

Annex

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Technical Cooperation Facility OCTs CRIS n° 022-488		
Total cost	EU contribution: 2,000,000 euros (Article 1.1(c) of revised Annex II Aa to the Overseas Association Decision)		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach – direct centralised management		
DAC-code	15110	Sector	Public sector policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

In various regions of the world, the European Commission uses Technical Cooperation Facilities (TCF) for the provision of short-term consultancies to assist in identifying, preparing, evaluating, monitoring and auditing projects and programs supported by EU financial assistance. For example, they may assist in formulating EU interventions in various development sectors, assist in the preparation of specific program proposals, facilitate their implementation and allow the Commission to undertake a number of evaluation exercises. TCFs may also be used to organise conferences, training and workshops to support decision-making and dissemination of knowledge.

In the specific case of the OCTs, this facility will also contribute to the definition of the policies to be implemented by the OCT in the areas agreed upon with the EU services. Moreover, it will serve the preparation, monitoring, evaluation and supervision of the implementation of the Overseas Association Decision (OAD).

2.2. Lessons learnt

The ongoing TCF enabled the funding of technical assistance in particular in support of the programming process as well as the organisation of the 2010 OCT-EU Forum. Commitment rate and the need for additional technical assistance, studies and conferences justify the adoption of a new TCF to ensure continuity in the funding of activities.

A single budget heading is proposed for TA, seminars and conferences in view of providing more flexibility to the services and avoiding unnecessary administrative riders to the global commitments as it was the case in the past.

2.3. Complementary actions

This TCF will contribute to the project cycle of OCT projects and programmes through a better identification and formulation of the projects and programmes to be implemented. Moreover, under this facility events or activities such as studies, conferences and seminars on issues that are considered relevant from a Commission and/or an OCT view point can also be financed.

2.4. Donor coordination

NA

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The **overall objectives** of the proposed programme are:

A. Implementation of the OCT development strategy through sound development programmes financed from the European Development Fund (EDF) and their monitoring.

B. Fostering a more coherent and informed approach to issues of development, trade, etc., within the OCTs, by means of studies and training.

C. Ensuring the smooth preparation, monitoring, evaluation and supervision of the Overseas Association Decision (OAD) and its review.

The project **purpose** is the identification and implementation of actions, for all or any Overseas Country or Territory (OCT), to be financed from the EDF and that will improve its ability and awareness in the formulation and implementation of key territorial policies, such as development and trade for example. Improved knowledge of EU policies might also be important for the sustainable development of OCT.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The proposed programme will therefore produce the following **results**:

- Improvement of the quality of OCT funds programming and implementation modalities and dissemination of best practises among relevant actors;
- Increased awareness of OCT and EU stakeholders on topics related to development finance cooperation under the OAD

The **activities** to be implemented can be summarised as follows:

- i) Identification of programmes to be financed from the 10th EDF.
- ii) Preparation and formulation of programmes to be supported by the 10th EDF.

- iii) Supporting the OCT bodies and institutions, as well as national or regional agencies, in maintaining or improving their levels of implementation and monitoring of new and ongoing projects; when this support cannot be provided for in the projects or programmes themselves.
- iv) Audits and evaluations of projects when they cannot be financed from other sources.
- v) Increasing understanding of issues concerning development, trade, etc. by key actors.
- vi) Carrying out studies or technical assistance required to prepare part B of the 10th EDF SPDs, without ruling out other measures referred to in Article 31 of the OAD.
- vi) Organising the required conferences and seminars considered relevant from OCT view point. This may also include the funding of the annual OCT-EU Fora.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The programme design establishes an implementation modality to ensure that there are no obstacles to successful implementation. The programme positive results will be obtained provided that the OCTs assume a pro-active cooperation with the Commission, mainly with the production of pertinent and well defined requests for the utilisation of funds under this TCF.

3.4. Crosscutting Issues

Particular attention will be given in project identification to environmental sustainability, gender equality, good governance and human rights in order to ensure mainstreaming in future actions. Those themes may also be the subject of specific studies, conferences and seminars.

3.5. Stakeholders

In addition to the Commission services (and notably the services acting as Contracting Authority in the present proposal), the relevant stakeholders are the OCTs' governments or their EU-based representatives (including OCTA), the National and Regional authorities of the OCT's particularly in the focal sectors agreed upon in the Single Programming Documents (SPD).

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Direct centralised management. No Financing Agreement will be signed.

In accordance with the rationale of the 2007 amendment of Article 31 of the Overseas Association Decision, the Commission will be the contracting authority.

On the initiative of an OCT or on the initiative of OCTA, and subject to the Commission's opinion, seminars or technical assistance measures will be financed in relation to the implementation of activities contained in the OCT's SPD.

Request for funding referring to individual OCT's seminars or technical assistance will be channelled through the corresponding EU Delegation or through Headquarters. Request for funding referring to multi-OCTs studies or technical assistance will be channelled through OCTA. Requests for funding can also be made by OCTs/OCTA in accordance with modalities set out above.

Requests for funding will be organised in a pipeline of actions to be financed. The final funding decisions will be made by the relevant Commission services

Using other framework-contracts can be envisaged, provided that the EDF funds are managed in accordance with EDF rules.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

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 EDF.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The indicative breakdown of the budget of this TCF is as follows

Activity	Cost (€)
Technical Assistance, Seminars and Conferences ¹	1.890.000
Evaluation & Audit (of this programme)	60.000
Contingencies	50.000
TOTAL	2.000.000

The Contracts, which implement the Financing Decision, must be signed no later than the 31 December of the year following the year in which the corresponding global financial commitment was adopted (n+1). This deadline cannot be extended. This provision does not apply to contracts for audit and evaluation, which may be signed later.

The operational implementation of the project is planned to take place over a 48-months period as from the moment the global commitment is in force.

¹ Including OCT-EU annual fora, if necessary

The completion date of the period of execution of the Financing Decision is 72 months after the global commitment came into force.

4.4. Performance monitoring

Progress in the implementation of the activities will be followed by the Commission services by means of inception reports, kick-off and interim meetings, debriefings, draft and final reports, where appropriate.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

A provision for Evaluations and Audits is included in the budget. The Commission can use this provision to organise an independent audit concerning specific assignments during the lifetime of the project. In addition, an Evaluation and an Audit will be conducted at the end of the project. Audit and Evaluation contracts are always concluded and managed by the Commission.

4.6. Communication and visibility

All activities carried out under this facility will be compliant with and executed following the EU visibility guidelines for external actions.