

## ANNEX

## 1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	<b>CARIFORUM</b> - Technical Co-operation Facility (TCF) CRIS Decision No. 2009/021-428	
Total cost	3.000.000 €(EC Contribution 100%) – A Envelope 10 <sup>th</sup> EDF 1.82% of the 10 <sup>th</sup> EDF CRIP	
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach: Partially decentralised management	
DAC-code	15110	Sector: <b>Public sector policy and administrative management</b>

## 2. RATIONALE

## 2.1. Sector context

The Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP) for the period 2008-2013 takes into account the historical and current economic development trends in the region, including the renewed development assistance in view of the restoration of democratic processes in Haiti, the only UN-designated LDC in the Region. The global objectives of the CRIP are to contribute to poverty reduction and to support the integration of the Caribbean Region into the global economy.

The CRIP is anchored on a single focal sector, "Regional Integration and Cooperation" which has an indicative allocation of around 85 to 90% of the available 10<sup>th</sup> EDF resources. Within this focal sector are different levels of the various integration and cooperation processes among the CARIFORUM countries, foremost of which are the OECS Economic Union, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the EU/LAC Process, and the recently-signed CARIFORUM-EC EPA. The CRIP also provides for adequate support aimed at addressing the need for capacity strengthening of the various institutions in the region. The CRIP allocates around 10 to 15% of resources to the non-focal sector that seeks to strengthen and empower non-state actors to address vulnerability and social issues, notably crime and security and illegal drugs, all of which have potential negative impact on the region's development efforts.

The TCF-10<sup>th</sup> EDF will support technical assistance and short-term consultancies to assist in the design and identification of projects and activities under the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP 2008-2013).

## 2.2. Lessons learnt

The 1st TCF – 9th EDF financed the Regional Preparatory Task Force (RPTF) studies which have identified EPA implementation activities that will now be funded under that 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.

### **2.3. Complementary actions**

The TCF II-9<sup>th</sup> EDF and the CISP - 9th EDF Contribution Agreement runs until December 2010 and might be further extended. The CISP is also providing some funding in the area of support to EPA implementation. Although the TCF II-9<sup>th</sup> EDF has not yet been used, it is expected that once the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Roadmap for regional integration is agreed on, demand for technical assistance will accelerate and the 1 € million allocation insufficient.

### **2.4. Donor coordination**

The EU Aid for Trade (AfT) strategy emphasises the need for enhanced coordination and increased predictability in the planning and delivery of AfT contributions, which is important in terms of maximising benefits and avoiding "AfT" orphans. Whilst the exact share for the Caribbean region remains to be confirmed, the target for 2010 is to have €1 billion annually by EU Member States respectively the EC, with 50% of the increase going to ACP countries. In order to put together regional aid-for-trade packages the Commission has been very active in bringing together EU Member States in order to coordinate programmes funded by them in this area.

DfID and GTZ are in the process of identifying their support strategies. DfID has set up a Caribbean Development Bank-managed Trust Fund that will give support to OECS, CSME and EPA implementation.

CIDA, in 2007, announced a shift from bilateral national-level assistance to CARICOM to regional programming, and a sum of CDN \$600 million has been pledged for a period of 10 years commencing in 2008. CIDA and CARICOM Secretariat, in collaboration with the OECS Secretariat, are engaged in a joint programming exercise. In addition, there is a separate programme for Haiti valued at CDN \$100 million per annum.

CIDA, GTZ and DfID and other donors are fully associated with the regional integration roadmap that is being prepared by CARICOM in support of donor coordination.

## **3. DESCRIPTION**

### **3.1. Objectives**

The overall objectives of the TCF 10<sup>th</sup> EDF are: to contribute to the Region's Development Strategy, and to support coordinated approaches to development and trade issues in the Caribbean region.

The project purpose is to facilitate the identification and successful implementation of actions under the CRIP and other EDF programmes as well as the improved awareness among key actors in the Caribbean Region of general development and trade issues and of EU policies in these areas by means of training for beneficiaries in the Region.

### 3.2. **Expected results and main activities**

The following are the expected results of the programme:

- i) Identification of programmes to be financed from the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF;
- ii) Preparation and formulation of programmes to be supported from the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF;  
and,
- iii) Increased understanding of development and trade issues by key actors – to this end conference and seminars will be organized in the Region and the attendance of participants/representatives from the Region to conferences, seminars, etc, normally organized by bodies other than the Commission, will be financed.

The TCF 10<sup>th</sup> EDF will provide support to the following main activities:

- a) Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)** – Funds under the TCF will be used to facilitate and support the implementation of the CRIP and other EDF programmes. The projects that will be financed under the proposed TCF 10<sup>th</sup> EDF will support the CARIFORUM including through the provision of short to medium term TA/consultancy for the main stages of the project cycle. It may also include institutional/ capacity assessments of potential implementation partners. Audits and evaluations of other projects will be financed through this initiative whenever they cannot be financed out of the project itself or where it is convenient or efficient to combine a number of audits/evaluations of related interventions. The cost of this TCF component will be 2,250,000€
- b) Training Support for Project and Programmes (TSSP)** – will finance various educational actions such as seminars or consciousness-raising activities prior to or during the formulation of a project or programme – for example a workshop on Project Cycle Management workshop of stakeholders in a sector identified in the CRIP. The cost of this TCF component will be 350,000€
- c) Conferences and Seminars (CS)** – these include either: (a) more general short-term training activities for ACP officials and/or non-state actors on topics related either to the priorities of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement or to EDF or other EU administrative and financial procedures and (b) participation by ACP officials or non-state actors in international meetings or seminars on development or trade themes. The latter are organized by bodies or organizations other than the Commission (including UN bodies). The cost of this TCF component will be 250,000€

### 3.3. **Risks and assumptions**

Not applicable to the TCF.

