

Programme for the operational technical assistance in the framework of the European Social Fund.

Work Programme for 2015

1.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in legal basis mentioned under the different appropriations this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2015 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): 3.800.000 €
- for prizes (implemented under direct management (1.3.) N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.4): 10.900.000 €
- for actions implemented under Indirect management (1.5): N/A
- for Financial instruments (1.6) N/A
- for other actions (1.7): N/A

Any action under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

The Commission encourages the Member States to make use of the funding available under Technical Assistance for the purpose of increasing awareness in the Member State on the need to respect the Charter when disbursing EU funds and to support arrangements for handling complaints.

European Social Fund (ESF)

BUDGET LINE

Operational Technical Assistance: 04.0263

LEGAL BASIS

The appropriations under this item are intended to finance actions taken by the Commission by virtue of the powers specifically conferred on it by Article 58 CPR of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 of 17 December 2013.

	Amount
1.2 Grants	
Budget line 04.0263:	
1.2.1 – 1.2.2 – 1.2.3	EUR 3.800.000
1.4 Procurements	
Budget line 04.0263:	
1.4.1 – 1.4.2 – 1.4.3 – 1.4.4 – 1.4.5	EUR 10.900.000
TOTAL	14.700.000

1.2 Grants

1.2.1 ESF Presidency conference

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Supporting ESF implementation - The ESF Presidency conferences are meant to support ESF stakeholders on specific challenges of ESF implementation.

Description of the activities to be funded

The Commission agrees with the Member State holding the Council presidency on the relevant topic of the conference. The Member State is in charge of the organisation of the Conference.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

The form, topic and expected results are established by the Presidency in agreement with the Commission. Description of the activities to be funded awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 190(1)(c) RAP.

These events, which are highly political in nature and which need 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 de jure monopoly.

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application which shall be evaluated according to the following award criteria: 1) 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. 2) The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget its likely value for money and a sound cost-effectiveness ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 80%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Date	Amount
2015 Q1	EUR 300.000

1.2.2 FI-Compass Multi-Region Assistance

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The objective is to improve the knowledge of the Managing Authorities on the set-up and implementation of financial instruments 2014-2020 with regard to issues common to at least two Member States/regions to ensure a wider and smoother uptake of these instruments. As a result the participating Managing Authorities will have gained expertise necessary to take an informed decision about the implementation of a given financial instrument and the results will be disseminated and possibly used in other cases. This expertise can be generated and take the form of e.g. workshops, trainings, a study. This is expected to lead to an increased use of financial instruments to achieve the objectives of regional policy, in particular in new, non-standard (innovative) areas.

Description of the activities to be funded

The action aims at provision of advisory services and guidance that is applicable to at least two regions in at least two Member States aiming at the development of financial instruments targeting development objectives that are shared by participating regions (e.g. the financing of energy efficiency interventions in large housing estates in Central and Eastern Europe, support to cross-border initiatives aimed at reaching economies of scale).

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria– Beneficiaries will be managing authorities. Legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicant(s), which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation, may take part in the action as affiliated entities. The involvement in the project of at least one International Financial Institution (IFI) or at least two relevant National Financial Institutions (NFIs) (from each MS) will be compulsory.

Selection criteria- applicants will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed, based on the proven experience in managing EU funds and thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action.

In accordance with Article 131 (3) FR, the RAO may waive the verification of financial capacity for applicants that are public bodies. Operational capacity may be waived for public bodies, depending on a risk assessment.

Essential award criteria: – Relevance of the action and its expected results to the objectives of the call, including the involvement of a broader scope of expertise sources, such as academia; the innovative nature of the action; Impact: the resulting geographical coverage, the impact and dissemination and transferability of the expected results; Quality: the effectiveness and rationality of the proposed methodology and organisation (including the timetable and monitoring); the relevance and quality of the means of implementation and the resources deployed in relation to the objectives envisaged (particularly in terms of cost-effectiveness).

Implementation: Through a cross delegation to DG REGIO

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 95%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Date	Amount
2015 Q1	EUR 2.000.000

1.2.3. New Convention with the OECD on entrepreneurship

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This action is contributing to the achievement of the employment objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy by supporting policies for inclusive entrepreneurship. It will provide information and examples of good practice to stakeholders, (current and future) entrepreneurs and citizens, in particular from disadvantaged and under-represented groups.

Description of the activities to be funded under a grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Art. 190 (1) RAP

Activities will include analysis of the effectiveness of existing policies (in MS or other), preparation of policy briefs or reports, organization of workshops and collection of data.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Direct grant to OECD in view of their unique expertise on labour market policies, in particular integration into the labour market for vulnerable groups (women, unemployed, older people and youth).

According to Article 190.1.f) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. Concerning entrepreneurship, the OECD provides a forum in which 34 Member Countries can work together and have active contacts as well with other civil society organisations. The OECD has also already demonstrated that it can examine the barriers faced to business creation and self-employment by people who are disadvantaged or under-represented in entrepreneurship activities - youth, seniors, the disabled, women, ethnic minorities, the unemployed and others - and the public policy actions that can promote and support these activities.

Financial and operational capacity

The individual award decision substantiating the specific characteristics shall be adopted at a later stage.

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application which shall 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 and a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 70%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Date	Amount
2015 Q4	EUR 1.500.000

1.4 Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2015 amounts to 10.900.000€.

1.4.1 Audit

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: 700.000 Euros

Type of Contract: Specific contract based on an existing framework contract (Q2 2015)

Indicative number of contracts: 20

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

1.4.2 Studies and statistics reports

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: 3.880.000 Euros

Type of Contract:

Specific contract based on an existing framework contract (12)

Direct Contract (3) (Q1 and Q4 2015)

Indicative number of contracts: 15

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

1.4.3 Conferences, meetings, network of experts and working groups

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: 250.000 Euros

Type of Contract: Specific contract based on an existing framework contract (Q2 2015)

Indicative number of contracts: 5

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

1.4.4 Development and maintenance of IT tools

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: 3.770.000 Euros

Type of Contract: Specific contract based on an existing framework contract (Q1-Q2 and Q3 2015)

Indicative number of contracts: 31

Implementation: Out of the overall amount: EUR 186.250 will be subdelegated to DG DIGIT, based on a Memorandum of Understanding. The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG EMPL.

1.4.5 Technical Assistance

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: 2.300.000 Euros

Type of Contract:

Specific contract based on an existing framework contract (1) (Q2 2015)

Direct Contract (1) (Q4 2015)

Indicative number of contracts: 2

Indicative timeframe for launching the procedure:

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL