



DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Annual work programme of grants and contracts for 2012

[Commission Decision C(2012)1432 of 8 March 2012]

SUMMARY

DG EMPL's annual work programme of grants and contracts for 2012, serving as a financing decision

This draft Decision constitutes DG EMPL's annual work programme of grants and contracts, serving as a financing decision for 2012. It determines the essential details of the actions which will involve expenditure from the 2012 budget, and its purpose is to allow selection procedures to be launched so that individual decisions on the award of grants and contracts can be taken from the beginning of 2012.

This draft Decision covers the budget lines managed by DG EMPL directly, including those grouped under the PROGRESS programme.

This draft Decision relates to the following budget lines:

- 04 03 02: Cost of preliminary consultation meetings with trade union representatives
- 04 03 03 01: Industrial relations and social dialogue
- 04 03 03 02: Information and training measures for workers' organisations
- 04 03 03 03: Information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings
- 04 03 04: EURES (European Employment Services)
- 04 03 05: Free movement of workers, coordination of social security systems and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries
- 04 03 07: Analysis of and studies on the social situation, demographics and the family
- 04 03 13: Preparatory action — Your first EURES Job
- 04 03 15: European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012
- 04 04 01 01: PROGRESS Programme: Employment
- 04 04 01 02: PROGRESS Programme: Social protection and inclusion
- 04 04 01 03: PROGRESS Programme: Working conditions
- 04 04 01 06: PROGRESS Programme: Support for implementation
- 04 04 03 01: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions – Subsidy under Titles 1 and 2
- 04 04 03 02: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions – Subsidy under Title 3
- 04 04 04 02: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work – Subsidy under Titles 1 and 2

- 04 04 04 03: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work – Subsidy under Title 3
- 04 04 15: European Microfinance Facility

The appropriations available under these budget lines will be used for:

- awarding grants (including to bodies with a *de jure* monopoly, such as the Member States holding the Presidency of the Union, for the cofinancing of conferences in DG EMPL's fields of activity);
- public procurement;
- implementation of operations jointly managed with international organisations; and
- granting of subdelegations to other DGs for actions of common benefit.

The Annex to the draft Decision sets out, for each budget line concerned, the details of the various actions scheduled by DG EMPL for 2012.

ANNEX

SUMMARY TABLE - OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2012 WITH THE CORRESPONDING AMOUNTS

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
Grants	86 248 020
Calls for proposals	43 653 020
De jure monopoly	3 390 000
De facto monopoly	15 205 000
Grants to partners	24 000 000
Contributions to agencies	35 237 612
Procurement	42 742 037
Joint management	4 625 000
Subdelegations	27 092 535
Indirect centralised management	1 100 000
Other interventions	525 000
TOTAL AMOUNT	197 570 204

The existing Framework Contract for "*Provision of evaluation and evaluation related services to DG EMPL, including support for Impact Assessment Activities*" will be renewed for the last (third) time and will expire in April 2013. In order to ensure the continuous availability of this kind of procedure, which shows to be highly used and useful, it is foreseen to launch a new Multiple Framework Contract with lots. The maximum duration of the contract will be 4 years (1 year, renewable 3 times). The purpose of the contract will be to provide services concerning preparation, support (also methodological) and conducting of evaluations, studies of evaluative nature and preparatory studies for impact assessments covering all DG EMPL policies and instruments (in particular ESF, Europe 2020, employment and social policies and legislation, external relations, social dialogue, health& safety at work, free movement of workers, employment services, adaptation to change, EGF, social protection and inclusion, social innovation, etc.) as well as social impacts of policies implemented by other Directorates General. The services will involve inter alia desk work (literature reviews, secondary data collection, etc), field work (interviews, surveys, focus groups, etc.), analysis of data, development of methodologies to assess impacts, carrying our meta-analysis, preparation of workshops/seminars.

04 03 02 – COST OF PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES
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LEGAL BASIS

Tasks resulting from the Commission's prerogatives at institutional level, as provided for in Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No.1605/2002 of 25.June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ.L.248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 450 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

This appropriation is intended to cover expenditure on preliminary consultation meetings between European trade union representatives with a view to helping them form their opinions and harmonise their positions regarding the development of Union policies.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. SUBDELEGATIONS

For 2012, an amount of EUR 450 000 will be available to PMO. This amount represents the expenditure to be incurred by PMO to cover the expenditures as defined above.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
SUBDELEGATIONS	450 000
TOTAL 04 03 02	450 000

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 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 16 500 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The objectives of this budget heading are the following:

- Support to European social dialogue at the cross-industry and sectoral levels;
- Improving expertise in the field of industrial relations.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue

Objectives and foreseen results

The call for proposals will finance a large variety of measures, including conferences, seminars, round tables, negotiations, studies, surveys, publications, monitoring exercises, training measures, training tools, the setting up of networks and the development and exchange of best practice.

The call will also cover logistical support for social dialogue negotiation meetings (hire of meeting rooms and interpretation).

The foreseen results are the following:

- Development of European social dialogue at the sectoral and cross-sectoral levels;
- Increased awareness of European social dialogue and improved capacity to participate in it;
- Improved preparation, monitoring, follow-up and/or implementation of the joint texts agreed at the sectoral and cross-sectoral levels;
- Improved expertise in industrial relations;
- Promotion of exchange of information and experience among the parties actively involved in industrial relations.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of proposals submitted: EUR 13 500 000.

In general, this call for proposals will support actions to which the applicants must contribute at least with 20% of the eligible cost of the action. Contributions in kind will not be accepted. However, under the sub-programme "Support for European social dialogue", actions involving negotiations in accordance with Article 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, meetings to prepare for negotiations, or joint social partner actions relating to the implementation of the results of European social dialogue negotiations may be financed up to 95% of the total eligible costs. Social dialogue meetings organised by the social partners themselves can also be financed up to a rate of 95%.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched early 2012 and will foresee two deadlines for the submission of applications (subject to the detailed conditions announced in the call):

- March 2012. Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted: EUR 5 750 000;
- Late August / early September 2012. Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted: EUR 7 750 000.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability;
- Fall within one of the following categories: social partners; organisations linked to industrial relations; public authorities; international organisations active in the fields of social dialogue and /or industrial relations other than ILO already covered by the provisions of this financing decision (see Joint Management);
- Have their registered offices in one of the EU Member States¹;

¹ In derogation from this requirement, international organisations, such as UN agencies, active in the fields of social dialogue and/or industrial relations with their registered headquarters outside the EU Member States are also eligible.

To be eligible, actions must:

- Be linked to at least one objective of the call;
- Have active partners from several Member States and/or Candidate Countries in the case of proposals which are not submitted by a European level or international organisation;
- Comply with the maximum percentage of European Union co-financing;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or the candidate countries²;
- Have the active support of a European social partner organisation, if they are submitted under the sub-programme "Support for European social dialogue".

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

- The extent to which the action meets the objectives and priorities of the call.
- The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension.
- The quality of partnerships, including the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the social partners / stakeholders in the action.
- The extent to which the action contributes to the priorities, activities or results of European social dialogue / the debate on industrial relations.
- The added value i.e. the lasting impact and/or multiplier effect of the action.
- The cost-effectiveness of the action.
- The arrangements to publicise the action and disseminate the results.
- The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation.

² In derogation from this requirement, international organisations, such as UN agencies, active in the fields of social dialogue and/or industrial relations can carry out activities also at the place of their registered office.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 2 000 000.

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. Analysis of the state-of-play of Social Dialogue in Iceland to cover the state-of-play as far as both tripartite and bipartite social dialogues are concerned. It will include the analysis of cross-industry and sectoral social dialogue, information on the social partners at both levels, including data on their affiliation to European organisations and their awareness of European Social Dialogue. This call was already included in the financing decision 2011, but was delayed to align it to the enlargement negotiations. The call is planned for February 2012.

2.1.2. Europeanisation of Industrial Relations to support knowledge in the field of the Europeanisation of Industrial Relations. It is envisaged to launch the procedures in the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.3. Evaluation of the outcomes of the projects funded by the budget headings aimed at supporting European social dialogue and improving expertise on industrial relations in particular how and to what extent the projects funded by the budget headings concerned have contributed to the declared objectives of these budget headings, including an assessment of the actions' relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and impact. This call was already included in the financing decision 2011, but was delayed to align it to the MFF negotiations. The call is planned for February 2012.

2.1.4. Follow-up to the implementation of the autonomous framework agreement on harassment and violence at work to support the Commission's obligation to monitor the implementation of the autonomous framework agreement on harassment and violence at work (the Social Partners' implementation report is imminent and the Commission is legally obliged to do its own monitoring because the initiative was instigated by a Commission consultation). It is envisaged to launch the call in the second quarter of 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1 Social dialogue negotiation meetings and conferences

These activities will be implemented through service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract 'Meetings' that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal n°2011/S 072-116736 dated 13/04/2011).

2.2.2. Conference on social partners' capacity in the new Member States (EU-12).

The conference will be implemented through services orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal n°2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.3. Development of information and communication tools

These activities will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

2.2.4. Publications in the context of Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue

These activities will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

2.2.5. Evaluation and evaluation related services and Impact Assessment Activities

These activities will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL multiple framework contracts "Evaluation and Impact Assessment Activities", concluded on 21 April 2009 (5 lots – VC/2009/0035 to VC/2009/0056), for a period of 12 months, renewable three times).

2.2.6. Development of an on-line meeting registration tool to be used namely for the social dialogue committee meetings

This activity will be implemented through service orders based on the framework contract for services of DG DIGIT - ESP-DESI II n° DI/6760, valid until 9 September 2012.

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 signed on 29 April 2003 the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Community and the United Nations, which represents a long term framework agreement with the Commission.

3.1. Joint project with ILO

The Commission intends to carry out a joint project in the area of social dialogue and industrial relations with the ILO, which takes advantage of the global expertise of the ILO in these areas. ILO is the most appropriate organisation to carry out this work as there is an organisational structure already in place. This structure has two dimensions: ILO-ITC oversees projects carried out by the employers' and trade union groups associated with ILO in the area of capacity building and training for social partner organisations; ILO HQ oversees and coordinates projects carried out by independent experts in various analytical areas relevant for industrial relations and social dialogue. The joint project will cover both capacity building actions in support of workers' and employers' organisations – to which at least 50% of the budget will be devoted – and analytical work. The former will pay particular attention to capacity building in the new Member States. The latter will include strands relating to: the strategies pursued by public authorities and social partners in response to the crisis; the impact of the crisis on wages and inequalities; on social dialogue and trade; on decent work. The outcomes of this project will be used in the Industrial Relations in Europe report 2014 and will contribute to the work of the unit to support social dialogue. The individual agreement will be elaborated jointly and contain detailed provisions for the implementation of the tasks. The ILO will ensure transparency of operations carried out and the Commission that suitable arrangements exist for the control and the audit of the action.

Indicative amount: EUR 1 000 000.

Indicative timetable: project to be launched in 2012 for delivery in 2013.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	13 500 000
Calls for proposals	13 500 000
PROCUREMENT	2 000 000
JOINT MANAGEMENT	1 000 000
TOTAL 04 03 03 01	16 500 000

04 03 03 02 – INFORMATION AND TRAINING MEASURES FOR WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS

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 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 17 000 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

This budget heading is intended to cover expenditure on information and training measures for workers' organisations, including representatives of workers' organisations in the candidate countries, deriving from the implementation of EU action in the framework of the Union social dimension. These measures should help workers' organisations to contribute to addressing the overarching challenges facing European employment and social policy as laid down in the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Renewed Social Agenda and within the context of EU initiatives to address the consequences of the economic crisis.

The Commission has already stressed on different occasions the crucial role of social partners as key to better governance of the European Union and as a driving force for economic and social reform³, as they are increasingly called upon to contribute to the social and economic objectives of the European Union, as reflected once again in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Commission's objective is therefore to take all necessary measures in order to contribute to building and further strengthening the necessary capacity of social partners through training and research, as well as to awareness-raising through information.

Part of this appropriation is intended to finance measures involving representatives of workers' organisations in the candidate countries with the specific purpose of promoting social dialogue at the Union level. It is also intended to promote equal participation of women and men in the decision-making bodies of workers' organisations.

This appropriation also covers support for the work programmes of the two specific trade union institutes, ETUI (European Trade Union Institute) and EZA (European Centre for Workers' Questions), which have been established to facilitate capacity building through training and research at European level, as well as to improve the degree of involvement of workers' representatives in European governance.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

³ E.g.: Communication "The European social dialogue, a force for innovation and change" (COM(2002)341).

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Information and training measures for workers' organisations

Objectives and foreseen results

The appropriations are intended to cover expenditure on information and training measures for workers' organisations, including representatives of workers' organisations in the candidate countries, deriving from the implementation of EU action in the framework of the Union social dimension. These measures should help workers' organisations to contribute to the overarching challenges facing European employment and social policy as laid down in the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Renewed Social Agenda and within the context of EU initiatives to address the consequences of the economic crisis.

Other foreseen results are improved skills for workers' representatives for European social dialogue, better understanding of issues discussed through European social dialogue, sharing of ideas/experience on European social dialogue as well as improving the capacity of workers' organisations.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The indicative amount is EUR 3 420 000. The Union's grant may not exceed 90% of the total eligible cost of the action.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched early 2012 and will foresee a single deadline for the submission of applications in March/April 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial regulation;

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be social partner organisations representing workers at European, national or regional level;
- Be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of article 114 of the Financial Regulation, workers' organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability;
- Have their registered office in one of the Member States of the European Union.