### 3.4. **Cross-cutting Issues**

Environmental sustainability, gender equality, good governance, and human rights will be addressed in the activities to be financed, where relevant.

### **3.5. Stakeholders**

The CARIFORUM/CARICOM and their Member States are the main stakeholders and direct beneficiaries of the programmes, projects and activities that will be funded from this TCF.

## **4.0. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Method of implementation**

The TCF will be implemented by partly decentralised management through the signature of a financing agreement with the Secretary General of the CARIFORUM as Regional Authorising Officer (RAO). The RAO may request the Commission to implement short-medium term technical assistance contracts, as provided under Article 19(c) of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement. The areas of technical assistance will be suggested by the RAO to the Head of Delegation. Once agreed upon, terms of reference will be developed jointly. Other activities not covered by this technical assistance will be implemented through Programme Estimates that may be signed during the implementation of the project.

The Commission controls ex ante all the procurement procedures except in cases where programmes estimates are applied, under which the Commission applies ex ante control for procurement contracts > 50.000 EUR and may apply ex post for procurement contracts • 50.000 EUR. The Commission controls ex ante the contracting procedures for all grant contracts.

Payments remain centralised except in cases where programmes estimates are applied, under which payments are decentralised for operating costs and contracts up to the ceilings indicated in the table below.

The Authorising Officer ensures that, by using the model of financing agreement for decentralised management, the segregation of duties between the authorising officer and the accounting officer or of the equivalent functions within the delegated entity will be effective, so that the decentralisation of the payments can be carried out for contracts up to the ceilings specified below.

Works	Supplies	Services	Grants
< 300.000 EUR	< 150.000 EUR	< 200.000 EUR	• 100.000 EUR

### **4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures/programme estimates**

#### **1) Contracts**

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Participation in the award of contracts for the present action shall be open to all natural and legal persons covered by 10<sup>th</sup> EDF. Further extensions of this participation to other natural or legal persons by the concerned authorising officer shall be subject to the conditions provided for in article 20 of Annex IV of the Cotonou Agreement.

## 2) Specific rules of grants

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. They are established in accordance with the principles set out in Title VII 'Grants' of the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund. When derogations to these principles are applied, they shall be justified, in particular in the following cases:

- Financing in full (derogation to the principle of co-financing): the maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants normally should not exceed 80%. Full financing may only be applied in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and in Article 109 of the Council Regulation on the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.
- Derogation to the principle of non-retroactivity: a grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only if the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the grant is awarded, in accordance with Article 108 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF.

## 3) Specific rules on programme estimates

All programme estimates must respect the procedures and standard documents laid down by the Commission, in force at the time of the adoption of the programme estimates in question.

### 4.3. Budget and calendar

The proposed TCF for 10<sup>th</sup> EDF is for 3.0 million € for 3 years (2010-2013). The budget is estimated as follows:

Activity	Cost (€)
• TAF – (Expertise required including: fees, living allowances and reimbursable expenses)	2,250,000.00
• TSSP – (including Supplies and equipment, rental of premises and incidental expenditures, flights, registration, per diem)	350,000.00
• CS – (including incidental expenditures, communication tools and equipment)	250,000.00
• Audit (of this programme)	50,000.00
• Evaluation (of this programme)	50,000.00

• Contingencies (1.66% of Total)	50,000.00
• TOTAL	3,000,000.00

Foreseen operational duration phase that starts from the entry into force of the financing agreement and will have duration of **36** months.

#### **Estimated Implementation Timetable -**

The TCF activities will be implemented as follows:

Activity	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 2	Semester 1
TAF– Identification, preparation	X	X	X	X			
TSSP–Training Support for Projects + Programmes		X	X	X	X	X	
CS– Conferences & Seminars		X	X	X	X	X	
Audit of this TCF							X
Evaluation of this TCF							X

#### **4.4. Performance monitoring**

Progress in the implementation of the studies, including the programmes/ projects/ activities that will be funded from the TCF will be monitored by the RAO.

#### **4.5. Evaluation and audit**

An evaluation of this technical cooperation and training facility will be conducted at the end of the programme. A provision for Audit is included in the Budget of this Financing Agreement. Audits and evaluation contracts and framework contracts are always concluded by the Commission acting for and on behalf of the ACP State concerned.

#### **4.6. Communication and visibility**

Pursuant to Article 16 – Visibility under Title V – General and Final Provisions of the EDF, every programme/project financed by the Community shall be the subject of appropriate communication and information operations that shall be defined under the responsibility of the Beneficiary with the approval of the Commission.