

EN

EN

EN



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 18 April 2011
C(2011) 2532 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 18 April 2011

adopting DG JUST's annual work programme of grants and contracts for the Progress programme and the European Institute for Gender Equality, serving as a financing decision for 2011

COMMISSION DECISION

of 18 April 2011

adopting DG JUST's annual work programme of grants and contracts for the Progress programme and the European Institute for Gender Equality, serving as a financing decision for 2011

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 (the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Articles 75(2) 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 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities² (the 'Implementing Rules'), and in particular Articles 90 and 166 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 75 of the Financial Regulation and Article 90(1) of the Implementing Rules, the commitment of expenditure from the European Union budget 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 and Article 166 of the Implementing Rules, an annual work programme of grants shall be adopted.
- (3) As the 2011 work programme provides a sufficiently detailed framework within the meaning of Article 90(2) and (3) of the Implementing Rules, this Decision constitutes a financing decision for the expenditure envisaged under the work programme of grants and contracts.
- (4) In accordance with Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1. Last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1525/2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p. 9).

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1. Last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.4.2007, p. 13).

- (5) This Decision is also a financing decision for the expenditure in the context of joint management with the OECD chargeable to the Community budget. In accordance with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation, assurance has been obtained that the international organisation to be entrusted by the Commission with the implementation of Community funds in joint management applies standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards in its accounting, audit, internal control and procurement procedures.
- (6) This financing decision may also cover the payment of default interest due on the basis of Article 83 of the Financial Regulation and Article 106(5) of the Implementing Rules.
- (7) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 90(4) of the Implementing Rules,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The annual work programme for the part of the Progress programme managed by DG JUST and for the European Institute for Gender Equality, serving as a financing decision for 2011, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the work programme is set at EUR 40 217 375, to be financed from the following lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2011.

- budget line 04 04 01 04: EUR 20 616 773
- budget line 04 04 01 05: EUR 12 070 602
- budget line 04 04 02 01: EUR 3 390 000
- budget line 04 04 02 02: EUR 4 140 000

Article 3

1. Cumulated changes to the allocations not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for each budget line are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the action. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision of up to 20 %. The authorising officer responsible may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and of proportionality.
2. The above appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 4

Under Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly, in accordance with the conditions set out in detail in the annexed work programme.

Article 5

The budget implementation of certain tasks related to the research and analysis measures in the area of gender equality may be entrusted to the OECD, which applies standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards in its accounting, audit, internal control and procurement procedures.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Viviane Reding

Vice-President of the Commission

ANNEX

2011 Annual work programme on the Progress programme and on the European
Institute for Gender Equality, for DG Justice

SUMMARY TABLE - OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2011 WITH THE
CORRESPONDING AMOUNTS

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
Grants	13 076 000
Calls for proposals	3 976 000
De jure monopoly	1 450 000
De facto monopoly	550 000
Grants to partners	7 100 000
Contributions to agencies	7 530 000
Procurement	15 311 375
Joint management with OECD	300 000
Procurement by subdelegation to ESTAT	4 000 000
TOTAL AMOUNT	40 217 375

PROGRESS - COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

LEGAL BASIS

Decision N°1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - Progress³, as amended by Decision No 284/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2010 amending Decision 1772/2006/EC establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress.⁴

The Europe 2020 Strategy, proposed by the Commission on the 3rd of March 2010⁵, sets out a vision for Europe's social market economy over the next decade, and rests on **three interlocking and mutually reinforcing priority areas**:

- Smart growth, developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- Sustainable growth, promoting a low-carbon, resource-efficient and competitive economy;
- Inclusive growth, fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

Achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy will call for a combination of instruments comprising EU legislation, open methods of coordination in various policy fields, financial incentives such as the European Social Fund and strong gender equality policies. The mission of PROGRESS is to strengthen EU back-up for Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

More specifically, PROGRESS supports:

- (1) the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (section 1);
- (2) the open method of coordination on social protection and inclusion (section 2);
- (3) the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work and reconciling work and family life (section 3);

³ OJ L 315, 15.11.2006, p.1.

⁴ OJ L 87, 7.4.2010, p. 6.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm

- (4) the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 4);
- (5) the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 5).

Against this background, PROGRESS pursues the following general objectives, as set out in Article 2.1 of the Decision:

- (1) to improve the knowledge and understanding of the situation prevailing in the Member States and in other participating countries through analysis, evaluation and close monitoring of policies;
- (2) to support the development of statistical tools and methods and common indicators, where appropriate broken down by gender and age group, in the areas covered by the programme;
- (3) to support and monitor the implementation of Community law, where applicable, and policy objectives in the Member States, and assess their effectiveness and impact;
- (4) to promote networking, mutual learning, identification and dissemination of good practice and innovative approaches at EU level;
- (5) to enhance the awareness of the stakeholders and the general public about the EU policies and objectives pursued under each of the policy sections;
- (6) to boost the capacity of key European level networks to promote, support and further develop Community policies and objectives, where applicable.

The programme is divided into five policy sections, each corresponding to a specific budget line:

- (1) Employment – 04 04 01 01
- (2) Social protection and inclusion – 04 04 01 02
- (3) Working conditions – 04 04 01 03
- (4) Anti-discrimination and diversity – 04 04 01 04
- (5) Gender equality – 04 04 01 05.

Since 1 January 2011, budget lines 04 04 01 04 and 04 04 01 05 previously managed by DG EMPL are managed by DG Justice. Although PROGRESS will be implemented in two DGs, DG EMPL and DG JUST, PROGRESS as such will continue to be run as an integrated programme, exploiting synergies across the policy sections.

According to Article 16 of the Decision establishing PROGRESS, the programme is open to the participation of the EFTA/EEA countries in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA Agreement. The candidate countries associated to the EU and the western Balkan countries included in the stabilisation and association process may also participate. At present,

Serbia, Croatia, Turkey and Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia have already signed and ratified the corresponding Memoranda of Understanding.

In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 13 of the Decision establishing PROGRESS, the Committee tasked with assisting the Commission with the implementation of the programme was consulted on the global funding priorities on 30 September 2010. The detailed work plan was approved by the Committee on 25 October 2010.

For practical reasons, the activities are detailed by section.

The grants awarded under PROGRESS will be covered by a written agreement.

1. PROGRESS – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY

04 04 01 04 - PROGRESS – Anti-Discrimination and Diversity

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 20 137 500+EUR 479 273 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = EUR 20 616 773 (Total amount)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

This budget line, corresponding to Section 4 of the PROGRESS programme, will support the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promote its mainstreaming in all EU policies by:

- improving the understanding of the situation in relation to discrimination, in particular through analysis and studies and, where appropriate, the development of statistics and indicators, and by assessing the effectiveness and impact of existing legislation, policies and practices;
- supporting the implementation of EU anti-discrimination legislation through effective monitoring, the holding of seminars for those working in the field and networking between specialised bodies dealing with anti-discrimination;
- raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about the key challenges and policy issues in relation to discrimination and the mainstreaming of anti-discrimination in all EU policies, including among the social partners, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- developing the capacity of key European-level networks to promote and further develop EU policy goals and strategies in the field of combating discrimination.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1.1. GRANTS

1.1.1. CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

1.1.1.1. Support to national activities combating discrimination and promoting equality

Objectives and foreseen results

The objectives of this call will be to support national authorities in charge of equality and non-discrimination of PROGRESS participating countries in:

- Developing their national policy to combat discrimination and promote equality beyond legislation;
- Fostering the dissemination of information on EU and national policy and legislation in the anti discrimination field;

- Identifying best practices which could be transferable to other participating countries.

In this call, the Commission wishes to support activities which tackle at least one of the following 5 grounds of discrimination: race and ethnic origin, disability, age, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

National authorities in charge of equality and non-discrimination can play a key role in identifying the needs in their country in terms of legislation implementation, policy development and awareness-raising activities as well as the key actors to involve in this process. National authorities in charge of equality and non-discrimination will be asked to elaborate, in cooperation with national stakeholders, a framework document presenting national priorities and challenges for 2011-12. Each applicant need to attach it to the proposal.

Funding from PROGRESS should complement existing or planned national activities in the field of non-discrimination. The applicant should explain how gender dimension was taken into account when planning and implementing the activities. The discrimination faced by especially vulnerable groups such as Roma should also be considered.

Indicative amount: EUR 3 976 000

Maximum co financing rate: 80% of the total eligible costs of the action

Indicative timetable: Second quarter of 2011

a) Exclusion and eligibility

Exclusion criteria

- The applicant *and partners* must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed in Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)a of the Financial Regulation.

Eligibility of the proposal

- The application must be completed and submitted through PRIAMOS (on-line application tool of DG JUST) by the deadline set in the call for proposals;
- The applicant must provide written proof of secured co-financing amounting at least to 20% of the total eligible costs of the project.

Eligibility of the applicant and partners

The applicant and partners must be:

- National authorities in charge of equality and non-discrimination in one of the Progress participating countries

Or

- Organisations expressly mandated by the above national authority to carry out the activities. If the mandated organisation is not a public body, following criteria apply:

- Have their own legal status and be registered in one of the PROGRESS participating countries at the time of the submission of the application under the call;
- Be non-profit bodies or organisations.

b) Selection Criteria

Only organisations with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be awarded a grant.

Financial capacity

The assessment of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies.

If the applicant and/or the partner is not a public body, the following criteria must be fulfilled:

- Access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary;
- Financial resources which are not exclusively made up of subsidies and grants from the European Institutions.

Operational capacity

- To complete the proposed action: the applicant and the partners must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed action, as well as the ability to implement it. This will be assessed on the basis of the CV of staff involved in the action.
- The applicant and the partners must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field of non discrimination and in particular in the type of actions proposed in the application (on at least one of the grounds covered by the Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC).

In addition, if the applicant and/or the partner(s) is not a public body it must provide:

- The organisation chart;
- An official document attesting the establishment of the entity by the national authorities.

c) Award Criteria

Applications which passed the two first stages of the selection (exclusion & eligibility and selection) will then be assessed on the basis of the following weighted award criteria:

- Coherence of the proposed activities with the document presenting national priorities and challenges for 2011- 2012.
- Relevance and degree to which the proposed activities meet the purpose of the call for proposals. Clarity of the presentation of the background aims and expected results of the project.

- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed activities, including distribution of tasks, timetable, and methodology.
- Inclusion of gender dimension in the preparation and implementation of the proposed activities.
- Identification of the target audience and definition of a clear strategy for communicating effectively with that audience.
- Quality of evaluation and feedback mechanisms (e.g. how to assess impact and quality of proposed outputs).
- Durability and dissemination potential of the activities foreseen under the action.
- Cost-efficiency ratio and financial feasibility of the action proposed by means of a realistic, reasonable and balanced budget.

1.1.2. GRANTS TO BODIES WITH A DE JURE OR DE FACTO MONOPOLY

According to Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage.

1.1.2.1. De jure monopolies – Presidency events

These events, highly political in nature and needing representation at the highest level both from national Authorities and European representatives, are to be organised exclusively by the Member State holding the Presidency. Given the unique role of the Presidency in the framework of EU activities, the Member State responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a monopoly.

a) Presidency Conference on Disability

The next annual Presidency Conference on disability has been under discussion with the upcoming Presidencies. It will be the continuation of the successful conferences held in previous years. In agreement with the 2011 Presidencies, the conference will be organised by the Hungarian Presidency in 2011.

As usual, the main theme of the event will be related to the European strategy for implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with the objective of supporting a swift, coherent and coordinated approach for European implementation of the UN Convention and to provide examples of good practices from within the EU and outside Europe.

Indicative timetable: First semester of 2011

Indicative amount: EUR 350 000

Maximum co-financing rate: 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

b) Polish Presidency event – Equality Summit

An all-encompassing event involving all stakeholders relevant in the implementation of Article 19 of the TFEU: government officials/ministers, social partners, NGOs, equality bodies etc. as set out in the Commission's framework strategy on anti-discrimination (COM(2005)224) and confirmed in the Communication on non-discrimination and equal opportunities (COM(2008)420).

Indicative timetable: Second semester of 2011

Indicative amount: EUR 500 000

Maximum co-financing rate: 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.1.2.2. De facto monopoly

Operating grant to the Network of National Equality Bodies

Objective

This grant will support the equality bodies' network's activities and encourage the sharing of experiences and good practices between them. The beneficiary of the grant will be EQUINET AISBL (registered in Belgium).

Justification

Members of this network, created in 2007, are National Equality Bodies as established by Article 13 of Directive 2000/43/EC. This article provides that Member States will designate a body or bodies for the promotion of equal treatment of all persons without discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin. These bodies may form part of agencies charged at national level with the defence of human rights or the safeguarding of individuals' rights.

Member States must also ensure that the competences of these bodies include independent assistance to victims of discrimination in pursuing their complaints about discrimination, conducting independent surveys concerning discrimination and finally publishing independent reports and making recommendations on any issue relating to such discrimination.

The Commission considers that the National Equality Bodies play a key role in the actual implementation of Directive 2000/43/EC. This is comprehensive legislation taking a rights-based approach, so it will work only if citizens take cases to court. That is why there is a need for comprehensive support by the equality bodies, both in terms of direct support to the individuals and in terms of research and awareness-raising. The work with the equality bodies to date has shown a very varied level of knowledge and working methods among the 27 equality bodies. Consequently, European sharing of best practice is crucial to get a common level of protection of citizen's across the EU.

As the designation of equality bodies by the Member States is required by Article 13 of Directive 2000/43/EC, these organisations are well identified and their network will be composed exclusively of them. They are therefore in a de facto monopoly situation.

Indicative timetable: Second quarter of 2011

Indicative amount: EUR 550 000

Maximum co-financing rate: 76% of the total eligible operating costs for 2011.

1.1.2.3. Grants on the basis of framework partnership agreements

Support to EU-level networks active in combating discrimination.

Objective

Reinforce the capacity of these organisations to play their part in the development of non-discrimination policies and objectives.

On the basis of the funds available for the period 2011-2013, it is expected a Union funding of thirteen EU-level networks.

Timetable

On the basis of the call for proposals VP/2010/012, 15 partnership agreements were signed in December 2010 for a period of 3 years.

The first specific grant agreements, covering the period 1/1/2011 – 31/12/2011, will be signed in the second quarter of 2011.

Indicative global amount: EUR 5 700 000.

Maximum co-financing rate: as established in individual framework partnership agreements (between 80 and 83% of total eligible costs).

Justification

The PROGRESS Decision, in its Article 11(1)(b), limits, as a general rule, the maximum amount of EU co-funding to 80% of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any financial support in excess of this ceiling may be granted only in exceptional circumstances and after close scrutiny.

On the basis of this provision, certain framework partnership agreements signed in 2010 provide for higher initial co-financing rates, with an annual degressivity of 1%.

The PROGRESS management committee agreed in the General Guidelines for the implementation of the PROGRESS programme (point 3.6.3. - working document PROGRESS/003/2006) to consider, on an exceptional basis, the possibility to go above the 80% maximum limit, taking into account that such Community funding will gradually decrease annually. This exception was accepted by the Commission in the financing decision C(2007)1451 of 2 April 2007 and subsequently made known to potential beneficiaries in the calls for proposals VP/2007/013 and VP/2010/012. As a result, previous operating grants to framework partners during the period 2007-2010 provided for co-financing rates above 80%.

The exceptional circumstances for exceeding the 80% ceiling during the period 2011-2013 have been accepted for organisations that benefited from higher co-funding under the previous framework partnership agreements. After taking into account the required 1% degressivity rule from the previous year, it can be up to 83% of the total eligible operating costs for 2011.

This exception to the rule acknowledges the pivotal role these organisations play in supporting, promoting and further developing Community employment and social policies and legislation. The mission of PROGRESS is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of EU objectives to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS is in particular instrumental in relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large. Overall this support aims at investing in the capacity of key EU networks to participate and influence policy-making and policy implementation at EU and national level in support of EU objectives and priorities. Key EU networks have an important contribution to make towards affecting and/or accompanying change in employment and social policies and legislation. They are in a central position to influence policy in the EU and in the Member States through their national members. European networks have a key role to play in representing, promoting and defending the rights and interests of their constituencies at EU level. Consequently, due to their pivotal position and expected contribution in support of EU objectives and priorities, the Commission considers that EU support towards the operating costs of key EU networks can go above the limit fixed by the PROGRESS Decision.

