

## **Action Fiche for modification to the ENPI Regional East Action Programme 2010 Part I**

### **1. IDENTIFICATION**

Title/Number	Support for the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership/Global Allocation (CRIS no. ENPI/2010/22266)		
Total cost	EUR 20.25 million		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach – direct centralised management Joint management with international organisations – the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)		
DAC-code	99810	Sector	Not specified

### **2. RATIONALE**

#### **2.1. Sector context**

The support for the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership/Global Allocation 2010 is a flexible mechanism giving the European Commission the possibility to decide on the financing of small-scale actions that are in keeping with the objectives of the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) as well as its operational and policy priorities. In this respect it follows the ENPI-East Global Allocation 2007, 2008 and 2009. As a development from previous years, the proposed action for 2010 has been adapted to also take account of the political initiative launched by the EU to deepen cooperation with its Eastern neighbours, namely the Eastern Partnership, and of new developments in the EU's relationship with the Russian Federation, through the launch of the Partnership for Modernisation (PfM) in June 2010.

Based on the ENPI Regulation<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 16 "Support measures" thereof, the ENPI-East Support to the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership/Global Allocation 2010 provides funding directly necessary for the implementation of the ENPI Regulation and for the achievement of its objectives.

In line with the Commission Communication of December 2008, the Eastern Partnership was launched as a common endeavour of the Member States of the European Union and their eastern European partners at a summit in May 2009. The participants of the summit supported the launch of Flagship Initiatives in order to give momentum, concrete substance and visibility to the Partnership. This action to be financed in the present Action Programme will support 1) the operation of the Eastern Partnership multilateral framework, the Black Sea Synergy, and Northern Dimension, e.g. support activities primarily related to the functioning of the four Eastern Partnership platforms and in support of Black Sea Synergy and Northern Dimension, 2) the preparation of programmes, as well as activities in the fields of

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<sup>1</sup> ENPI Regulation 1638/2006 of 24/10/2006

information and communication and 3) the implementation of the recently launched Partnership for Modernisation with Russia.

## **2.2. Lessons learnt**

Given the support nature of previous and current Global Allocations, past actions are assessed against the level of consumption of committed funds. This is one of the criteria, along with priorities and needs, taken into account in the initial programming, as well as in the planning exercise once the Decision is adopted.

As regards the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership and the Partnership for Modernisation with Russia, no assessment is possible so far given the recent launching of the initiatives.

## **2.3. Complementary actions**

Global Allocations can be considered complementary actions to the Technical Assistance allocations existing in the frame of the bilateral Annual Action Programmes. Global allocations for information activities of the EU Delegations in the region will be complementary to the activities financed from budget line information programmes in third countries.

## **2.4. Donor coordination**

While Global Allocations are not directly subject - by their support nature - to donor coordination, the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership entails by its own nature close coordination with EU Member States and partner countries in the frame of the Platforms and related panels. Moreover, other donors/entities are also represented in the Platforms (e.g. Council of Europe, OSCE, Committee of the Regions, etc).

# **3. DESCRIPTION**

## **3.1. Objectives**

The objective of the ENPI-East Support to the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership/Global Allocation 2010 is three fold: 1- to advance the implementation of the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership and of the Black Sea Synergy and Northern Dimension; 2- to ensure rapidity of the commitment decision on actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility through the use of an instrument capable of adapting to evolving circumstances, such as dealing with unforeseen situations; 3 – to support the implementation of the Partnership for Modernisation (PfM) launched at the last EU-Russia Summit in June 2010.

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

The ENPI-East Support to the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership/Global Allocation 2010 will be used as a framework for financing activities in the following fields:

## **1. Multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Synergy, and Northern Dimension**

This component covers meetings organised mainly in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, as well as of the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension.

As part of the operational structure of the Eastern Partnership, the Commission Communication on the Eastern Partnership sets out the establishment of four thematic platforms, according to the main areas of cooperation, and of panels to support the work of the platforms in specific areas.<sup>2</sup> In their work programmes, the platforms may also identify further seminars, training programmes or studies to be implemented in order to advance the objectives of the Eastern Partnership. Capacity building activities may also be implemented in support to Flagship initiatives launched under the Eastern Partnership, such as the one on Integrated Border Management.

