



DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Annual work programme for grants and procurement for the European Union
Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ('EaSI') for 2014
(First update)**

[Commission Decision C(2014)5471 of 6 August 2014]

ANNEX I

The Annex is amended as follows:

(1) The summary table on page 1 is replaced by the following table:

"

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): 46.192.355 euros
- for prizes (implemented under direct management (1.3.): non-applicable
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.4): 46.913.050 euros
- for actions implemented under indirect management (1.5): 1.500.000 euros
- for Financial instruments (1.6): 25.783.736 euros
- for other actions (1.7): 2.304.000 euros

"

(2) **Grants** is amended as follows:

(a) Point 1.2.1. *Grants for the organisation of Presidency Events.* The total available budget for this call is amended by a decrease of EUR 290.000.

The indicative amount is replaced by €540.000.

The Presidency conference on social protection organised by the IT Presidency and planned in Q4 has been cancelled. The Indicative timetable is amended as follows:

"One Presidency conference organised by the EL Presidency. The event will take place in the 2nd Q-2014. This amount foreseen for this event is 300.000 €

PES conference under EL Presidency Q2 140.000 euros

Under each presidency, a SLIC Thematic day is foreseen (EL: 2nd Q-2014, IT Presidency: 4th Q-2014). The amount for each event is 50.000 €'.

(b) Point 1.2.3. *Posting of workers.*

A new sentence is added at the end of the Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals: "The Union funding per project will not be less than EUR 108.000."

The first sentence of the Eligibility criteria is amended as follows: "Properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered office based in one of the countries of the European Union or in the countries participating in the EaSI-Progress programme at the time of submission of the application under the call."

(c) Point 1.2.6. *Call for proposals for awarding grants to the Annual Work Programme of the NGO networks active in promotion of social inclusion and poverty reduction or active in the promotion of microfinance and social enterprise finance who have signed the 4-years framework partnership agreements.*

A new paragraph is added under Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals for Lot 1. The text is amended as follows:

"Specific grant for year 2015 to be awarded on the basis of the Work Programme submitted by the NGO networks in reply to the restricted call to be launched for NGO networks who have signed the Framework Partnership.

For lot 1 "European level networks active in promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction" the objectives are:

1. Support the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives undertaken to support the policy objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and in particular the Social Investment Package through the main EU driven processes such as the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) on social protection and social inclusion and the European semester.

2. Support stakeholders' involvement in the policy process: activities should in particular directly relate to the support of national member organisations in their involvement in the implementation of the main political EU-driven processes.

In addition, EU-level networks should encourage cooperation with other civil society organisations and social partners organisations both at EU, national, regional and local levels.

3. Strengthen the capacity of EU-level NGO networks and their national members, to support implementation of EU priorities including their knowledge of relevant EU matters.

4. Providing data and strong evidence base on policy developments and trends as well as collection of relevant information about citizens' concerns and good practices (using the knowledge bank) in the social policy field in the Member States, so as to contribute to better policy making.

For the Lot 2 "European level networks active in the promotion of access to finance (microfinance or social enterprise finance)" the objectives are:"

(d) Point 1.2.9. Support for Social Protection reforms. The total available budget for this call is amended by an increase of EUR 500.000.

The indicative amount is replaced by €2.500.000.

The Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results are amended as follows:

"The purpose of these grants is to help Member States tackle major challenges to their social protection systems by facilitating the access to expertise from other Member States or international organisations or by obtaining empirical evidence needed for international comparisons and mutual learning. The focus should be in particular on challenges that have been, or might become, the subject of country-specific recommendations, as well as reforms that could strengthen the social investment dimension of social protection schemes.

Specific objective: EaSI - PROGRESS_Capacity building for organisations.

Policy related output and justification: Relevant for SIP implementation - The purpose of these grants is to help Member States tackle major challenges to their social protection systems by facilitating the access to expertise from other Member States or international organisations or by obtaining empirical evidence needed for international comparisons and mutual learning. The focus should be in particular on challenges that have been, or might become, the subject of country-specific recommendations, as well as reforms that could strengthen the social investment dimension of social protection schemes.

Type: Grant - call for proposals."

The first paragraph of the Eligibility of the proposals is amended as follows:

"Only one application relating to a major social protection challenge and one relating to the need for empirical evidence shall be considered per country; should, due to a lack of coordination in the country, more than one application be submitted for each of these two purposes, the Commission will invite the national authorities to indicate which application should be considered, failing which the Commission will select one applications."

(e) Point 1.2.10. *LFS 2015 ad-hoc module*. The action is deleted: the action is cancelled.

