p>concerned.</p> <p>Projects shall concern countries "affected by desertification" under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)⁴.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>Financial capacity: stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain his activity throughout the period during which the proposal is being carried out and to participate in its funding.</p> <p>Operational capacity of the applicant and partners: professional competencies of the staff and previous experience in terms of projects undertaken.</p>
Award criteria	<p>Identification and understanding of the specific needs the proposal is intended to solve.</p> <p>Relevance of the proposal in terms geography.</p> <p>Relevance of the expected results to the ongoing review of the European policy on water scarcity and droughts.</p> <p>The applied methodology, which should be compatible with the approach used by European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Joint Research Centre (JRC) and should be developed in close co-operation with the local River Basin Management Authorities.</p> <p>Project organisation and involvement of the different stakeholders and/or target groups.</p> <p>Planning of the dissemination of results.</p> <p>Budget: consistency of the expenditures with the foreseen activities and costs/effectiveness.</p>

2.2.5. *Indicative timetable and maximum rate of co-financing:*

Finance rate :	Max 75 % co-financing of the eligible costs
Timing of call for proposals :	
- publication date	May 2011
- closing date	September 2011
- finalisation of the grant agreement	October 2011

2.3. Procurement procedures

2.3.1. Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged and if possible their subject in generic terms

One service contract is envisaged. It will address the comparative analyses of key aspects of river basin management in river basins across the EU affected by water scarcity, droughts or desertification and contribute to the building of water and ecosystem accounts at EU level.

2.3.2. Indicative budget and timetable

300 000 €

For a proper and timely contribution to the 2012 Blueprint to safeguard EU Waters through the provision of water and ecosystem accounts for river basins across the EU affected by water scarcity, droughts or desertification, it is essential that the work starts as soon as possible, and delivers by mid-2012 at the latest. The key steps are:

- Financing decision - April 2011
- Publication call for tender - April 2011
- Start contract - October 2011

3. PILOT PROJECT ON COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PRESSURES AND MEASURES IN THE MAJOR RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS IN THE EU

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. *Budget line: 07 03 31*

3.1.2. *Budget amount: 1 500 000 EUR*

3.1.3. *Basic Act:*

Pilot project within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1).

3.1.4. *General objectives:*

The aim of the pilot study is to develop a pan-European view on the status of surface waters and groundwater, the pressures and the impacts acting upon them, and on the measures that Member States plan to undertake to reach good status in general by 2015. For this purpose the pilot project will cover the river basin management plans of all EU Member States that have reported their plans.

The pilot project will gather and compare, in a structured way, information on the following topics related to river basin management: governance, agriculture, hydromorphology, intercalibration, specific pollutants, typologies, drinking water protected areas, costs and benefits, enforcement and control systems, and innovation.

3.1.5. *Specific priorities for 2011:*

The pilot project will be implemented mainly through one or two service contracts, for which the call for tender(s) is/are expected to be published in April 2011.

3.1.6. *Expected results:*

The call or calls will focus on a comparative analysis of key issues of the river basin management plans across EU-27 taking into account the international character of most river basin districts. For the key issues mentioned above (from governance to innovation) a European wide overview will be presented, in order to contribute to the development of the 2012 Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters.

3.1.7. *Breakdown of resources between strands / actions to be implemented:*

1 or 2 service contracts are envisaged.

3.2. Procurement procedures

3.2.1. *Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged and if possible their subject in generic terms*

1 or 2 service contracts are envisaged.

Service contracts will address the comparative analyses of key aspects of river basin management in river basins across the EU.

3.2.2. *Indicative budget and timetable*

1 500 000 €

For a proper and timely contribution to the 2012 Blueprint to safeguard EU Waters, it is essential that the work starts as soon as possible, and delivers by mid-2012 at the latest.

The key steps are:

- Financing decision - April 2011
- Publication call for tender - April 2011
- Start contract - October 2011