To ensure involvement of civil society in the Eastern Partnership initiative, the European Commission provided also for the establishment of an Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, "to promote contacts among civil society organisation and facilitate their dialogue with public authorities". Meetings of the Civil Society Forum as well as information and communication activities will also benefit from funding under this component.

The implementation of the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension will suppose the establishment of partnerships in different areas. Activities to take place in the context of these partnerships, such as meetings or studies, will also rely on support from this component.

The budget for this component is EUR 10,500,000, including EUR 1,000,000 each for the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy, respectively. The overall as well as detailed allocations under the component are indicative.

## **2. Global Allocation – support to project cycle management and information activities**

This component includes activities linked to:

- identification and formulation of projects which may result in funding from ENPI-East (e.g. sector studies, country or region studies, studies on cross-cutting issues or in specialised areas, preparatory activities, etc.);
- other small-scale activities to back up major projects during their implementation;
- audit and evaluation / impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule, or is no longer available.

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<sup>2</sup> The following panels have so far been established in the framework of the Eastern Partnership: Fight Against Corruption; Integrated Border Management; Environment and Climate Change; Trade and Trade Related Regulatory Cooperation linked to deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA).

- publications and other information and awareness-raising activities about the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Eastern Partnership and the EU-Russia Strategic Partnership, designed and implemented in coherence and complementarity with the regional Information and Communication programme and with EU Delegations' activities financed from budget line information programmes in third countries, in order to enhance the visibility of EU-funded activities as well as awareness and understanding of EU cooperation policies in each ENP East country and in Russia.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 6,750,000**.

### **3. Global Allocation - Special Facility for Russia to support the 'Partnership for Modernisation'**

This component will be used for supporting activities in the framework of the 'Partnership for Modernisation' launched at the last EU-Russia Summit in June 2010. Concretely, it will support activities for cooperation in the fields of rule of law, civil society and EU-Russia dialogues.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 3,000,000**.

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

Given the nature of the action, no major risks are identified. Main assumption is related to the adoption of the new Multiannual programming over the period 2010-2013 and to the expected developments of the Eastern Partnership initiative towards closer integration with Partner Countries.

#### **3.4. Crosscutting Issues**

Not applicable

### **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

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

Direct centralised management by means of service contracts and/ or grants.

Joint management with an international organisation, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), for activities in support of the IBM Flagship Initiative (indicatively EUR 2,000,000) under component 1.

Joint management with an international organisation, the OECD, for activities addressing SMEs in the framework of the work programme of the EaP Platform 2. Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies (indicatively EUR 400,000) under component 1.

The Commission has ensured, on the basis of prior audit conclusions as foreseen in Article 53 d) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, that the management systems set up by ICMPD and by the OECD offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards in their accounting, audit, internal

control and procurement procedures. Consequently, standard contribution agreements with ICMPD and with the OECD can be envisaged.

#### **4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures**

##### **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 the ENPI Regulation. 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 21(7) ENPI.

##### **2) Specific rules for grants**

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions. They are established in accordance with the principles set out in Title VI 'Grants' of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget. 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 is 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.

- 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 112 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget.

##### **3) Joint management**

All contracts implementing the action are awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the international organisations concerned.

#### **4.3. Budget and calendar**

The total budget for this action is **EUR 20,250,000**, divided as follows:

- Component 1. Multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Synergy and Northern Dimension – **EUR 10,500,000**

- Component 2. Global Allocation – support to project cycle management and information activities – **EUR 6,750,000**.

- Component 3. Special Facility for Russia to support the 'Partnership for Modernisation' – **EUR 3,000,000.**

Contracts can be financed under this Support to the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership/Global Allocation as soon as the Commission decision is adopted, until 31 December 2011 in accordance with the N+1 rule.

The operational duration is estimated at 48 months from the signature of the contracts/agreements.

#### **4.4. Evaluation and audit**

Certifications of expenditure will have to be submitted as part of the contracts implementing this Decision. Evaluations of the results achieved by some of the projects financed under this decision may be done by external experts hired by the European Commission as well as external audits at the initiative of the Commission, if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources because of the "N+1" rule applying to the contracting-out period of this decision.