Evaluation criteria

The Commission will assess the detailed proposals received from the partners on the basis of the following criteria:

- coherence of the annual work programme with the Triennial strategic plan included in the framework partnership agreement,
- quality of the annual work programme which must be clear, realistic and well detailed- and which must address the priorities highlighted by the Commission,
- coherence between the annual work programme and the proposed budget,
- submission of all requested documents.

1.2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 5 540 773.

1.2.1. CALLS FOR TENDER

1.2.1.1. Study on the situation of accessibility in Europe

Study on the situation of accessibility in Europe and related cost benefit analysis of measures to improve implementation in the areas of transport, ICT and physical environment and related goods, services and infrastructures.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter of 2011

1.2.1.2. Network of Legal Experts in the field of Antidiscrimination

The selected contractor will assist the European Commission through the setting-up and running of a network of national legal experts in order to gather information on implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and to facilitate the application of EU legislation.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter of 2011

1.2.1.3. Academic Network of European Disability Experts (ANED)

The selected contractor will set up and run a network of disability experts in each Member State. This network will work on new policy trends and conceptual developments relating to the situation of people with disabilities.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter of 2011

1.2.1.4. Training of Legal and Policy Practitioners on Antidiscrimination at EU level

The selected contractor will develop and deliver trainings to Legal and Policy Practitioner to facilitate the uniform interpretation and application of EU legislation on Antidiscrimination.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter of 2011

1.2.1.5. European day of Disabled People Conference

To promote and organise an annual conference to raise awareness and foster debates on disability issues at EU and Member States' levels.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter 2011

1.2.2. USE OF EXISTING FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS

1.2.2.1. EU-USA seminar on disability

Preparation of a seminar on disability matters in the context of the EU-US Dialogue on Social Policy and Employment to exchange expert information and relevant practices.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times, the DG COMM framework contract for Eurobarometer surveys concluded on 1st April 2009 (PO/2008-15/A3) for a period of 12 months renewable three times and, the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

1.2.2.2. European Award for Accessible Cities

The aim is to promote and exchange good practice on the implementation of accessibility in EU cities providing a scheme across EU cities that will cover various areas like the built environment, transport and ICT as well as policy and programmes. An award ceremony is foreseen at the end of the year.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times and the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

1.2.2.3. Dissemination of activities carried out under the "Anti-discrimination and diversity" strand of PROGRESS

To promote the sharing and the dissemination of knowledge among stakeholders active in combating discrimination including meetings on Roma issues such as the European Platform on Roma inclusion.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times and the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

1.2.2.4. Work forum for Member States focal points for UN Convention

The European Community and the Member States have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities. In this context the work forum is intended to exchange practices and to identify common challenges and solutions. The UN Convention is a mixed agreement where Member States and the EC shared some competences in various areas covered by the Convention. Any preparatory work needed for the forum will also be covered including the preparation of background and support material.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times and the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

1.2.3. RENEWALS

1.2.3.1. Socio-economic expert network group on diversity and discrimination

Renewal of the contract VC/2008/209 concluded on 17 December 2008 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

1.2.3.2. Support for voluntary initiatives promoting diversity management at work place

Partial renewal of the contract VC/2009/407 concluded on 14 December 2009 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

1.3. PROCUREMENT BY SUBDELEGATION TO EUROSTAT

EUROPEAN HEALTH AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION SURVEY (EHSIS)

The Council in its Resolution of 17 March 2008 on the situation of persons with disabilities in the European Union underlines that disability statistics are needed to establish a picture of the overall situation of persons with disabilities in Europe. Such statistical and research data allow informed disability policies to be formulated and implemented at the different levels of governance.

The Commission in its communication on a European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe, {SEC(2010) 1323} {SEC(2010) 1324} emphasised that EU action will support and supplement Member States' efforts to collect statistics with a view to monitoring the situation of persons with disabilities.

Such support is in line with the conclusions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires Member States and the EU to monitor and regularly report on the implementation of that UN Convention as well as to collect statistical information on disability (Articles 31, 33 and 35 of the UN Convention). The recently published guidelines on the treaty-specific document, to be submitted by States' Parties under Article 35, require comparative specific data disaggregated by sex, age, type of disability (physical, sensory, intellectual and mental), ethnic origin, urban/rural population and other relevant categories to be produced on an annual basis.

Current EU data collections do not meet those requirements. The proposed action is needed for answering to these information demands.

This action will be implemented through a call for tender to be launched in the second quarter of 2011.

The indicative amount is EUR 4 000 000

Indicative timetable: the call for tender is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2011.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	11 076 000
Calls for proposals	3 976 000
De jure monopolies	850 000
De facto monopolies	550 000
Grants to partners	5 700 000
PROCUREMENT	5 540 773
PROCUREMENT BY SUBDELEGATION	4 000 000
TOTAL 04 04 01 04	20 616 773

2. PROGRESS – GENDER EQUALITY

04 04 01 05 - PROGRESS – GENDER EQUALITY

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 11 790 000 + EUR 280 602 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = EUR 12 070 602 (Total amount)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

This budget line, corresponding to Section 5 of the PROGRESS programme, will support the promotion of gender equality. In 2010, the Commission presented its new strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015). It represents the new political framework for the definition of the activities to be funded by the section on gender equality of PROGRESS between 2011 and 2013. In particular, funding should focus on the priorities of the new strategy which are under the scope of PROGRESS, such as mainstreaming gender equality in the employment, social inclusion, poverty and pension policies, reducing the gender pay gap, enhancing work-life policies for men and women, and promoting the participation of women in decision-making as well as improving governance for gender equality.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

2.1. GRANTS

2.1.1. GRANTS TO BODIES WITH A DE JURE OR DE FACTO MONOPOLY

According to Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage.

2.1.1.1. De jure monopolies – Presidency events

These events, highly political in nature and needing representation at the highest level both from national authorities and European representatives, are to be organised exclusively by the Member State holding the Presidency. Given the unique role of the Presidency in the framework of EU activities, the Member State responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a monopoly.

a) Polish Presidency event

The conference will aim to enhance awareness and promote the debate about key challenges and policy issues on gender equality among stakeholders and civil society at Member States' level.

Indicative timetable: Second semester of 2011.

Indicative amount: EUR 300 000.

Maximum co-financing rate: 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

b) Danish Presidency event

The conference will aim to enhance awareness and promote the debate about key challenges and policy issues on gender equality among stakeholders and civil society at Member States' level.

Indicative timetable: First semester of 2012.

Indicative amount: EUR 300 000.

Maximum co-financing rate: 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

2.1.2. GRANTS ON THE BASIS OF FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Support to EU-level networks active in promoting gender equality

Objective

Reinforce the capacity of these organisations to play their part in the development of policies and objectives to promote equality between women and men.

On the basis of the funds available for the period 2011-2013, it is expected a Union funding of two EU-level networks.

Timetable

On the basis of the call for proposals VP/2010/012, 2 partnership agreements were signed in December 2010 for a period of 3 years.

The first specific annual grant agreements, covering the period 1/1/2011 – 31/12/2011, will be signed in the second quarter of 2011.

Indicative global amount: EUR 1 400 000

Maximum co-financing rate: as established in individual framework partnership agreements (between 80 and 83% of total eligible costs).

Justification

The PROGRESS Decision, in its Article 11(1)(b), limits, as a general rule, the maximum amount of EU co-funding to 80% of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient. Any financial support in excess of this ceiling may be granted only in exceptional circumstances and after close scrutiny.

On the basis of this provision, certain framework partnership agreements signed in 2010 provide for higher initial co-financing rates, with an annual degressivity of 1%.

The PROGRESS management committee agreed in the General Guidelines for the implementation of the PROGRESS programme (point 3.6.3. - working document PROGRESS/003/2006) to consider, on an exceptional basis, the possibility to go above the 80% maximum limit, taking into account that such Community funding will gradually

decrease annually. This exception was accepted by the Commission in the financing decision C(2007)1451 of 2 April 2007 and subsequently made known to potential beneficiaries in the calls for proposals VP/2007/013 and VP/2010/012. As a result, previous operating grants to framework partners during the period 2007-2010 provided for co-financing rates above 80%.