To be eligible, actions must:

- Be linked to the objectives of the call for proposals;

- Comply with the European Union co-financing percentage of maximum 90%;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or the candidate countries.
- Have active partners from several Member States and/or Candidate Countries in the case of proposals which are not submitted by a European level workers' organisation.

National capacity-building activities which could be funded under the European Social Fund (Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 on the European Social Fund, Article 5(3)§2⁴) are not eligible.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

Proposals which fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria indicated above will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

- The extent to which the action meets the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals.
- The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension.
- The quality of partnerships, including the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the social partners/stakeholders in the action.
- The extent to which the action contributes to the priorities, activities or results of European social dialogue.
- The added value, i.e. the lasting impact and/or multiplier effect of the action.
- The cost-effectiveness of the action.
- The arrangements to publicise the action and disseminate the results.
- The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation.

⁴ "Under the Convergence objective, an appropriate amount of ESF resources shall be allocated to capacity-building, which shall include training, networking measures, strengthening the social dialogue and activities jointly undertaken by the social partners, in particular as regards adaptability of workers and enterprises referred to in Article 3(1)(a)" (Scope of assistance).

1.2. Grants to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly

1.2.1. De facto monopoly

In application of the Commission Decision C(2009)9898 of 11 December 2009 adopting DG EMPL's annual work programme of grants and contracts, serving as a financing decision for 2010, the Commission concluded, in March 2010, four-year framework partnership agreements with two specific trade union institutes with a view to establishing a long term cooperation. These institutes have been established to facilitate capacity-building through training and research at European level, as well as to improve the degree of involvement of workers' representatives in European governance. As demonstrated in the Commission Decision mentioned above, these institutes cover all representative unions of the European labour movement and are therefore to be considered as bodies in a de facto monopoly situation, within the sense of article 168.1.c) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, and are granted direct support in accordance with article 110.1 of the Financial Regulation.

These institutes are the following:

1.2.1.1. The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), which provides workers' organisations with research and scientific support as well as information and training in European matters of strategic importance for the trade unions. This institute is linked to the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC);

1.2.1.2. The European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA), which provides a European dimension trade union education for European Christian workers' organisations.

On the basis of the framework partnership agreements mentioned above, the annual work programme of the two specific trade union institutes will be supported. The specific operating grant agreements will be signed in the first half of 2012 and will cover the period 01/04/2012-31/03/2013.

For 2012, a grant of EUR 10 397 000, representing a maximum of 84,5% of the total eligible costs of the work programme, will be awarded to ETUI, and a grant of EUR 3 183 000, representing a maximum of 81% of the total eligible costs of the work programme, will be awarded to EZA. In both cases, the co-financing rate has been decreased by 1% compared to the specific operating grant agreements signed for the period 01/04/2011-31/03/2012.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	17 000 000
Calls for proposals	3 420 000
De facto monopolies	13 580 000
TOTAL 04 03 03 02	17 000 000

04 03 03 03 - INFORMATION, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF UNDERTAKINGS

LEGAL BASIS

Specific competences of the Commission directly attributed by the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, and in particular Article 154 thereof.

In this context, the following in particular are concerned:

- Directive 2009/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees (recast) (OJ L 122 of 16.05.2009, p. 28) as well as the directives that will be repealed in 2011: Council Directive 94/45/EC of 22 September 1994 on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees (OJ L 254 of 30.09.1994, p. 64) and Council Directive 97/74/EC of 15 December 1997 extending to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Directive 94/45/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees (OJ L 10 of 16.01.1998, p. 22);
- Council Directive 2001/86/EC of 8 October 2001 supplementing the Statute for a European company with regard to the involvement of employees (OJ L 294 of 10.11.2001, p. 22);
- Directive 2002/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community (OJ L 80 of 23.03.2002, p. 29);
- Council Directive 2003/72/EC of 22 July 2003 supplementing the Statute for a European Cooperative Society with regard to the involvement of employees (OJ L 207 of 18.08.2003, p. 25);
- Article 16 of Directive 2005/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies (OJ L 310 of 25.11.2005, p. 1).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

Total amount EUR 7 500 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

- Strengthen transnational cooperation between employees' and employers' representatives as regards information, consultation and participation within undertakings operating in several Member States. The purpose of such cooperation is to ensure that employees are adequately informed and consulted within an undertaking when decisions which affect them are taken in a Member State other than the one in which they work.

- Familiarise representatives of undertakings with employee participation procedures within European companies, European cooperative societies and limited liability companies resulting from cross-border mergers within the meaning of Article 16 of Directive 2005/56/EC, including improving awareness of the participation of employees' representatives in their decision-making bodies.
- Enable the social partners to prepare for exercising their rights and duties as regards information, consultation and participation within undertakings operating in several Member States, particularly within the context of their European Works Councils.
- Familiarise all those involved in the undertaking with transnational -company agreements and strengthen cooperation between them within the European Union framework.

PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2012

- Promote exchange of information and experience with a view to setting up employee information, consultation and participation structures within European companies, European cooperative societies and limited liability companies resulting from cross-border mergers within the meaning of Article 16 of Directive 2005/56/EC;
- Promote the exchange of information and good practice in order to create conditions favourable to setting up information and consultation structures within undertakings as defined in Directive 2002/14/EC;
- Promote the setting up of new European Works Councils and improve information and consultation processes in -European Union scale undertakings and European Union -scale groups of undertakings;
- Promote transnational cooperation in respect of information and consultation, in particular targeting representatives from the new Member States and candidate countries;
- Produce reports on experience relating to the establishment of European Works Councils and the functioning and effectiveness of information provision and consultation within them;
- Produce reports on experience relating to the establishment of bodies representing and negotiating on behalf of employees within European companies, European cooperative societies and limited liability companies resulting from cross-border mergers;
- Promote the exchange of information and experience in order to create conditions favourable to setting up transnational –company agreements; as well as to promote measures to familiarise all those represented within the company with transnational - company agreements and to strengthen their cooperation within the European Union framework;
- Promote innovative actions relating to the management of information, consultation and participation at company level, in order to encourage anticipation of change and prevent and resolve disputes in the context of corporate restructuring, mergers, takeovers and relocation of undertakings and groups of undertakings operating in several Member States;

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Information, Consultation and Participation of Representatives of Undertakings

Objectives and foreseen results

The call for proposals will support projects related to transnational cooperation, information and observation points:

- Transnational cooperation will aim at promoting the exchange of information and experience as regards information, consultation and participation within undertakings and groups of undertakings, as well as the negotiation of transnational company agreements.
- Information and observation points established by the European social partners organisations with the aim of informing and assisting representatives of the social partners and undertakings in setting up projects

The foreseen results include:

- training for negotiators and representatives working with information, consultation and participation bodies, as well as training on the different aspects of transnational business agreements;
- coordination between employees' and employers' representatives;
- dissemination of information and best practice;
- participation of representatives from the new Member States and candidate countries.
- assistance to representatives of social partners and undertakings in setting up projects.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The indicative amount for 2012 is EUR 7 500 000. The grant may not exceed 80% of the eligible costs of the operation.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be published in January 2012. The **deadlines** for the submission of applications (and indicative amounts) are as follows:

- **30 April 2012** for actions commencing no earlier than **16 June 2012** (EUR 3 200 000);
- **04 September 2012** for actions commencing no earlier than **04 November 2012** and no later than **22 December 2012** (EUR 4 300 000)

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)a of the Financial Regulation

b) Eligibility

Eligibility of the applicants:

- Be a properly constituted and registered legal person, having their registered office in one of the Member States of the European Union. Pursuant to Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability. A project applicant cannot be an individual;
- Be representatives of employees or employers from the Member States or, exceptionally, technical bodies or commercial companies expressly mandated by one or more eligible applicants. For commercial companies, the aim of the project must be non-commercial in nature and the project must not create a profit for the beneficiary of the grant.

Eligibility of the actions

To be eligible, actions must:

- Be linked to at least one objective of the call for proposals;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or in the candidate countries;
- Comply with the maximum percentage of European Union co financing of 80%;
- Have active partners from Member States and/or candidate countries in the case of proposals which are not submitted by a European organisation (legal entities, having their registered office based in one of the Member States of the European Union and ensuring the general representation at European level, of workers' or employers' national Associations and promoting their common interests at European level according their own laws). Profit-making organisations and companies, such as normal commercial suppliers of goods and services, are not eligible as project partners.

Eligibility of the participants in actions:

Participants must be employees' or employers' representatives from the Member States and candidate countries, or experts appointed by the social partners.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

- The extent to which the action meets the objectives of the call for proposals and the priority objectives;
- The extent to which the expected results add value to the existing situation or to results already obtained in the past through transnational projects supported under this budget heading;
- The extent to which the project concerns innovative measures or new subjects in relation to information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings;
- The extent to which the action promotes the joint participation of employers and employees;
- The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension;
- The extent to which employees' and/or employers' representatives from new Member States or candidate countries are actively involved in the action;
- The cost-effectiveness of the action;
- The overall quality, clarity and comprehensiveness of the proposal, including budgetary aspects and methods of disseminating results and arrangements related to publicising European Union funding.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	
Calls for proposals	7 500 000
TOTAL 04 03 03 03	7 500 000

04 03 04 - EURES (EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES)

LEGAL BASIS

- Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of the Council of 15 October 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community (OJ L 257 of 19.10.1968, p. 2), as last amended by Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 158 of 30.4.2004, p. 77).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2434/92 of 27 July 1992 amending Part II of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community (OJ L 245 du 26.8.1992, p. 1).
- Commission Decision No 2003/8/EC of 23 December 2002 implementing Council Regulation (EEC) N° 1612/68 as regards the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 20 600 000 + EUR 535 600 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 21 135 600

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

This appropriation is intended, for completion of the internal market and implementation of the European employment strategy, to cover the implementation and operation of the EURES network.

This network is aimed at developing cooperation between the Commission and the Member States, and in particular their employment services, with a view to:

- the provision of placement, advice and information services for workers as regards employment in another Member State and for employers wishing to recruit in another Member State,
- the exchange of job vacancies and applications at level and across borders,
- the exchange of information between Member States concerning labour-market trends and living and working conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

1.1. Grants to partners

1.1.1. Grants on the basis of framework partnership agreements

Objectives and foreseen results

The EURES guidelines 2010-2013 adopted by the EURES Coordination office following the opinion of the EURES High Level Strategy Group aim at contributing to the development of European labour markets open and accessible to all, improving the quality and transparency of the trans-national, interregional and cross-border labour market information, and strengthening co-operation on these matters. The Guidelines establish the following priorities for 2010–2013, as a basis for the identification of eligible activities:

- (1) Improving access to EURES
- (2) Ensuring services to employers
- (3) Providing services to jobseekers, job changers and the unemployed
- (4) Networking with other stakeholders
- (5) Functioning of the network
- (6) Implementing cross border activities

Justification

In order to comply with the above mentioned objectives, during 2012 the Commission will conclude annual specific grant agreements, based upon the framework partnership agreements signed during 2010 with selected organisations aimed at establishing long-term cooperation with the Commission and receive EU support on a stable and regular basis for the period 2010-2013. The partnership agreements signed in 2010 were established following the call for proposals published under reference VP/2009/008 for a period of three years.

The Commission will invite proposals for actions in line with EU policy objectives and the partners will directly submit an annual proposal to the Commission. Projects supported are expected to implement activities to achieve the objectives of EURES guidelines for the period 2010-2013.

Indicative timetable

The third specific grant agreements, covering the period 01/06/2012 until 31/05/2013, will be signed in the second quarter of 2012.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

A total amount of EUR 14 000 000 and a maximum EU co-financing rate of 95% of the total eligible costs of the actions are envisaged for the specific grant agreements in 2012.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 6 789 825

2.1 Calls for tender

2.1.1. Framework contract for the provision of trainings for the EURES Network: to train EURES advisers and other staff involved in EURES activities from Public Employment Services, social partner organisations and other EURES partner organisations in subjects related to the three basic EURES services of information, guidance and placement and other services to be offered to both job-seekers and employers.

As the current framework contract VC/2008/1170 ended in December 2012 (see point 1.2.1 below), the new call for tender will be launched during the first quarter of 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. EURES Training

These activities will be implemented through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the DG EMPL "EURES Training framework contract" VC/2008/1170 concluded on 8 December 2008 for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.2. Maintenance, enhancement and continuous development of the EURES IT platform linking the EURES network and its stakeholders. This includes a one-stop web portal, also accessible for disabled people, providing multilingual access to information on job vacancies, CVs of potential candidates, living and working conditions, labour market trends, education and training opportunities as well as other job mobility related contents. This portal should also address the information needs of nationals of third countries, in particular from candidate countries. These three activities will implemented through service orders based on the DG DIGIT framework contract ESP-DESI II n° DI/6760 to DI/6777 concluded on October 2010 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.2.3. Internet Infrastructure to further develop the EU Job Mobility Portal by adding new functionalities and strengthening multilingualism to meet the needs of growing numbers of users. The enhanced extranet will provide tools to further improve internal communication within the EURES network. New releases of the ESCO taxonomy should also be integrated and used on the EURES portal to enhance job matching, in particular as part of the Match & Map project. These activities will implemented throughout 2012 through service orders based on the DG DIGIT framework contract ESP-DESI II n° DI/6760 to DI/6777 concluded on October 2010 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times or based on OPOCE framework contract EUROVOC Thesaurus Management and Dissemination System (reference OP 10122).