(f) Point 1.2.19. *Cooperation with the World Bank on poverty and social policies*. The action is deleted: the action is cancelled.

(g) Point 1.2.25. *Support to cooperation on intra-EU labour mobility and EURES*. The description of the activities and Indicative amount are amended as follows:

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals. A new paragraph has been added: "Support exchange of information between the different organisations participating in cross border partnerships on their activities to implement EURES objectives."

The total available budget for this call is amended by an increase of EUR 100.000 and is amended as follows:

"Indicative amount: €250.000."

(h) Point 1.2.26. *Targeted Mobility Schemes* is amended as follows:

"The title of the activity is replaced by: "Targeted Mobility Schemes – continuation of Your first EURES Job."

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results. A new sentence is added at the end of the first paragraph:

"The activities shall target the filling of hard to fill vacancies, such as those identified in national labour shortage lists and/or labour market development studies (e.g. the EU study "Mapping and Analysing Bottleneck Vacancies on the EU Labour Market")."

The last sentence of the fourth paragraph is also amended as follows:

"Moreover, there are many jobs or work-based training vacancies that remain unfilled due to the lack of suitable local workforce."

A new sentence is added in the middle of the last paragraph:

"This scheme aims to test innovative ways to support young mobile candidates with a comprehensive mobility package and enhance the quality of services provided to employers. The action results and good practices could contribute to the development of any national Youth Guarantee scheme for offering job or work-based learning opportunities abroad.

The estimated output could be the placement of at least 1800 young people in EU/EEA countries other than their country of residence throughout the duration of selected projects."

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals has been replaced by:

"In 2014, a mobility scheme targeting young people aged between 18 and 35 shall provide them with access to jobs, traineeships or apprenticeships in relation to hard to fill vacancies as indicated above. The scheme aims to continue Your first EURES job. Employers (SME in particular) will also be a target group. It shall be implemented through a call for proposals. This call shall support the implementation of youth-oriented mobility actions driven by at least one EURES member (National Coordination Office) in consortium with other EURES member organisations, and public, private or third sector labour market organisations from the EU/EEA countries (24 months duration).

The call shall further foster the use of customised services and innovative working methods to improve the integration of mobile young workers into the host country, combined with financial incentives. It will in particular trigger the development of a "welcoming/integration culture". In this respect, the call may support the development of partnerships between EURES and labour market stakeholders and players from other expertise areas willing to develop the concept of "one-stop-shop welcome service" for mobile workers in the labour market of destination. This partnership approach should be established in accordance with the Commission Decision 2012/733/EU.

The action will be "outcome" driven. Proposals submitted under this call need to clearly indicate the expected outcome in the area of youth placement/integration services, after individual support and/or training measures. The expected outcome must be quantified in terms of expected placement/integration numbers and hard to fill vacancies involved. The consortium is free to choose its methods, tools, etc. on how to implement the action, provided they comply with the scheme guidelines.

Financial support provided by the beneficiaries to the scheme participants may be in a form of flat-rate financing and reimbursement on the basis of unit costs or actual declared costs.

The Commission expects to co-finance large scale projects. The expected indicative average size of a grant awarded would be in the range of EUR 3 to 4 million."

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria has been amended as follows:

"To be eligible, applicant organisations:

- must be legal persons properly constituted and registered in one of the EU/EEA Member States;

- must be public, private or third sector employment services or other labour market organisations with a legal profit or non-profit status;
- " – if lead applicants, must be a EURES member (National Coordination Office), which is in an organisation whose main mission is **to ensure** the provision of employment and placement services to jobseekers, job changers, trainee/ apprentice candidates and employers covering jobs and/or work-based trainings. Those services must include information, recruitment, matching and pre- and post-placement support;"
- if co-applicants, these must also be EURES member organisations (i.e. National Coordination Offices, EURES partners and associated EURES partners) and/or other labour market stakeholders providing the same services as lead applicants and/or complementary customer-oriented services in other expertise fields such as information, training, career guidance, mentoring, legal advice, integration support or other equivalent.

To be eligible, actions must:

- From a consortium with at least seven EURES member organisations, lead applicant and co-applicants included;
- be fully carried out in the EU/EEA countries;
- have a meaningful dimension by ensuring the implementation of the action in at least seven different EU/EEA countries.
- address intra-EU mobility of young people aged between 18 and 35;
- apply to those vacancies which have been identified as hard to fill on the basis of national labour market and/or skills data."