The exceptional circumstances for exceeding the 80% ceiling during the period 2011-2013 have been accepted for organisations that benefited from higher co-funding under the previous framework partnership agreements. After taking into account the required 1% degressivity rule from the previous year, it can be up to 83% of the total eligible operating costs for 2011.

This exception to the rule acknowledges the pivotal role these organisations play in supporting, promoting and further developing Community employment and social policies and legislation. The mission of PROGRESS is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of EU objectives to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS is in particular instrumental in relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large. Overall this support aims at investing in the capacity of key EU networks to participate and influence policy-making and policy implementation at EU and national level in support of EU objectives and priorities. Key EU networks have an important contribution to make towards affecting and/or accompanying change in employment and social policies and legislation. They are in a central position to influence policy in the EU and in the Member States through their national members. European networks have a key role to play in representing, promoting and defending the rights and interests of their constituencies at EU level. Consequently, due to their pivotal position and expected contribution in support of EU objectives and priorities, the Commission considers that EU support towards the operating costs of key EU networks can go above the limit fixed by the PROGRESS Decision.

Evaluation criteria

The Commission will assess the detailed proposal received on the basis of the following criteria:

- coherence of the annual work programme with the Triennial strategic plan included in the framework partnership agreement,
- quality of the annual work programme which must be clear, realistic and well detailed- and which must address the priorities highlighted by the Commission,
- coherence between the annual work programme and the proposed budget,
- submission of all requested documents.

2.2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 9 770 602.

2.2.1. CALLS FOR TENDER

2.2.1.1. Network of Legal Experts in the field of Gender

The selected contractor will assist the European Commission through the setting-up and running of a network of national legal experts in order to gather information on

implementation of gender equality legislation. It will support the European Commission in implementing the roadmap by providing support and analysis of the implementation of EU gender equality legislation.

The contract is foreseen for a period of 12 months renewable twice.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter 2011.

2.2.1.2. Gender Experts on EU policies

The selected contractor will assist the European Commission in the assessment of gender equality policies and the gender dimension of other EU policies such as employment, social inclusion and social protection policies.

The contract is foreseen for a period of 24 months renewable once.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter 2011.

2.2.1.3. Awareness-raising activities on Equal Pay

Awareness-raising and training activities for companies on the "business case" for gender equality will be developed as well as share good practices between companies on actions to foster gender equality.

The contract is foreseen for a period of 24 months renewable once.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter 2011

2.2.1.4. Study on quotas and other measures to promote women in decision-making

The aim is to assess the feasibility, necessity and effectiveness of quotas or other measures at European level to promote women in decision-making positions both in political decision-making and the private sector. Furthermore, the results of study should provide the Commission with an overview of measures to encourage women in decision-making positions in states covered by the study, with particular focus on legislation introducing such measures.

The contract is foreseen for a period of 12 months.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter 2011

2.2.1.5. Study on the Reconciliation between Work, Private and Family Life in the European Union

The contractor will conduct an analysis for the production of a publication about the reconciliation between work, private and family life in the European Union based on gender in EU Survey on Income, Social Inclusion and Living Condition (SILC) and Labour Force Survey (LFS). The purpose is to produce a statistical publication to shed light on the situation of women and men and equal opportunity issues at the European and national levels.

The contract is foreseen for a period of 12 months.

Indicative timetable: 2nd quarter 2011.

2.2.2. USE OF EXISTING FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS

2.2.2.1. Meetings of the Network of Women in Decision-making

The European Network of Women in Economic and Political Decision-making was established in June 2008. It promotes the sharing of experiences and good practices. In 2011, the Commission will organise actions, meetings and use support of experts, as appropriate to allow the network to pursue its activities.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times and the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.2.2. Preparatory work and meetings for the Network of Gender Equality Bodies

The Commission will organise the preparatory work and meetings of the network of gender equality bodies.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times and the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.2.3. High Level Gender Equality Dialogue

The Strategy for equality between women and men (2011-2015) provides for the establishment of a top-level Gender Equality Dialogue between the Parliament, the Commission, Member States and key stakeholders. This annual event, highly political in nature and needing representation at the highest level both from national authorities and European representatives, is to be organised by the Commission.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times and the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.2.4. Communication activities for the promotion of Gender Equality Policies

These activities will aim to raise awareness and promote the debate on gender equality at EU and Member State level and will particularly cover the following aspects:

Information and communication;

Information activities to raise awareness and inform the public about gender equality policies.

This action will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG Justice framework contracts for information and communication activities, concluded on May 2008 (JLS/A5/2008 lot 1, 2 and 3) for a period of 12 months, renewable three times, the DG COMM framework contract for Eurobarometer surveys concluded on 1st April 2009 (PO/2008-15/A3) for a period of 12 months renewable three times and, the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities concluded on 30 November 2007 (3 lots – VC/2007/34, VC/2007/673 and VC/2007/674) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.3. RENEWALS

2.2.3.1. TRAINING OF LEGAL AND POLICY PRACTITIONERS ON GENDER EQUALITY AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Renewal of the contract VC/2008/334 concluded on 12 December 2008 for a period of 12 months, renewable three times.

2.3. JOINT MANAGEMENT

According to Article 53d of the Financial Regulation and 43 of the Implementing Rules, the appropriations used in joint management with international organisations shall finance projects or programmes jointly elaborated between the Commission and the international organisation. The Commission has signed in 2006 a Contribution Agreement with the OECD which represents a long term framework agreement with the Commission.

2.3.1. OECD/EU JOINT MANAGEMENT FOR RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON GENDER EQUALITY CONTRIBUTION TO EU POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The aim is to support and improve the Commission's research and analysis on gender equality, with a particular focus on employment, education/skills and entrepreneurship, and transition points. The OECD has initiated in 2010 a study project to strengthen gender equality in economic opportunities through an analysis of the barriers that exist to gender equality in education, employment and entrepreneurship. However different dimensions remain to be investigated in most countries, and international comparisons need further developments. In order to ensure the development of the analysis at European level the EU envisages to financially supporting OECD work related to some of the major issues like access to employment, impact on pay gap, access to education and training and entrepreneurship. The OECD is the most appropriate partner for the Commission to pursue this study as part of the study already launched. Therefore the Commission and the OECD will elaborate a joint study project.

The individual agreement will be elaborated jointly and contain detailed provisions for the implementation of the tasks. The OECD will ensure transparency of operations carried out and the Commission that suitable arrangements exist for the control and the audit of the action.

The implementation of the works will be performed by third parties through a procurement procedure.

Indicative timetable: second quarter of 2011

Indicative amount: EUR 300 000.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	2 000 000
De jure monopolies	600 000
Grants to partners	1 400 000
PROCUREMENT	9 770 602
JOINT MANAGEMENT	300 000
TOTAL 04 04 01 05	12 070 602

3. INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

04 04 02 01 – INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY - CONTRIBUTION TO TITLES 1 AND 2

04 04 02 02 – INSTITUTE FOR GENDER EQUALITY - CONTRIBUTION TO TITLE 3

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EC) No 1922/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 20 December 2006, establishing a European Institute for Gender Equality (OJ L 403 of 30.12.2006).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

04 04 02 01 - EUR 3 390 000

04 04 02 02 - EUR 4 140 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The budget line is intended to finance the activities of the European Institute for Gender Equality, whose head office has been established in Vilnius (Lithuania).

The European Institute for Gender Equality is a European agency to support the Member States and the European institutions (in particular the Commission) in their efforts to promote gender equality, to fight discrimination based on sex and to raise awareness of gender issues. The tasks of the Institute are to collect and analyze comparable data on gender issues, to develop methodological tools, in particular for the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas, to facilitate the exchange of best practices and dialogue among stakeholders, and to raise awareness among EU citizens.

The Institute reached its administrative and financial independence on 15 June 2010.

DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS TO BE FINANCED

For 2011, a contribution of EUR 3 390 000 is foreseen to cover the Institute's staff and other administrative expenditure (titles 1 and 2), while a contribution of EUR 4 140 000 is foreseen to cover the Institute's operational expenditure for the work programme (Title 3).