2.2.4. Information, Publications and Communication Activities providing appropriate information and communication to the public, to the social partners and other relevant actors, as well as the communication aspects of the "European Mobility Day" and the "European Job Days". These activities will implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL framework contract for EURES information and communication activities (2 lots - VC/2011/001 and VC/2011/002) concluded on 24 February 2011 for a period of 24 months, renewable once or based on OPOCE framework contract EUROVOC Thesaurus Management and Dissemination System (reference OP 10122).

2.2.5. *Helpdesk for the job mobility portal and other support activities*: to provide quick and accurate answers to information requests from job seekers, employers and others on job mobility issues in general and on the European Job Mobility portal. These activities will be implemented throughout 2012 through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract for the EURES Helpdesk that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/009 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 115-189222 on 07/06/2011).

2.2.6. *EURES NETWORK meetings* to allow the EURES network to meet annually for internal seminars, working groups and working party meetings, and other information sessions and network meetings in an effort to ensure the information flow between its members and to enhance the networking and participation of its members. Additionally, this activity will also cover the organisation of the forward looking events related to "European Mobility Day" and the "European Job Days", which will support the further development of EURES in the policy context after 2010. These meeting activities will be implemented through service orders on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.7. *Audit work on EURES projects*

A maximum of 3 EURES projects grants will be audited "on-the-spot" throughout 2012 through specific service orders that will be concluded based on the new DG BUDG multiple framework contracts with reopening of competition for supply of technical assistance services in the field of audits and controls following the call for tender published in the third quarter of 2011 (Official Journal 2011/S 141-233378 of 26/07/2011).

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1 *Translations: European Job Mobility Portal* to provide translation of all the information diffused through the EURES IT portal to all European languages of the EU. This activity will be implemented throughout through the renewal of an existing service contract (reference 68018-04) to be signed in June 2012 for one year duration.

3. SUBDELEGATIONS

3.1. Subdelegations to DIGIT

3.1.1. *Memorandum of Understanding signed between DG EMPL and DG DIGIT*

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding number DIGIT-00229-00 to cover the hosting of the EURES portal and its evolution for the period 2010-2014, a subdelegation was given to DG DIGIT.

For 2012, an amount of EUR 345 775 will be available to DIGIT. This amount represents the expenditure to be incurred by DG DIGIT to provide the services as defined and described under the Article 2 "Subject" of the Memorandum of Understanding signed, related to the expenditure as calculated by DG DIGIT based on the budgeted expenditure and the services to be provided.

The current Memorandum of Understanding may be replaced by one or several Memorandums of Understanding following the needs and the required services to cover the evolution of the EURES portal.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	14 000 000
Grants to partners	14 000 000
PROCUREMENT	6 789 825
SUBDELEGATION TO DG DIGIT	345 775
TOTAL 04 03 04	21 135 600

04 03 05 - FREE MOVEMENT OF WORKERS, CO-ORDINATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEMES AND MEASURES FOR MIGRANTS, INCLUDING MIGRANTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

LEGAL BASIS

- Articles 45 and 48 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU
- Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union. (OJ L 141, 27.5.2011, p. 1)
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 of 14 June 1971 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community (OJ L 149, 5.7.1971, p.2).
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 of 21 March 1972 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to their families moving within the Community (OJ L 74, 27.3.1972, p.1).
- Council Directive 98/49/EC of 29 June 1998 on safeguarding the supplementary pension rights of employed and self-employed persons moving within the Community (OJ L 209, 25.7.1998, p. 46).
- Council Regulation (EC) No 859/2003 of 14 May 2003 extending the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 to nationals of third countries who are not already covered by those provisions solely on the ground of their nationality (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p.1).
- Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the coordination of social security systems (OJ L 166, 30.4.2004, p.1) and its Implementing Regulation (COM(2006) 16 final and COM (2006)7 final.
- Règlement (CE) n o 987/2009 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 16 septembre 2009 fixant les modalités d'application du règlement (CE) n o 883/2004 portant sur la coordination des systèmes de sécurité sociale (Texte présentant de l'intérêt pour l'EEE et pour la Suisse) (OJ L 284, 30.10.2009, p.1).
- Regulation (EU) No 1231/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 extending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 to nationals of third countries who are not already covered by these Regulations solely on the ground of their nationality (OJ L 344, 29.12.2010, p. 1).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 6 270 000 + EUR 163 020 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 6 433 020

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

These appropriations are intended to cover:

- Analysis and evaluation of the major trends in legislation in the Member States with regard to the free movement of persons and coordination of social security schemes. Financing of networks of experts in that fields;
- Analysis and research on new policy developments in the domain of free movement of workers linked for example to the end of transitional periods and modernisation of social security coordination provisions;
- Support to the work of the Administrative Commission and its sub-groups and follow-up of the decisions taken. Support to the work of the Technical and Advisory Committees on free movement of workers;
- Support to actions facilitating the application of the new regulations on social security, including trans-national exchanges of experience and information and training initiatives developed at national level;
- Financing of actions aimed at providing a better service and raising awareness to the public, including measures aimed at identifying migrant workers' social security problems, with special attention to those that are highly mobile, and measures speeding up and simplifying administrative procedures, analysis of the barriers to free movement and lack of coordination of social security systems and their impact on disabled people, including adaptation of administrative procedures to new information processing techniques, in order to improve the system for acquiring rights and the calculation and payment of benefits pursuant to Regulations (EEC) No 1408/71 and (EEC) No 574/72 (including the cost of translating documents) and Regulation (EC) No 859/2003 as well as Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and its implementing Regulation and the extension Regulation to certain third country nationals;
- The development of information and actions to make public opinion aware of their rights on free movement and coordination of social security schemes;
- The support of the administrative exchange of social security information among Member States, with a view to assisting them in their implementation of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and its Implementing Regulation. This includes the maintenance of the central node of the EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information) system.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

1.1. Call for proposals

1.1.1. Call for proposals for actions for cooperation and information on social security coordination

Objectives and foreseen results

The new regulatory framework on social security coordination entered into application on 1 May 2010. New rules aim to enhance cooperation between social security institutions, enabling speeding up the provisions of benefits to citizens, including those who are highly mobile. The effective implementation and enforcement of rights deriving from the Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and the Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 is indeed a shared task where the social security institutions, the Member States administrations and the social partners can play an important role in improving citizens' knowledge of their rights.

The wider public, but also the administrations dealing with the application of the Regulations have to receive the necessary information for the correct national implementation of these texts. The information and awareness raising work of mobility portals such as EURAXESS also requires that they are informed of these developments.

In line with Article 79 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, the European Commission may fund in full or in part activities aimed at improving exchanges of information between the social security authorities and institutions of the Member States, and any other activity aimed at providing information to the persons covered by this Regulation and their representatives about the rights and obligations deriving from this Regulation, using the most appropriate means.

The objective of the call is to support:

- 1) initiatives and actions with a trans-national dimension which
 - aim at developing cooperation between social security institutions; and/or
 - aim at improving information of the public about their rights and obligations deriving from the EC Regulations on social security coordination when exercising the right of free movement.
- 2) trans-national initiatives and actions aiming at preparing and implementing the system for electronic data exchange (EESSI).
- 3) national initiatives and actions aiming at preparing and implementing the system for electronic data exchange (EESSI).

Under the call, a variety of actions may be co-financed, including conferences, round tables, training initiatives, seminars and workshops, setting up of networks, publications, studies, development and reinforcement of administrative and technical capacity (for example, exchange of experience on training, exchange of public servants between Institutions, exchange of best practices and experiences on the coordination, bilateral testing for EESSI purposes), or other appropriate tools of information on social security coordination.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

An indicative amount of EUR 2 633 020 is envisaged for this action. EU financial aid will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicant has to guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in February 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a properly constituted and registered legal entity, having their registered office based in one of the Member States of the European Union or in one of the EEA countries (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland)⁵. In derogation from this requirement and pursuant to Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, the organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that their legal representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability;
- Fall within one of the following categories:

For objective 1), the applicants and partners must be:

- national social security institutions,
- or
- social partners organisations, NGO's or other legally recognised type of non-profit organisation in the field of free movement and social security, having a practical experience with the application of the Regulations on social security coordination.

For objective 2) and 3) applicants and partners (objective 2 only) must be:

- national social security institutions.

⁵ subject to the final confirmation by the EEA Joint Committee of the participation of the EEA countries in the budget line.

or

- liaison bodies and organisations hosting the Access Points to the EESSI

To be eligible, the action must:

- Be clearly linked to at least one objective of the call for proposals.
- For actions under objectives 1) and 2), the action must also be carried out in cooperation between active partners from at least two different Member States or EEA countries. This must be demonstrated in the application by signed letters indicating the active involvement. (Profit-making organisations and companies, such as normal commercial suppliers of goods and services, are not eligible as project partners).

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field of social security and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

The grants will be awarded following a comparative assessment of the proposals on the basis of the following criteria:

- the extent to which the action meets the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals and creates added value;
- the extent to which there is a clear and well-supported diagnosis of the issues addressed in the proposal, the methods used for addressing these issues and a clear indication of the proposal's contribution to the objectives of the call;
- the extent to which the proposal responds to the identified challenges of the coordination of social security schemes
- the clarity and feasibility of the proposed work plan, including timetable and methodology, and in particular its capacity to achieve the planned objectives through well-identified and well-planned activities with clear and attainable time-lines;
- a) for actions under objective 1), also the quality of partnerships, the extent to which the project, action or initiative has a genuine trans-national dimension and/or requires joint participation of different stakeholders and multiplier effect of the action
- b) for actions under objective 2), the extent to which the action has a genuine trans-national

dimension in relation to the wider multi-annual national strategy for implementing EESSI and multiplier effects on the action

c) for actions under objective 3) the link of the action in relation to the wider multi-annual national strategy for implementing EESSI;

- the financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, its likely value for money and a sound cost-efficiency ratio;
- the quality, clarity and detail of budgetary presentation.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurements is EUR 3 100 000.

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. Service contract for the provision of technical support in the field of co-ordination of social security

The call will be published in the first and second quarter of 2012.

2.1.2. Series of maximum 5 low-value specific reports as well as two comprehensive reports on some aspects of the new Regulations on the social security coordination as well as in the area of Free Movement of Workers focussing on clarification of interpretation and/or the analysis of national systems or practices necessary for the interpretation of the new Regulations. These procedures will be launched in the first and second quarters of 2012.

2.1.3. Service contract for the development of a reference implementation of eEHIC

eEHIC system requires interoperating of different smart cards and card reading infrastructure. Therefore, the introduction of eEHIC should start with a piloting phase for a relatively small number of Member States. The reference implementation to be developed should encompass software components which will be common to several Member States. The call was already included in the financing decision and was postponed to 2012 due to the priority given to EESSI. It will be published in the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.4. Report on the impact on free movement of some rules applied in the field of sports focussing on the practical implementation and effects of the 'home-grown players' rule applied in football. The procedure will be launched in the second quarter of 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. Seminars/Events in relation with the work of the Administrative Commission to further prepare the Institutions to the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 (on the co-ordination of social security systems) and to the Implementing Regulation. These activities will be implemented through service orders based on new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011)

Translation of documents related to the work of the Administrative Commission might require the use of Agreement 68018 DG EMPL-CDT concluded on 3 July 2003 for a period of 12 months renewable for successive periods of 12 months.

2.2.2. Campaign on the Modernised social security coordination to continue the information campaign launched in 2010 and 2011 with the view of raising awareness of European citizens on the new modernised social security coordination. This campaign is focused on informing the citizens about their rights and new information obligations from the Regulations. These activities will be implemented on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract for services in support of communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

2.2.3. Impact Assessment on the first revision of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems. This activity will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL multiple framework contract 'Evaluation and Impact Assessment activities' concluded on 21 April 2009 (5 lots – VC/2009/0035 to VC/2009/0056), for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.2.4. Monitoring and development of EESSI

EESSI is a tool which conditions the ability of social security institutions of all MS to grant social security benefits to mobile citizens in a speedy and efficient way. The Commission's role in assisting MS and providing them with adequate support and tools for the common part of the network is a key element for implementing a regulation which is one of the most concrete examples of achievement in favour of the citizens.

The EESSI support team will be faced during the initial phase with numerous questions for assistance and development of the EU electronic infrastructure. Unresolved open issues and defects will show and require an urgent solution once the roll-out starts, no significant gaps from an optimal development path shall be accumulated. In addition, it should be able to "own" the system after the handover, i.e. being in control of all aspects of an IT system and being able to support Member States when connecting to national applications. These technical activities will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts with various IT specialists based on the DIGIT framework contracts – (Nr 06750 to 06775, valid from 09/2010 to 09/2012).

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1. Organisation and co-ordination of European Network on Free Movement of Workers within the European Union. Third renewal of the contract VC/2009/0379. Call published in

the second quarter of 2009 under the reference VT/2009/026 (Official Journal No 2009/S 072-103624 of 15 April 2009).

2.3.2. *Organisation and coordination of a Network on the co-ordination of social security schemes within the European Union.* Second renewal of contract VC/2010/0436 for Lot 1 and VC/2010/1047 for Lot 2 concluded on November 2010 for a period of 12 months renewable three times.

2.3.3. *Assistance to the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers*

Second renewal of the contract VC/2010/005 published in the last quarter of 2009 under the reference VT/2009/050 (Official Journal No 2009/S 249-357146 on 26/12/2009).