(i) Point 1.2.28 is added (04 03 02 01):

"OECD action on skills governance

Priorities, objectives pursued and expected results:

The main objective is to assess the relevance of education outputs to the labour market and of skills policies on the labour market based on a qualitative analysis of the way the mechanisms mediating between the world of education and that of the labour market function in the Member States. The expected result is to create a better evidence base for the steering of skills policies at national level and for the assessment of Member State performance in the Europe 2020 process.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP:

The project should develop a benchmarking system based on a combination of qualitative assessment and quantitative data, providing a methodology to compare Member States' performance in the area of skills governance and alignment of skills supply to labour market needs. Based on a system of input and outcome indicators, quantitative and qualitative, for the functioning of skills intelligence and governance systems, a trialled checklist for regional/national policymakers will be developed, alongside a ranking of countries on different dimensions of their skills policies and detailed country fiches.

OECD has developed specific and often unique expertise in the area.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria:

According to Article 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application, 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.

The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application which will be evaluated according the following main criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context;
- The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, its likely value for money and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Indicative amount: €500.000.

Maximum co-financing rate: 80%

Implementation: directly by the DG.

Indicative timetable: 2014-Q3

Coverage: EU 28 countries.

Target audience: EU and MS Policy makers, Experts, General public."

(j) Point 1.2.29. is added (04 03 77 14)

"PREPARATORY ACTION: Social innovation driven by social business and young entrepreneurship

The preparatory action will be implemented within the meaning of Article 54(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012).

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected result:

According to the budgetary comment, the preparatory action will "build on the importance of Social Innovation and the emergence of social enterprises". The objective of the preparatory action is to identify, develop, promote and disseminate good practices in supporting young or social entrepreneurs. A special focus will be on the preparation of the financial instruments to promote social entrepreneurship in the 2014-2020 periods.

The preparatory action will contribute to realising the potential of young and social entrepreneurship, emphasised also in the Annual Growth Survey 2012 and in the Commission's communication "Towards a job-rich recovery".¹

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals:

The main task will be to work together with potential finance providers and financial intermediaries in a limited number of pilot regions. It will help prepare the financial instruments of the 2014-2020 period, notably in terms of investment readiness to help develop and establish feasible, suitable and reliable schemes or funds providing equity or mezzanine funding (including venture philanthropy) as well as support structures providing business development services and networking facilities.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria:

¹ COM(2012) 173 final

The preparatory action will be implemented through pilot projects selected from applications submitted under call for proposals VP/2013/017. The expected result should be the cooperation of private, public and not-for profit-partners in view of providing access to finance for social entrepreneurs, in particular young entrepreneurs, and of developing the investment readiness of social enterprises to ensure social enterprises are able to take on repayable finance. The following activities will be eligible:

- a) design and implementation of new models of cooperation for sustainable social finance mechanisms, including feasibility studies and legal advice
- b) activities on mutual learning and dissemination of good practices
- c) activities related to coaching and mentoring of social enterprises

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107 to 109 of the Financial Regulation.

b) Eligibility criteria

To be eligible:

- Applicants and co-applicants must be legally established in one of the Member States of the EU.
- Applicants and co-applicants must be public, private or not-for-profit entities.
- For actions dealing with the supply side of social finance, applicants must implement the action in cooperation with at least 2 co-applicants with a view to working towards the access of finance for social enterprises and in particular young entrepreneurs. In these cases, the applicant or one of the co-applicants must be a (potential) investor.

To be eligible, actions must:

- be fully carried out in the countries mentioned above;

c) Selection criteria

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

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicant must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies).

- Operational capacity to complete the proposed action: the applicant or the main experts working on the proposed actions must have a track record in these activities; their pertinent activities, experience and expertise has to be presented in the proposal.

d) Award criteria

The proposals which fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call
- Quality of the proposal, including in terms of potential sustainability
- Impact of the proposal
- The cost / efficiency of the operation

With consideration of the budget available under this preparatory action, the proposals on the reserve list of the call for proposals VP/2013/017 with the highest evaluation scores will be selected for award.

Implementation: Directly by DG.

Indicative timetable: Evaluation: 02/2014-04/2014

Award decision: after the adoption of the update of the Financing Decision 2014.

Indicative amount: 1.000.000€

Maximum co-financing rate: 80%."

(3) **1.4. Procurement.** The budgetary allocation is amended as follows:

(a) "The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2014 amounts to: €46.913.050. The detailed amount per budget line is as follows:

04 03 02 01: €35.298.941

04 03 02 02: €8.876.645

04 03 02 03: €2.737.464

(4) **1.6 Point 1.6.1.** The total available budget for this activity is amended by an increase of 2.000.000 Euros and the text is amended as follows:

"The amount allocated to the financial instrument: 13.891.868€"