3. SUBDELEGATIONS

3.1. Subdelegation to DG DIGIT

3.3.1 EESSI Hosting and maintenance costs

An estimated amount of EUR 700 000 is envisaged to cover the hosting and maintenance costs (including staffing) of the EESSI system that will be charged by DIGIT in 2012. The transfer of funds will be executed through a subdelegation to DIGIT. The cooperation is documented by the Memorandum of Understanding between DG EMPL and DIGIT signed on 25/02/2010 (annual automatic renewal during project life-time).

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	2 633 020
Calls for proposals	2 633 020
PROCUREMENT	3 100 000
SUBDELEGATIONS	700 000
TOTAL 04 03 05	6 433 020

LEGAL BASIS

On the basis of Article 159 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Commission is called on to produce reports on the social situation, including on the demographic situation. Moreover, the implementation of Europe 2020 strategy as well as the identification of future priorities for social policies at the EU level needs to be underpinned by research and policy analysis as well as the sharing of experiences.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 2 160 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

- **Objectives:** The aim is to promote the development of comparative analysis and the exchange of views and experience at all relevant levels (regional, national, EU, world) regarding the social and demographic situation and the socio-economic trends in the EU.
- **Priorities:** Development of policy relevant analysis in the area of social cohesion and linked to demographic trends which will feed into the relevant formats of regular reporting in this field. This includes the management of an Observatory of the Social Situation, the cooperation with relevant activities in Member States and with international organisations and the management of a technical support group for the European Alliance for Families.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Supporting partnerships for Enhancing Europe's capacity to tackle demographic and societal change

Objectives and foreseen results

The aim of the call for proposals is to support one initiative developing strong partnerships comprising high level researchers. The purpose of the grant will be to give this new or existing partnership a chance to establish structures for the collection and dissemination of information and analysis for the benefit of better social policy making at all levels of governance and the promotion of a better quality of life in a context of demographic change. More precisely, the action should centre on the collection and dissemination of key facts and figures on demographic change across the EU with the aim of promoting a well-informed debate on its implications and appropriate policy responses.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget should be around EUR 500 000. European Union financial aid granted will not exceed 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicant has to guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20 %. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester of 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility

Applicants must

- Be a non-profit organisation;
- Be a properly constituted and registered legal entity, having their registered office based in one of the Member States of the European Union. In derogation from this requirement and pursuant to Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, the organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that their legal representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability;

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed. In particular, the applicant must be able to provide new insights, precise facts and evidence-based scientific findings about population and policy research in Europe. Such information and knowledge could in principle be provided by a partnership or collaborative network of European demographic research centres.

d) Award

- Relevance to the objective of the call for proposals

- Overall quality of the proposal
- EU-wide relevance of the proposal
- Sound cost-efficiency ratio and financial quality of the proposal
- Sustainability of the proposal beyond the period covered by this grant.

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.

1.2.1. De facto monopolies

1.2.1.1. European Population Conference

Biennial conference organised by the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), the sole professional association of demographic researchers in the European Union for international and multi-disciplinary population studies throughout Europe. The EAPS is a scientific association of individual members and affiliated institutions. Membership is open to individuals interested or engaged in European population studies. Membership is not restricted to European nationals or residents nor to persons who are working in Europe, since many European demographers are also working in or on developing countries or elsewhere. EAPS works in consultation with the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and the Committee for International Co-operation in National Research in Demography (CICRED). EAPS furthermore has an NGO Consultative Status with the Council of Europe.

The EAPS is the only comprehensive scientific association of individuals and institutions engaged in European population studies. Thanks to this, the EAPS has a unique access to all the members of the demographic research community all over Europe, also outside the EU. The widespread membership of the EAPS allows her to organise very successful and well attended conferences. The biennial EAPS conference has in particular been very important for young demographers from the new Member States and from other Eastern European countries.

The conference will take place in Stockholm in 2012 from 13-16 June. The event will be co-financed up to a maximum of EUR 100 000 representing maximum 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

This grant will be awarded according to Article 168.1.f) of the Implementing Rules which provides for exceptions to calls for proposals in cases of grants awarded 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. The individual award decision substantiating the specific situation will be adopted at a later stage.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 1 560 000.

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. Social Situation Observatory

A call for tender will be launched during the first half of 2012 to ensure continuity of the European Observatory on Demography and Social Situation. The purpose is to offer analytical support on the developments in income distribution, poverty, social exclusion and material deprivation as well as health.

The call for tender may be divided into lots. The contract(s) will have a 12-month duration with three possible renewals. The call will be launched during the second quarter of 2012.

2.1.2. Studies and reports on demography, ageing and family policy

A maximum of five procedures will be launched to commission studies or reports notably in support of the work of the Group of Government Experts on Demographic Issues, to explore new social issues or methodological approaches for monitoring aspects of the social situation or provide assistance to policy makers and stakeholders who are trying to tackle social policy challenges. The aim of these activities will be to gather the available knowledge on specific issues related to the social situation, demography and families or to provide practical guidance for policy makers at the national or regional level to help them tackle social and demographic issues; this may include ex post and ex ante evaluations of ongoing or envisaged EU initiatives in the demographic and social area as well as the development of tools for the exchange of information and mutual learning.

The calls will be launched throughout 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. Seminars/events and communication activities with stakeholders on ageing-related topics and demographic and social issues.

Seminars and conferences will be organised through a maximum of 50 service orders on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

Communication activities will be implemented through a maximum of 10 service orders on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract for services in support of communication activities, that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

These activities will be carried out throughout the year.

2.2.2. Maintenance of the Web Portal of the European Alliance for Families

This activity will be implemented throughout the year through a maximum of 3 service orders on the basis of the framework contract for services of DG DIGIT – ESP Desis II Nr. 6760-6762, valid until 9 September 2012.

2.2.3. *Eurobarometer (Social climate, active and dignified ageing, social impact of the crisis)*

A small number of questions will be included in a Eurobarometer survey conducted towards the end of 2012. The contract will be based upon framework service contract PO/2008-15/A3 concluded by DG COMM on 1 April 2009 for a period of 12 months and renewable 3 times.

In addition it is envisaged to conduct short Eurobarometer telephone surveys, as input to the analysis and reporting on how citizens are faring in the current socio-economic context. The related specific contracts carried out throughout the year (of a maximum of 3) will be based upon the DG COMM framework contract PO/2010-30/A2 Flash surveys, signed on 18 of July 2011.

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1. *Technical support group for the activities of the European Alliance for Families*

A contract following the call for tender VT/2011/052 published in July 2011 will be concluded in the fourth quarter 2011. This contract will run for a period of 12 months, renewable up to three times and it is envisaged to renew for the first time in the fourth quarter 2012 for further 12 months.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	600 000
Calls for proposals	500 000
De facto monopolies	100 000
PROCUREMENT	1 560 000
TOTAL 04 03 07 00	2 160 000

04 03 15 – European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 940/2011/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2011 on the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 2 700 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The overall objective of the European Year shall be to facilitate the creation of an active ageing culture in Europe based on a society for all ages. Within this framework, the European Year shall encourage and support the efforts of Member States, their regional and local authorities, social partners, civil society and the business community, including small and medium-sized enterprises, to promote active ageing and to do more to mobilise the potential of the rapidly growing population in their late 50s and over. In doing so, it shall foster solidarity and cooperation between generations, taking into account diversity and gender equality. Promoting active ageing means creating better opportunities so that older women and men can play their part in the labour market, combating poverty, particularly that of women, and social exclusion, fostering volunteering and active participation in family life and society and encouraging healthy ageing in dignity. This involves, inter alia, adapting working conditions, combating negative age stereotypes and age discrimination, improving health and safety at work, adapting lifelong learning systems to the needs of an ageing workforce and ensuring that social protection systems are adequate and provide the right incentives.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

a) to raise general awareness of the value of active ageing and its various dimensions and to ensure that it is accorded a prominent position on the political agendas of stakeholders at all levels in order to highlight the useful contribution that older people make to society and the economy, raising the appreciation thereof, to promote active ageing, solidarity between generations and the vitality and the dignity of all people, and to do more to mobilise the potential of older people, regardless of their origin, and to enable them to lead an independent life;

b) to stimulate debate, to exchange information and to develop mutual learning between Member States and stakeholders at all levels in order to promote active ageing policies, to identify and disseminate good practice and to encourage cooperation and synergies;

c) to offer a framework for commitment and concrete action to enable the Union, Member States and stakeholders at all levels, with the involvement of civil society, the social partners and businesses and with particular emphasis on promoting information strategies, to develop innovative solutions, policies and long-term strategies, including comprehensive age-management strategies related to employment and work, through specific activities, and to pursue specific objectives related to active ageing and intergenerational solidarity;

d) to promote activities which will help to combat age discrimination, to overcome age-related stereotypes and to remove barriers, particularly with regard to employability.

1. GRANTS

The grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

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.

1.1.1 De jure monopolies – Presidency events

1.1.1.1 Cypriot Closing Conference of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012

Planned for the 2nd semester 2012, an event under the Cypriot Presidency will be co-financed by the Commission. The closing conference of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations will take place in December 2012. The event should aim at highlighting what has been achieved during the European Year and consider an appropriate follow-up and next steps.

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 list of priorities agreed between the respective Presidency and the Directorate-General 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.

The indicative amount for the conference is EUR 350 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action. The procedure will be launched in the second quarter of 2012.

This event, highly political in nature and needing representation at the highest level both from national Authorities and European representatives, is 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.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 2 310 000.

2.1 Use of existing framework contracts

2.1.1 Communication activities for European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 to continue implementing the communication strategy and developing the communication tools for the European Year. This will include notably the management of the European Year website, support for Member States in their national communication strategies as well as promotional material such as publications, video news releases and banners.

These activities will be implemented through a negotiated procedure in accordance with Art 126 (f) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation, following a reopening of competition (VT/2011/061) under the DG EAC Multiple Framework Contract EAC/20/2008, concluded on 12 March 2009, valid until 11 March 2011 and renewable for another two years.

2.1.2 Eurobarometer on the awareness of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 to test awareness of European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 will be included in a Eurobarometer survey conducted towards the end of 2012. The results may be used for the closing conference and the evaluation of the European Year. The contract will be based upon framework service contract PO/2008-15/A3 concluded by DG COMM on 1 April 2009 for a period of 12 months and renewable 3 times.

In addition it is envisaged to conduct short Eurobarometer telephone surveys, as input to the analysis and reporting on how citizens are faring in the current socio-economic context. The related specific contracts will be based upon the DG COMM framework contract PO/2010-30/A2 Flash surveys, signed on 18 of July 2011.

2.1.3 Evaluation of European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 to report on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the activities launched under the European Year

This activity will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL multiple framework contract 'Evaluation and Impact Assessment activities' concluded on 21 April 2009 (5 lots – VC/2009/0035 to VC/2009/0056), for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.1.4 Seminars/events and communication activities with stakeholders on the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012.

Seminars and conferences will be organised on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

Communication activities will be implemented through service orders on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract for services in support of communication activities, that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

3. SUBDELEGATIONS

3.1. Hosting and maintenance of the website of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012

An estimated amount of EUR 40 000 is envisaged to cover the hosting and maintenance costs (including staffing) of the website of the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations that will be charged by DIGIT in early 2012.

The transfer of funds will be executed through a subdelegation to DIGIT. The cooperation will be documented by a hosting agreement on the basis of a "protocole d'accord".

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	350 000
De jure monopolies	350 000
PROCUREMENT	2 310 000
SUBDELEGATIONS	40 000
TOTAL 04 03 15	2 700 000

04 03 13 – PREPARATORY ACTION: Your first EURES job

LEGAL BASIS

The preparatory action will be implemented within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N°1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L248, 16.09.2002), as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1525/2007 (OJ L343, 27.12.2007).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 3 250 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The budget line is aimed at financing the second year of "Your first EURES job" activities in the framework of the preparatory action approved by the budgetary authority. For 2012 it is planned to launch a call for proposals inviting interested applicant organisations to submit projects with the potential to carry out the activities outlined hereinafter.

"Your first EURES job" is a Union preparatory action aimed at boosting the workers' freedom of movement as set out in the Treaties (Art 45 of the TFEU). It can in particular enhance youth labour mobility across Europe given the fact of being a targeted market-based facility which aims to help young people and employers to fill in open bottleneck vacancies in accordance with economic needs.

"Your first EURES job" is moreover one of key actions of the Europe 2020 flagship Communication "*Youth on the Move*"⁶. and the recent communication "*Youth Opportunities Initiative*"⁷. This preparatory action has also the potential to fulfil the objectives of Art. 47 of the TFEU: "*Member States shall, within the framework of a joint programme, encourage the exchange of young workers*".

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

"Your first EURES job" target groups are young people and employers (all businesses, SME in particular⁸). The preparatory action will provide information, job search, recruitment and financial support to both young jobseekers aged 18-30 willing to work in another EU Member State and businesses (SME in particular) recruiting young European mobile workers and providing an integration programme for the newcomer(s).

In Europe there are many job vacancies that remain unfilled due to the lack of a suitable work force⁹. Current imbalances in the EU labour markets are partly due to a lack of labour mobility within the Union. "Your first EURES job" is well placed to become a key labour market intervention tool aimed at supporting targeted mobility activities to fill in bottleneck vacancies (vacancies for which a market failure has been identified).

⁶ COM(2010) 477 final, dated 15/09/2010

⁷ COM(2011) 933, dated 20/11/2011

⁸ The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons (COM Recommendation of 6.05.2003, OJ L 124 of 20.05.2003)

⁹ "A new strategy for the single market", report by M. Monti, 9 May 2010, p.57

The combination of job matching and job placement activities with financial support for target groups adds value to the "Your first EURES job" role in addressing labour market imbalances.

Young people are often willing to work in another EU country but do not take up job opportunities abroad because they are not aware of them or because of the costs and insecurity of moving. "Your first Eures job" can help young people to cope with the costs of an interview trip abroad¹⁰ or for moving to another EU Member State to take up a job.

Likewise, successful job matching in the labour market depends on labour demand and on job openings made available by employers. However, obstacles relating to the costs of hiring abroad e.g. relocation or training costs mostly affect smaller companies. Assistance schemes are often cost-intensive and rarely implemented by SME. These employers can thus benefit from financial support to help them integrate their young mobile workers.

"Your first EURES job" can thus increase the rate of intra-European youth job mobility by providing easier and actual access to more employment opportunities as well as support to employers in recruiting the talents and skills they are looking for their hard to fill job vacancies.

1. GRANTS

Grants awarded under this budgetary item will be covered by a written agreement.

1.1. Call for proposals

1.1.1. "Your first EURES job"

"Your first EURES job" overarching priorities are, on the one hand, to contribute to fill bottleneck vacancies with available youth workforce at EU level and, on the other hand, to foster youth job mobility across the EU-27 Member States.

Selected projects in the frame of this call for proposals should thus support and finance

- young European mobile jobseekers (aged 18-30) in finding a job and moving to another EU Member State;
- employers (SME in particular) by covering part of the costs borne with an integration programme for their newly recruited young mobile workers

Having regard to the budget appropriations available, the expected **result** should be the job placement of at least 1500 young people in other EU Member States¹¹ than their country of residence throughout the duration of selected projects.

¹⁰ The interview trip can include one or several interviews as well as selection competitions in one or more EU countries

¹¹ Estimate made on the basis of an flat rate cost per job placement cost of EUR 1800

As regards the geographical scope of "Your first EURES job", the preparatory action should apply to young people and businesses (SME in particular) across all EU-27 Member States, according to identified labour market needs.

"Your first EURES job" will be implemented by public, private or third sector employment services from the EU-27 Member States. These include public employment services, recruitment and temporary work agencies, universities, municipalities, chambers of commerce or other labour market organisations with a broad range of client and job placement services. The third sector employment service includes mainly non-profit and non-governmental organisations active in the provision of work integration services. Interested organisations can apply as stand-alone applicants or in partnership and should have experience in dealing with EU transnational job mobility activities touching upon a large number of young people and businesses.

The call will draw attention to the minimum required service level from applicant organisations. An Implementing Guide will be drawn up by the Commission and annexed to the call for proposals. The purpose of the Guide is to specify the implementing and financing rules applicable to the action and to help applicant organisations to elaborate their proposals.

The guide is also deemed to be a management tool for future selected organisations with a view to ensure equivalent quality standards of the service delivery and secure the necessary transparency and equal treatment of end-recipients (young people and businesses). The call for proposals will refer applicant organisations to the guide as a mandatory and integral part of the call.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total available budget for this call is **EUR 3 250 000**.

The European Union's financial contribution will not exceed **95% of the total eligible costs** of the proposed activities, of which

- a minimum of 80% will be aimed at granting both third parties and applicant organisations as follows:
 - a) a contribution to the jobseekers' travel and subsistence costs for an interview trip abroad and the costs for moving to another EU country to take up the job
 - b) a contribution to the employers' costs (SME only) with the mobile worker's integration programme (e.g. induction training, language course, administrative support, etc)
 - c) the actual costs borne by applicant organisations with the provision of preparatory training for young recruited workers, i.e. pre-departure training or training after arrival to the country of destination, focusing on foreign languages or soft skills or other training need.
- a maximum of 20% will be aimed at co-funding the eligible costs borne by the applicant organisations with the management of the action.

Funding to third parties: flat-rate financing

Authorisation is provided by this decision to make use of the "flat-rate financing" system in compliance with the same conditions for flat rate amounts and allowances spelled out in the first update of the Financing Decision of 2011.

Given the nature and policy objectives of the "Your first EURES job" preparatory action and as applied to other EU mobility programmes, derogation to Article 120 of the Financial Regulation is deemed necessary.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched as early as possible in 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation

b) Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applicant organisations:

- must be legally established in one of the 27 Member States of the EU
- can be public, private¹² or third sector employment organisations with a legal profit or non-profit status, whose main mission is the provision of general employment services to jobseekers, job changers and employers covering a variety of occupations and jobs in different economic sectors
- should have a meaningful EU dimension i.e. be capable of providing customer-oriented information and services in at least 3 different EU Member States

To be eligible, applications must:

- be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union
- comply with the European Union's rules for co-financing and guarantee a cash co-financing of **5%** of the total eligible costs
- demonstrate that the proposed activities are not being financed twice from two different sources within the EU budget (particularly in cases where applicants are already participating in other EU programmes).

c) Selection criteria

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

¹² In accordance with interpretation of cases C-41/90 and C-55/96

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

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
- Impact of the proposal
- Visibility of the action
- The cost / efficiency of the operation

With consideration of the budget available for this call for proposals, the proposals with highest evaluation scores will be selected for award.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	3 250 000
Call for proposals	3 250 000
TOTAL 04 03 13	3 250 000

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 - Progress¹³, 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.¹⁴

The Europe 2020 Strategy, proposed by the Commission on the 3rd of March¹⁵, 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);
- (4) the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 4);

¹³ OJ L 315, 15.11.2006, p.1.

¹⁴ OJ L 87, 7.4.2010, p. 6.

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/index_en.htm

- (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 are managed by DG JUST. Although actions will be implemented in two DGs, PROGRESS as such will continue to be run as an integrated programme, exploiting synergies across the policy sections.

Finally, budget line 04 04 01 06 (support for the implementation of the programme) supports the monitoring of PROGRESS performance and the evaluation of its overall impact. It also finances PROGRESS general cross-cutting communication activities.

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 3 November 2011. The detailed work plan was approved by the Committee on 3 November 2011.

For practical reasons, the activities are detailed by section.

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

04 04 01 01 - PROGRESSS - EMPLOYMENT

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 20 558 000 + EUR 534 508 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 21 092 508

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

This appropriation is intended to support the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (EES), to help consolidate the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including its external dimension by:

- improving understanding of the employment situation and prospects, in particular through analysis and studies and the development of statistics and common indicators within the framework of the EES,
- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the European Employment Guidelines and Recommendations and their impact, for example through the Joint Employment Report, and analysing the interaction between the EES and general economic and social policy and other policy areas,
- organising discussions on policies, good practice and innovative approaches, mainstreaming of the needs of vulnerable groups, and promoting mutual learning in the context of the EES,
- raising awareness, disseminating information and promoting the debate about employment challenges, policies and the implementation of national reform programmes, including among regional and local actors, social partners, civil society and other stakeholders.

Europe 2020, the new European Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, sets the overall policy framework. For the employment section of the PROGRESS programme the implementation of the European Employment Strategy through the employment guidelines and with the support of the flagship initiatives will be of key importance. These activities will aim to support the Member States to achieve their national targets as to be agreed upon in the Europe 2020 framework.

Europe 2020 specifies seven flagship initiatives and two of them are directly in the employment area:

- an Agenda for new skills and jobs; and
- Youth on the Move (the aspects related to youth employment).

The aim of "An agenda for New skills and Jobs" is to create conditions for modernising labour markets with a view to raising employment levels and ensuring the sustainability of our social models. As specified in the Europe 2020 Communication this flagship will specifically address a number of policy areas where measures at EU and national level could lift employment-related EU bottlenecks to inclusive growth.

These include Flexicurity, better matching of skills with labour market needs, mobility, transitions and migration as well as actions supporting social dialogue and those relating to labour law.

While social dialogue and labour law issues can be supported under other sections of the PROGRESS programme the employment section should focus on Flexicurity, New Skills for New Jobs and mobility, transitions between jobs and from unemployment/inactivity into jobs and migration. In line with the employment guidelines activities within these broad policy priorities will also address female labour force participation and employment related gender equality issues as well as barriers to employment for older workers, the disabled and other vulnerable groups.

The "Youth on the move" flagship responds to the need to urgently tackle the particularly difficult situation of young people. Clearly labour market outcomes of young people aged 15-30 are not satisfactory in the EU witnessed by high youth unemployment in the group of 15-24 years old, long transition periods between education and work, prolonged unstable labour market attachment and a considerable number of young people neither working or learning. The employment part of this initiative will aim at fostering the access of the young generations into the labour market. Youth employment will thus constitute another priority area for Progress support under the employment section.

All the above actions will aim to provide assistance for the implementation of the integrated guidelines and for achieving the Europe 2020 objectives. These objectives are closely interrelated: if the employment and social components are to be found most in the inclusive growth pillar and employment guidelines they are also in the "smart" and "sustainable" pillars. The most obvious example is youth employment under the "smart" pillar. Another example is job creation and employment in the green economy as addressed in the "sustainable" pillar. This interrelated approach is reflected in the integrated guidelines, with both the employment guidelines and BEPG guideline 5 on "improving resources efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases emissions" addressing this issue. In the 2012 Work Programme the employment dimension of climate change will focus in particular on anticipation of skills needs in the green economy and skills up-grading and thus will be included in the activities supporting the New Skills for New Jobs initiative.

Obviously, responding to the crisis and ensuring economic recovery will continue to be a key priority within 2012. PROGRESS Employment section will continue to support this policy priority.

Taking into account the external dimension of Europe 2020, the Work Plan also includes activities with enhance the knowledge of global employment and social policy challenges that may impact on EU policy in these fields.

Within the support provided for the above policy priorities the PROGRESS Employment section will contribute to strengthening knowledge, analytical and statistical capacity and to reinforcing methodologies to identify and prepare for the new policy framework in particular strengthen the impact assessment capacity.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Mutual learning in the field of skills and employment. EU Sectoral Skills Councils and Restructuring

Objectives and foreseen results

1 - Mutual learning in the field of skills and employment.

The objective is to encourage exchanges and mutual learning at all levels and to enhance the transferability of the most effective policies, good practices and innovative approaches to implement the skills dimension of the flagship initiative “An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs – Equipping people with the right skills for employment”.

This can concern examples of effective policies, good practices and innovative approaches that result in:

- Develop early-warning and forecasting systems to improve the matching of skills supply and demand.
- Support exchanges between public employment services, education and training providers on lifelong guidance to help people make choices regarding careers as well as education & training and facilitate their transition from education to the labour market as well as between occupations and sectors.
- Support effective collaboration between sectors, education and training providers and public authorities in the field of transversal/transferable skills.
- Support the strategic dialogue with private and third-sector employment services on strategies addressing lifelong learning and skills development of citizens of all ages.
- Close involvement of national, regional and local authorities on strategies addressing skills offer and employment demand.
- Close involvement of social partners, both at EU and national level, in actions that can help equipping people for employment with the right skills mix and helping employers to find the skills they need.
- Support strategic human resources development, in particular addressing the specificities of small and medium sized enterprises.
- Understand and/or improve mechanisms which exist at national, regional and local level to bridge the worlds of labour and of education and training.
- Understand and/or improve transmission mechanisms and use made of skills forecasting/foresight intelligence, in particular by public authorities such as qualification authorities, education and training providers, employers and workers and their representatives.

- Understand existing co-investment mechanisms between employers and educational and training providers to support activities in the field of education and training.

A large variety of activities can be financed under this call: conferences, seminars, round tables, negotiations, studies, surveys, publications, monitoring exercises, training measures, training tools, the setting up of networks and the development of promising practices.

2 - EU Sectoral Skills Councils

As announced in the flagship "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs", the Commission supports the creation of European Sector Councils on Employment and Skills when there is a demand in that sense from stakeholders in particular from social partners. This can enable stakeholders to be in possession of more and better information on the evolution of their sector in terms of skills and employment than if they relied only on their national sources. It can also facilitate peer-learning amongst national observatories by creating a platform of exchange between labour market representatives and their counter side representing education and training providers.

As part of the process to setup a European Sector Council on Employment and Skills, stakeholders wishing to proceed with the creation of such sector council, should first perform an analysis of the feasibility to create such body at the European level. This first step should eventually lead to a second step, the *de facto* creation of a European sector council.

A/ Projects to be submitted in relation to this first exploratory step should contain the following types of actions:

- a) To identify and map for the European Union national and or regional level sectoral bodies (observatories, research institutes, sector councils, training funds, etc.) which produce labour market information at sectoral level on skills anticipation and mismatches.
- b) To identify networks, representative organisations of education and training providers of the sector concerned.
- c) To initiate contacts and organise meetings with those councils and education/training representatives identified, to present them the concept of European sector councils and assess their interest in the initiative and their willingness to participate in a European sector council.
- d) To define and assess the type of information to be exchanged by national and regional sector councils as well as the potential contribution of representatives of education and training providers.
- e) On the basis of a mapping and assessment, to make a pre-selection of those sector councils and education and training representatives who could participate in a EU sector council.
- f) To identify other types of potential actions to be developed by the EU sector council such as information dissemination to different targets (SMEs, Ministries...).

g) to prepare a report, on the basis of a mapping and meetings with potential participants, which assess the feasibility of setting-up an EU sector council and which sketches its form should the decision by the stakeholders to create an EU sector council be positive. The report should also include the substantiated decision from the sectors' representatives (in particular the European social partners) to go ahead or not with a European sector council on employment and skills.

B/ Projects to be submitted in relation to the functioning of a European Sector Council on Employment and Skills should contain the following types of actions:

a) Organise meetings of the sector council, an annual conference, and eventually awareness-raising actions to disseminate the outputs of the sectors' councils work as well as promotional events.

b) Produce synthetic reports on the specific activities of the European sector council, in particular:

- A report providing the synthesis of information exchanged covering the evolution of the supply, employment and skills needs including foresight and forecast analyses for the sector.
- A report synthesizing the good practices bringing the worlds of education and work closer and reducing the persistent skills mismatch at sectoral level, as well as on the mechanisms existing at national or regional level between anticipation bodies and education and training providers.
- A report describing innovative tools, national and/or regional strategies, local initiatives, methods put in place by members of the council for peer learning purposes.
- A report regrouping the recommendations of the European Sector Council on the basis of discussions and information exchanged.

c) Eventually studies and analyses to be undertaken by the EU Sector Council on issues related to the anticipation of skills, the reduction of the skills mismatch and on the mechanisms of transmission from anticipation bodies to education and training institutions and programmes.

Remark: only sectors which have conducted and finalised a first feasibility and mapping project can submit a project for the running of a sector council. The activities to be co-financed should be exclusively related to the functioning of the European Sector Councils on Employment and Skills.

3 – Restructuring

The objective is to support the development and dissemination of better expertise and capabilities among the actors concerned in the areas of anticipation, preparation and the accompanying of socially responsible restructuring processes as highlighted in the Commission communication on Restructuring and employment – anticipating and accompanying restructuring in order to develop employment: the role of the European Union (COM (2005) 120 final).

Priorities may also target the improvement of the capabilities of the actors on good and/or innovative practices of anticipating change and restructuring at European, sectoral, regional and company level; on the evolution of economic sectors; on the evolution of the roles, responsibilities and practices of the economic and social actors, through exchanges, reports, studies and other analysis and dissemination tools.

A large variety of measures can be financed under this call: conferences, seminars, round tables, negotiations, studies, surveys, publications, monitoring exercises, training measures, training tools, the setting up of networks and the development and exchange of best practice.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total indicative amount is EUR 3 600 000 and the maximum European Union co-financing rate is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched during the first semester of 2012 and will foresee two deadlines for the submission of applications:

- first deadline 30 June 2012 for objectives 1 and 3. Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted: EUR 1 000 000.
- second deadline 15 September 2012 only for objective 2. Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted: EUR 2 600 000.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation

b) Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be legal persons properly constituted and registered in one of the EU Member States or other PROGRESS participating countries. In application of Article 114 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability.

Applicants and partners must fall within one of the following categories:

- public authorities or semi-state agencies at national or regional level.
- non-profit private or public organisations active mainly in the area of employment policy, management of transitions on the labour market and labour market research including the analysis of skills/competences development. These organisations are encouraged to establish partnerships with other stakeholders including with public authorities, semi-state agencies and/or social partners.
- social partners organisations.

- international organisations, research centres and institutes, universities, education and vocational training institutions or networks, and civil society organisations.

Activities:

- Proposals must be linked only to one of the 3 fields of the call for proposals (Mutual Learning, EU Sectoral Skills Councils and Restructuring).
- Be carried out in cooperation between partners from several different PROGRESS participating countries in the case of proposals which are not submitted by a European or international organisations.
- Be fully carried out in the EU Member States or other PROGRESS participating countries.
- Comply with the maximum Union's co-financing percentage of 80%.

c) Selection

Only applicants 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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

The grants will be awarded following an assessment of the proposals in order to determine those which:

- best meet the objectives and priorities of the call;
- have a genuine transnational dimension;
- have a quality of partnership, i.e. the degree of involvement and commitment of the social partners/stakeholders in the action;
- have an added value and innovativeness;
- have a lasting impact and/or multiplier effect of the action;
- have arrangements to publicise the operation and envisaged dissemination methods;
- have an adequate cost/efficiency ratio;
- have an overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and of the budget.

1.1.2. Public Employment Services & /Private Employment services working together PARES (PARTnerships between EMPLOYMENT SERVICES)

Objectives and foreseen results

The main objective of this call for proposals is to encourage a strategic dialogue and collaboration for a better delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy when it comes to encouraging cooperation between employment services at EU level. These actions should encourage public, private and third sector employment services, education and training providers, NGOs, welfare institutions, etc. to work together.

For the purpose of this call "third sector" makes reference to non-profit and non-governmental organisations; "employment" is taken to mean anything that constitutes a remunerated work experience in the open labour market and "employment services" refer to the provision of different kinds of services for sustainable job insertion.

The objective is to identify common subjects that showcase the new labour market actors' collaborative approach and/or suggest benchmarks for increased cooperation and a methodology of quality assurance measures for this new kind of joint effort.

This call for proposals will support strategic alliances between interested labour market actors as part of PARES, whilst also supporting labour market transitions of most vulnerable groups. It will also seek to arrange for a real exchange and sharing of information and experiences amongst partners, in particular through the PARES strategic dialogue and web tool for good practices. The objective is to provide start-up funding to potential future self-sustainable cooperation projects in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and including priority focus such as green jobs career guidance, job profiling, job search and recruitment, labour transitions, local partnerships for employment, support to employers' needs, etc.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total indicative amount is EUR 1 500 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched during the first semester of 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility

- Applicants must be legal persons properly constituted and registered in one of the EU Member States or other PROGRESS participating countries;
- Eligible applicants must be public, private or third sector organisations whose main mission is the provision of employment services to jobseekers or job changers;
- The action should encourage public, private and third sector employment services, education and training providers, NGOs, welfare institutions, etc. to work together. To be eligible the action must include active partners from PROGRESS participating countries and from at least two different types: public, private or third sector.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

The grants will be awarded following an assessment of the proposals according to the following award criteria:

- Relevance with the objectives of the call for proposals;
- European added value and the potential impact and multiplier effect of the action;
- Effectiveness of the methodology of the proposed action;
- Cost/efficiency ratio.

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.

1.2.1. 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.

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 list of priorities agreed between the respective Presidency and the Directorate-General 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.

The procedures will be launched during the first semester for events during the Danish presidency and during the second semester for the Cypriot presidency.

1.2.1.1. 30th and 31st Heads of Public Employment Services (PES) meetings

The identification and sharing of best practice between the public employment services in the Member States will help to upgrade the services PES offer to job seekers and employers and to tackle skills bottlenecks on the European labour market. The 30th and 31st meetings of the Heads of PES in Denmark and Cyprus are both Presidency events and will help to co-ordinate the operation of Public Employment Services throughout the EU/EEA in support of the European Employment Strategy.

The indicative amount for both events is EUR 140 000 (EUR 70 000 each) and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.1.2. Presidency Conferences

Three major Presidency conferences will be organised in 2012 to discuss employment-related topics, two during the Danish Presidency and another one during the Cypriot Presidency.

The Commission intends to co-fund these conferences, which will address policy issues covered under the EES and the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The indicative amount is EUR 750 000 for the three events (EUR 250 000 each) and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 11 045 748.

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. Mutual Learning support service contract to assist in the implementation of the Mutual Learning Programme (exchange of information and transferability of good practices), to support the organisation of thematic and peer review meetings both from a logistical and contents point of view, and to maintain a website.

The indicative timeframe for launching the procedure is the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.2. Study on various aspects of labour market performance using micro survey-data to investigate various aspects of labour market performance (such as transitions, participation decisions, wage and income structure, hirings and separations) through the combined analysis of recent sets of micro data from Eurostat surveys (LFS, SILC, SES).

The indicative timeframe for launching the procedure is the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.3. Small-scale studies supporting employment policy analysis to cover short term needs in relation to analytical work for underpinning policy development and for the assessment of progress in the Europe 2020 strategy (notably by research, development and processing of quantitative and qualitative information into a new database for country monitoring), or for the monitoring of general labour market trends and developments in policies which affect employment (e.g. tax and energy policies, training and education).

A maximum of six calls will be launched throughout 2012.

2.1.4. *Small-scale studies on international and enlargement related issues of employment and social policy* to elaborate background papers for bilateral and regional conferences organised by the unit or contribute to the drafting of 'joint papers' with our international partners.

One or more calls will be launched throughout 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. Support for Impact assessments activities and Evaluation strategy

The activities described below will be implemented through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the DG EMPL multiple framework contract 'Evaluation and Impact Assessment activities' concluded on 21 April 2009 (5 lots – VC/2009/0035 to VC/2009/0056), for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

In the case that this multiple framework contract cannot be used for all of the activities foreseen in 2.2.1.1 to 2.2.1.6 below, other procedures will be separately launched during the 1st semester 2012.

2.2.1.1. Employment growth strategies study to collect positive policy examples which can be linked to this above EU average employment growth rates, for example for older worker employment (55-64) and female employment rates (20-64).

2.2.1.2. Labour markets segmentation study identifying forms and incidence of segmentation to feed into this discussion with Member States in the framework of flexicurity. Member States have committed to Employment guidelines which emphasise the need to fight problems of labour markets segmentation

2.2.1.3. Studies in support of the restructuring forum (more or less 6 reports or documents) to support the preparation or the follow-up of the conference and workshops dedicated to anticipation, management of change and restructuring.

2.2.1.4. Feasibility Study activities on traineeships on means to support the development of transnational traineeships, among others through the promotion of best practices of employers and advertising traineeships offered to trainees from other EU MS (this is an accompanying measure to the Commission proposal on a quality framework for traineeships (expected adoption: Q2-Q3 2012).

2.2.1.5. Study activities on entrepreneurship and self-employment to identify effective measures, particularly as regards potential entrepreneurs with low skills in the context of the Guiding principles to promote enabling conditions for job creation, announced in the Europe 2020 flagship Agenda for New Skills and Jobs (key action 13) and due to be adopted by the Commission in 2012.

2.2.1.6. Study activities on EU bottleneck vacancies to a) directing Commission strategic recommendations to PES when it comes to their specific anticipation and intervention strategies as well as prioritisation of their brokering actions to fill in this type of vacancies and to b) further focusing EU instruments which aim at supporting employment services and their partnerships in enhancing the dynamics of labour markets and labour mobility to respond to recruitment difficulties.

2.2.2. *ESCO (common multilingual taxonomy of occupations and skills) support* through the development of IT tools to manage and distribute ESCO as well as the operation of a secretariat to coordinate the work of the management board, maintenance committee and reference groups.

These activities will be implemented either through the conclusion of specific contracts during the year based on the OPOCE framework contract EUROVOC Thesaurus Management and Dissemination System (reference OP 10122) concluded on October 2010 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times and/or on the basis of the framework contract for services of DG DIGIT - ESP-DESI II n° DI/6760 to DI/6777, valid until 9 September 2012 either through the launch of a new Framework contract.

2.2.3. *Employment seminars, meetings and conferences, communication and networking activities* to facilitate communication and sharing between the various stakeholders in employment and the Europe 2020 Strategy of information and good practices that are directly linked to achieving the objective of the programme. Conferences to raise awareness, disseminate information and share best practice under the bilateral and regional policy dialogue of the Social Agenda's external dimension: to promote the external dimension of the Social Agenda, including raising awareness, disseminating information, sharing best practice and promoting the debate on employment and social policy challenges and policies.

For the implementation of these activities, specific service orders will be concluded based on the following framework contracts throughout 2012:

- the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).
- the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

2.2.4. *CSR exchanges of good practices* to undertake a benchmarking exercise with EU Member States on their various CSR policies.

This activity will be implemented either through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011) either through the launch of calls for tenders during the 1st semester of 2012.

2.2.5. *EU skills Panorama*

One of the key points of added value of the Skills Panorama is to provide online this unique central access point on future needs information across the EU. Rather than a mere collection or library of Member States' studies on the anticipation of future skills needs, the Panorama will present the information in a way that is synthesized as far as methodologically possible, without compromising on the richness of interesting and sometimes detailed information that Member States produce. The Panorama will also cover information on jobs and occupations trends. Based on this an early warning system could also be developed on the basis of the information collected and analysed by giving indication on short term and long term trends.

This activity will be implemented either through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the EAC Framework Service Contract to provide expertise and support for European Cooperation in Education and Training - Lots 1-4, No EAC 02/10 signed on 1 June 2011 (call for tenders EAC 02/2010 – OJ 2010/S 157-242002 of 14/08/2010) either through the launch of calls for tenders during the 1st semester of 2012.

2.2.6. *Conferences to raise awareness, disseminate information and share best practice under the bilateral and regional policy dialogue of the Social Agenda's external dimension*

This action will cover exclusively the costs related to the organisation of the meetings and the participation costs for EU governmental and/or non-governmental experts. Participation in these events will enable EU participants to benefit from the exchange of experiences with external participants on subjects covered by PROGRESS. These activities will be launched throughout 2012 through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.7. *Two policy conferences on employment analysis with a high research profile: one to discuss the findings of the annual publication on employment and social situation, and a second-one to discuss a thematic issue which is relevant in the EU2020 strategy.* These activities will be organised throughout 2012 through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.8. *PARES Dissemination Conference 2012 and meetings of the PARES Strategic Dialogue*

PARES is a strategic integrated initiative of the Commission to encourage an EU-level strategic dialogue between Employment Services on policy implementation and delivery issues. Its results will contribute to the discussion for the new momentum of flexicurity as announced in the EU2020 flagship initiative 'An agenda for new skills and jobs' while further elaborating on how to 'Make Transitions Pay'. One element of the PARES conference in autumn 2012 will be the dissemination of the results achieved in 2011 in the working groups of the Strategic Dialogue, other elements are the interim results of the project selected under the call for proposals and the first edition of WEESP.

These activities will be organised during the last quarter 2012 through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.9. *Information, publications, networking and communication strategy* in order to facilitate the communication and exchange of information and good practices between the PROGRESS participants and with persons not directly participating. These activities will be organised through the conclusion of specific service orders throughout 2012 based on the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.3 Renewals

2.3.1. "European Employment Observatory" service contract

Renewal of the contract VC/2009/0494 concluded on 12 May 2009 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.3.2. *EU network of academics and practitioners on workers' professional and geographical mobilities to analyse new patterns of mobility and corresponding national policy developments in the context of the EES and post 2010*

Renewal of the contract VC/2009/0378 concluded on 18 November 2009 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.3.3. *Programme for Mutual Learning support for Public Employment Services - "PES to PES dialogue"*

Renewal of the VC/2010/002 concluded on 27/09/2010 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.3.4. *"Background on monitoring labour market developments in the EU and the key role of employment services"*

Renewal of the VC/2010/103 concluded on 08/03/2010 for a period of 24 months, renewable 1 time.

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.

3.1. OECD

The Commission has signed in 2006 a Contribution Agreement with the OECD which represents a long term framework agreement with the Commission.

3.1.1. OECD programme for International Assessment of Adult Competences (PIAAC)

This project is the continuity of the preparation of a new international survey of adult skills, managed by OECD over the period 2011-2012.

It was chosen to collaborate with OECD since they have better expertise in producing comparative analysis at the international level. The aim is to support the Commission's monitoring of the Employment Guidelines on skills, through participation in the research phase. After field testing carried out over the period 2011-2012, the 2012 contribution is aimed at the operational stage of harmonised international assessment of adult competences. When data gathering from the field testing or the survey allow, a thematic report on skills and labour market outcomes will be prepared.

The indicative amount for this project is EUR 550 000.

3.1.2. OECD project in cooperation with TAXUD and ECFIN - developing structural indicators on tax wedges for EU countries

This activity is the follow-up of the agreement VS/2009/0118 on "Tax wedge and effective tax rates on labour" with OECD, in cooperation with TAXUD and ECFIN. The purpose of this activity is to support recommendations for policy implementation and monitoring progress in relation to unemployment, inactivity and low wage traps within the EES as well as for calculating relevant structural indicators.

The indicative amount co-financed by DG EMPL for this project is EUR 400 000.

3.2. ILO

3.2.1. ILO project on labour market integration of migrants

The joint project will investigate the process of integration of migrants in the labour market, in the context of reaching the employment rate target and in view of immigration policy and ESF spending for migrants. Evidence suggests that there are particular obstacles for newcomers, since migrant employment rates tend to be substantially higher after 3-5 years in the host country. The transition issue presents a gender dimension and is especially relevant for youth since the bulk of migrant newcomers are between 15 and 35 years old.

It was chosen to collaborate with ILO on this joint project due to ILO's expertise in labour market analysis at international level.

The indicative amount for this project is EUR 500 000 for 18 months.

3.2.2. ILO joint management projects on wages

The project is a follow up of the EU expert conference on wages held on 15th September 2011, in which ILO participated actively. ILO will investigate the role of labour market reforms on wage formation, trends and inequality using databases and information sources available. The project will be complemented by a project undertaken by OECD under the SPSI strand.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 500 000.

3.3. World Bank

3.3.1. Joint management projects with World Bank on labour market and social analysis (Software for automated labour market and social analysis)

The World Bank has developed a software programme designed to produce standard tables and graphs in several areas of applied economic analysis. The project will aim to develop specific modules tailored to DG EMPL needs for labour market and social analysis.

This tool, made available to a wide range of users within or outside the DG will contribute to reinforcing the analytical capacity of DG EMPL.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 200 000.

4. SUBDELEGATIONS

4.1. Subdelegations to EUROSTAT

4.1.1. Labour Market Policy (LMP) database (renewal service contract)

The renewal of this project is aimed at further consolidating the LMP statistics methodology and the data collection. Regular annual data collection, improved timeliness and data quality make the LMP database suited for monitoring of certain key areas of employment policies (prevention, activation and aspects of Flexicurity, crisis). Continued analysis is needed to understand better the national systems and labour market programmes in order to consolidate and increase further the comparability of the statistics. Extension of the database is needed to cover the candidate countries close to accession and to adapt to recent policy requirements. The work programme includes the annual LMP data production and dissemination and the general maintenance of the LMP application (newly implemented ".Net" version), as well as actions to support methodological developments, reporting of LMP statistics and assistance to Member States in data provision and quality improvement, e.g. through workshop, seminars and training.

The contract (10203.2011.003-2011.403 / ALPHAMETRICS / F.2) concluded following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2010 under the reference L-Luxembourg: Maintenance and development of the EU labour market policy statistical database (Official Journal No 2010/S 99-148582 on 22/05/2010) has a duration of 12 months, renewable twice. It has been renewed once. This concerns the second renewal of the contract. The indicative amount envisaged for this action is EUR 220 760.

4.1.2. Job Vacancy Survey (Call for Proposals)

Objectives and foreseen results

This project aims to ensure full participation of PROGRESS participating countries in developing improved data on labour demand by economic activity, occupation and region. The project includes further work to fulfil the requirements of the newly established regulatory framework - 2012 will be the third year of delivery of data in accordance with the full application of the regulation on quarterly vacancy statistics (Regulation (EC) N° 453/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and its implementing regulations). Spending will aim to improve the coverage, quality and timeliness of quarterly statistics - thus improving their relevance for labour market monitoring.

This project covers the financing for the third – 2012 - of the three years during which Member States may receive a financial contribution from the European Union towards the cost of work involved for the data collection of quarterly job vacancy statistics, as stated in Article 8 of Regulation (EC) N° 453/2008.

The final foreseen results are:

- the regular transmission of quarterly job vacancy statistics (number of job vacancies and occupied posts), and

- the improvement of the quality of the job vacancy statistics, including better accuracy of the number of vacancies and breakdown by occupation following the ISCO-08 classification (at least 1 digit level) and/or regions (NUTS 2 level).

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The indicative amount is EUR 500 000 and maximum EU co-financing rate of 70% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals is expected to be launched no later than April 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

b) Eligibility

- Eligible applicants are National Statistical Institutes (NSI) or competent Ministries from the EU Member States or other PROGRESS participating countries.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

The proposals will be evaluated and points will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Pertinence with the objectives and time schedule of the action
- Quality of the organisation and coordination of the activities proposed.

4.2. Subdelegations to DIGIT

4.2.1. Memorandum of Understanding signed between DG EMPL and DG DIGIT

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding number DIGIT-00243-00 to cover the hosting of the ESCO portal and its evolution for the period 2010-2014, a subdelegation must be given to DG DIGIT.

For 2012, an amount of EUR 86 000 will be available to DIGIT. This amount represents the expenditure to be incurred by DG DIGIT to provide the services as defined and described under the Article 2 "Subject" of the Memorandum of Understanding signed, related to the expenditure as calculated by DG DIGIT based on the budgeted expenditure and the services to be provided.

5. INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT

5.1. Delegation to CEDEFOP (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) - Labour Skills Demand and Supply - anticipation tools – Studies

This delegation of skills anticipation tasks is in accordance with the "New Skills for New Jobs" initiative launched by the European Commission following the Council Resolution of November 2007 and the adopted EPSCO Council conclusions on the 10 years of European Employment Strategy (EES), which refer to this initiative as one of the five areas for the future of the EES and stress that *"Member States and the Commission should give priority to the implementation of the New Skills for the New Jobs initiative"*. The Commission's Annual Progress Report (COM(2007)803) to the Spring European Council 2008 therefore refers explicitly to a skills forecasting activity (*"the Commission will make proposals to address the skills gap by improving the forecasting and monitoring of future skills requirements in Europe"*).

The expertise on anticipation of skills developed through CEDEFOP is of direct relevance for the New Skills for New Jobs agenda. The funding in 2012 aims to (i) provide, an update of the skills forecast (to produce reliable evidence and time series that will provide a complete picture of developments in skills and occupation in the EU) and (ii) launch a pilot business survey following previously carried out feasibility study with a view to complementing the skills forecasting activity by providing data from employers.

The indicative amount envisaged for this action during 2012 is EUR 1 100 000.

An agreement laying down the detailed arrangements for the management and control of funds and protection of the financial interests of the Communities will be concluded with CEDEFOP according to Articles 54 2. b) of the Financial Regulation and 41 of the Implementing Rules.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	5 990 000
Calls for proposals	5 100 000
De jure monopolies	890 000
PROCUREMENT	11 045 748
JOINT MANAGEMENT	2150 000
SUBDELEGATIONS	806 760
INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT	1 100 000
TOTAL 04 04 01 01	21 092 508

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 28 485 000 + EUR 740 610 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 29 225 610

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

For 2012, the strategic framework for the annual work plan for the PROGRESS programme will be based on the Commission Communication on EUROPE 2020. The new Strategy, which should enable the EU to move from crisis-effect management to longer-term structural growth, puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: smart growth, sustainable growth, and last but not least, inclusive growth with a view to fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

The "*European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion*" is one of the seven initiatives envisaged by the Commission to support delivery on the "Inclusive Growth" priority and the social inclusion/poverty target. Its objective is to ensure social and territorial cohesion so that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society. Therefore this initiative constitutes, together with the poverty reduction target, the element of the new strategy explicitly reinforcing its social dimension.

Within this context, the close coordination with the Social Protection Committee (SPC) that has been already established will continue and activities undertaken under *PROGRESS* will reflect the European Union's social objectives and in particular the policy priorities set by the SPC as follows:

- Appropriate policy advice, research and analysis relating to the three strands of the social Open Method of Coordination (OMC), with a special focus on active inclusion; child poverty and well-being of children; healthy, active and dignified ageing; adequacy/sustainability balance in pensions; raising the cost-effectiveness of health and social services;
- Training and mutual learning targeted to legal and policy practitioners and other stakeholders, in particular as regards the application of EU rules on social services and on social inclusion policies;
- Promoting social innovation, with special focus on evidence-based social innovation in view of facilitating /supporting social policy in Member States by developing and testing cost-effective experiments or pilot projects in the areas of poverty reduction and social inclusion in line with the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion
- Organising exchanges on policies and promoting the debate on social inclusion and social protection issues through a mutual learning and awareness raising activities;
- Capacity building through support to NGOs and other networking activities as well to national, regional and local authorities and/or other main stakeholders;
- Information and communication activities, including peer review seminars and Presidency events.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. The implementation of the voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services

Objectives and foreseen results:

In October 2010, the Social Protection Committee adopted the voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services. This Framework intends to serve as a reference for defining, assuring, evaluating and improving the quality of social services. By identifying quality principles that these services should fulfil, the Quality Framework aims to develop a common understanding on the quality of social services within the EU. Moreover, by proposing a set of methodological guidelines, it will also help public authorities in charge of organising and financing social services, to develop at the appropriate level, specific tools for the definition, measurement and evaluation of social services' quality. While the implementation of this Quality Framework is voluntary, the document reflects the consensus within the Social Protection Committee.

The purpose of this call for proposal is to promote the voluntary implementation of the Quality Framework adopted by the SPC. Selected projects should propose ways of implementing the Framework for various social services such as long-term care services or homelessness services. Each project can either concern the implementation of the Framework for a specific type of social services or propose a comparative approach covering a variety of social services.

The projects should have a transnational character, involving actors from a well thought mix of eligible PROGRESS-participating countries (at least three), engaging in trans-national information exchange and mutual learning. The projects should be based on the partnership of a variety of stakeholders involved in the organisation, financing, delivery and fruition of social services: local public authorities, service providers and their organisations, organisations representing and advocating the interests of service users, organisations representing social services workers and civil society.

The European Commission expects projects to propose a clear implementation approach and a well conceived strategy to disseminate the results of the project. Particular attention should be paid to the adaptability of the identified implementation approach to the local context and to the transferability of such approach across countries and across sectors.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget should be around EUR 1 000 000. EU financial aid granted will not exceed 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicant has to guarantee co-financing in cash of the remaining 20 %. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Indicative timetable

The indicative timetable envisages the launching of this call in the first semester 2012.

Evaluation Criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)a of the Financial regulation;

b) Eligibility

- Applicants must be a properly constituted and registered legal person, having their registered office in one of the PROGRESS participating countries
- Applicants and partners must be involved in the organisation, financing, delivery and fruition of social services: local public authorities, service providers and their organisations, organisations representing and advocating the interests of service users, organisations representing social services workers and civil society.

Eligibility of the action

- the projects should have a transnational dimension involving partners from a well thought and varied mix of eligible PROGRESS participating countries (at least three) engaging in transnational information exchange and mutual learning
- only seek funding for activities in PROGRESS-participating countries;
- not seek funding for the operating costs of organisations, nor for their general ongoing activities, or for profit-making purposes;

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

Policy criteria

- The degree to which the proposal defines a clear and operational approach to the implementation of the Quality Framework, which meets the objective of this call and is in line with the expected results (30 %);

Organisational criteria

- The extent to which the initiative involves:
 - (i) actors from a good mix of eligible countries whose cooperation would allow for trans-national information exchange and mutual learning;
 - (ii) a broad range of relevant actors such as local public authorities, service providers and their organisations, organisations representing and advocating the interests of service users, organisations representing social services workers and civil society.

The appropriateness of the mix of countries and actors selected will be evaluated on the basis of the justification provided in the proposal, in line with the specific aim pursued by the proposal (20%);

- The clarity and feasibility of the proposed work plan, including timetable and methodology, and in particular its capacity to achieve the planned objectives through well-identified and well-planned activities with clear and attainable time-lines and a clear allocation of tasks and responsibilities among the involved actors. The methodology should clearly explain how the trans-national information exchange and mutual learning will be organised (20 %);
- The scope and effectiveness of the strategy proposed for the dissemination of the results of the project (15 %);
- The quality and relevance of the planned monitoring and evaluation strategy of the initiative and of mechanisms foreseen to ensure the lasting effect of the project (15 %).

1.1.2. Support for the development of a tracking service for private pension entitlements

Objectives and foreseen results

The purpose of this call for proposals is to support private pension stakeholders from several Member States in developing a tracking service for supplementary pension rights. Freedom of movement requires that people who move across borders do not lose their pension entitlements. To facilitate mobility, insurance and employment periods that contribute towards entitlement to statutory social security pensions in different Member States are aggregated under Regulation (EEC) No 883/2004. Together with the principle that benefits are paid out in other countries falling within the scope of the Regulation, this ensures that a person who has worked in more than one Member State does not lose out when it comes to their statutory social security pension entitlements.

However, occupational pensions do not have a similar arrangement, which means that people who move between jobs (including within Member States, if this involves changing occupational pension schemes) may lose out on their occupational pension entitlements. With an increasing reliance on private pension provision for achieving adequate retirement incomes, it becomes more important to move towards a better protection of occupational pension rights of people who change jobs and move across borders.

One challenge people face is to keep track of pension entitlements with different schemes to which they were affiliated during their career. This would be important both for individuals who need to know where they stand in terms of accumulating adequate pension entitlements and for pension providers who need to keep track of their members as they move and change address over very long periods. Responses to the 2010 Green Paper on Pensions supported the idea of building a European tracking service for pension rights.

Under this call, one grant shall be awarded to a partnership of supplementary pension providers (or their associations) willing to cooperate on the development of such a tracking service. The project funded under this call should build on existing experience and be designed in such a way that it could eventually result in an open system that can cover schemes across Europe. The focus of the project should be on identifying technical requirements and proposing and testing solutions that comply with the relevant legal requirements. A close integration with information on statutory pension entitlements should also be envisaged.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget should be around EUR 750 000 for a project duration of up to three years. European Union financial aid granted will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicant has to guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)a of the Financial regulation

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a properly constituted and registered legal person, having their registered office in one of the PROGRESS participating countries at the time of the submission of the application under the call;
- Applicants and partners must be non-profit bodies or organisations: public administrations dealing with private pensions, supplementary pension providers or their representative organisations;
- not have general objectives which, directly or indirectly, conflict with the policies of the European Union or which are linked to an unsuitable image.

The proposal submitted for funding must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- fit in with the activities under the PROGRESS Programme;
- only seek funding for activities in PROGRESS participating countries.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

The grant will be awarded following an assessment of the proposals on the basis of the following criteria:

- Relevance to the general objectives of the call for proposals: *Does the project address the issues raised in this call for proposals?*
- Overall quality of the proposal: *Is the project well designed and clear in its conceptual and practical approach, is the methodology appropriate and does it mobilize the right kind of expertise as well as input from relevant stakeholders? Are the respective roles and responsibilities among the project partners and team members clearly defined, is the work plan appropriate and realistic with regard to the project goals?*
- Development potential of the project: *How likely is the project to lead towards the establishment of a sustainable tracking service that meets the needs of individuals and pension providers across the European Economic Area and countries covered by Regulation 883/2004?*
- Sound cost-efficiency ratio and financial quality of the proposal: *Will the project be cost-effective and achieve results at a reasonable cost to the EU budget?*

1.1.3. Call for proposals for actions related to the development of pension modelling and for support for mutual learning in national pension reform processes

Objectives and foreseen results

This call for proposals aims to support Member State authorities in developing their capacity for monitoring and modelling trends in their pension systems and for designing reforms aimed at strengthening the adequacy, sustainability and safety of pension systems. The call covers three strands of work; each Member State should not submit more than one proposal per strand:

(i) Building administrative datasets and models

Under this strand, support will be given to national authorities wishing to enhance their capacity for analysing the likely outcomes of pension systems in EU Member States through the development of relevant modelling tools and/or administrative datasets. In particular, this capacity building will help to simulate the consequences of pension reforms on future pensions' adequacy and sustainability and to better understand the main drivers of the outcomes. Developing, and having access to, advanced analytical tools that allow monitoring the effects of modernised pension systems is important for evidence-based policy making in this key field of social protection.

Two types of activities can be supported:

- The development of **administrative datasets** to keep track of the labour market participation of workers of different profiles (e.g. low wage earners, those with atypical careers, etc) and of social security entitlements and benefits and other relevant data. This would offer appropriate inputs to analyse the effects of different work and life patterns on pensions benefit and coverage levels.
- The development of **models** to provide a policy-making and analysis tool that simulates the effects of individual behaviour on pension outcomes and the effects of pension reforms on the future adequacy and sustainability of pensions and on the dispersion of individual situations.

(ii) National debates and preparatory work on reforms of public pension schemes

Under this strand, support will be provided to Member States wishing to prepare reforms aimed at achieving the objectives defined within the open method of coordination applied to social protection and social inclusion (the 'social OMC') in the European Union. Reform reflections should be carried out in the light of country specific recommendations issued in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and taking also into account projections and findings of different EU reports (e.g. the 2010 EPC-SPC Joint Review on pensions, the 2012 Ageing Report). They should focus in particular on strategies for raising effective retirement ages as a key to achieving long-term adequacy and sustainability of pensions and should take into account equity considerations and the gender dimension.

The main purpose of the support will be to facilitate access to experience and expertise from other countries and international organisations (e.g. in the form of OECD-led country reviews).

(iii) Developing policies to enhance the contribution of complementary savings to adequate pensions

Under this strand, support will be provided to Member States who want to review and improve their policy framework for private pension provision and complementary savings to ensure that these can make a stronger contribution to adequate incomes in old age. Issues such as the safety of investments, transparency and good governance of such pension and savings schemes, the cost-effectiveness of public support, labour market compatibility (e.g. portability) as well as gender and distributional aspects should be taken into account. The involvement in projects of the relevant non-governmental stakeholders (notably the social partners when occupational schemes are considered) is strongly encouraged.

The main purpose of the support will be to facilitate access to experience and expertise from other countries and international organisations with relevant experience.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget allocated for this call for proposals will be EUR 2 500 000. The EU contribution will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicant has to guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%. The Commission expects to select projects in all three strands. Although a balance will be sought, no specific amounts have been yet allocated per strand.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and (96(2)a of the Financial regulation

b) Eligibility

Eligibility of the applicant

Applicants must

- Be a properly constituted and registered legal person, having their registered office in one of the PROGRESS participating countries at the time of the submission of the application under the call;
- Be the competent national public authority or a public agency expressly mandated in writing by the competent national authority to assume responsibility for the implementation of the action ;

Eligibility of the proposals

The proposal submitted for funding must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- the proposed activity must fit in with the activities under the PROGRESS Programme;

- must only seek funding only for activities in PROGRESS participating countries.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

The grants will be awarded following an assessment of the proposals on the basis of the following criteria:

- Relevance to the general objectives of the call for proposals: Does the project address the issues raised in this call for proposals?
- Potential impact on policies in the applicant country: Is the project likely to contribute to the development of better policies and lasting progress in line with EU social policy objectives with regard to healthy, active and dignified ageing?
- Overall quality of the proposal: Is the project well designed and clear in its conceptual and practical approach, is the methodology appropriate and does it mobilise the right kind of expertise as well as input from relevant stakeholders, are the respective roles and responsibilities among the project partners and team members clearly defined, is the work plan appropriate and realistic with regard to the project goals?
- Relevance of the proposal for the EU policy debate: Will the project be relevant to policy makers and stakeholders in other countries participating in PROGRESS and yield potentially transferrable results?
- Sound cost-efficiency ratio and financial quality of the proposal: Will the project be cost-effective and achieve results at a reasonable cost to the EU budget?

1.1.4. Call for proposals for transnational projects on social experimentation

Objectives and foreseen results

This call for proposals will seek to promote social experimentation as a source of social innovation in the social programs and policies falling within the open method of coordination applied to social protection and social inclusion (the social OMC) in the European Union.

Through its flagship initiative 'European Platform against Poverty', the Europe 2020 strategy emphasises the crucial role of social innovation to ensure economic, social and territorial cohesion and calls for future EU funding programmes to focus more on societal challenges and citizens' social needs.

Selected projects should contribute to developing and testing socially innovative approaches to EU policy priorities in the context of the European open method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion such as active inclusion of persons excluded from the labour market, prevention and alleviation of child poverty and promotion of their well-being, strengthening of the accessibility, quality and viability of health care and long-term care (both institutional care and alternative community based care), fight against housing exclusion and homelessness, and social inclusion of migrants and ethnic minorities, notably the Roma.

The social experimentation projects have to include partnerships between different European stakeholders that are involved in the process of social innovation: public bodies, local authorities, civil society, private sector etc.

The relevant transnational projects - concerning at least two Progress participating countries - should address issues such as networking activities of partners, methodologies to evaluate the social experimentations and strategies to generalise social experimentations' into broader policy measures or programmes or to implement them at larger scales.

The European Commission could consider disseminating the results of the relevant projects to the European Social Fund authorities to review and adapt this instrument for the scaling-up of the successfully tested social innovations.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget should be around EUR 3 500 000. EU financial aid granted will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicant has to guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20%. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)a of the Financial regulation

b) Eligibility

Eligibility of the applicant

- They should be properly constituted and registered organisations (legal person) established in one of the PROGRESS participating countries (including the EFTA/EEA countries, the candidate countries and the pre-candidate countries), with an established administrative and financial management structure.

- Applicants must be public authorities, state/semi-state agencies at central, regional or local level of the PROGRESS participating countries.

Eligibility of the proposal

The proposal submitted for funding should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Only seeks funding for activities in PROGRESS participating countries.
- The projects should have a transnational dimension including partners from at least one other Progress participating country.
- Be carried out by a partnership made up of at least two categories of stakeholders involved in the process of social innovation: public authority, or state/semi-state agencies at central, regional or local level, and at least one civil society organisation (NGO, social enterprise, etc).

Including academic structures and/or profit-making enterprises, and/or public, civil society, private or academic partners from other PROGRESS countries in the wider partnership is strongly encouraged.

- Have to organise at the final stage of the project a peer review involving all project partner(s).
- May not foresee direct financial support to the members of the target groups.

c) Selection

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 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. The applicant must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

d) Award

Policy Criteria

- Relevance of the project to the specific objective of this call: promotion of a social experimentation as defined in this call.
- Relevance of the background analysis: the extent to which the proposal presents a well-supported diagnosis of the social needs to be addressed and demonstrates the relevance of the proposed social experimentation to advancing social programmes and policies.

- Quality of the social experimentation design: relevant and clear objectives, target groups, activities, project outcomes; final achievement and impact evaluation framework to assess its outcomes and to evaluate its impacts in both economic and social dimension. Preference is given the comparison between experimental group(s) with similar control group(s), but alternative evaluation methodologies are accepted as long as the impact of the measure being tested is credibly ascertained.
- Quality of the "up-scaling" strategy (the ability of the project to be implemented at a larger scale or into broader policy measures, including its sustainability).

Organisational Criteria

- Effectiveness and rationality of the proposed methodology and organisation (including the timetable)
- Quality of partnerships: good balance between partners (public sector, civil society, academic structures, private sector etc.).
- Quality of the framework for project monitoring, evaluation and peer review.
- Quality of the communication and awareness-raising strategy.

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. The events described below, 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.

The procedures will be launched during the first semester for events during the Danish presidency and during the second semester for the Cypriot presidency. The essential criteria used to evaluate the application for grant will be:

- a) Relevance to the general objectives and priorities set for the social inclusion strand of Progress;
- b) Sound cost-efficiency ratio and financial quality of the proposal.

1.2.1. De jure monopolies – Presidency event

1.2.1.1. Cypriot Presidency Conference on Social Protection

An event during the second semester of 2012 under the Cypriot Presidency will be co-financed by the Commission, focusing on the adaptation of social protection systems to ageing societies.

The indicative amount for the conference is EUR 300 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.1.2. Cypriot Presidency MISSOC Network meeting

A meeting during the second semester of 2012 with MISSOC correspondents will be co-funded as part of the Cypriot Presidency of the European Union. The meeting will take place in October 2012. The meeting will focus on the updating of the MISSOC database and documents and develop proposals for the continued improvement of the MISSOC deliverables. The target audience consists of the MISSOC correspondents from the Member States.

The indicative amount for the conference is EUR 150 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.1.3. The second Annual Convention on social exclusion and poverty

The second annual Convention on social exclusion and poverty is planned for the second semester of 2012. It will be organised by the Cypriot Presidency and in consultation with all the relevant actors (social partners, representatives of the European Parliament, of the Council, of the Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions, of regional and local authorities and representatives of NGOs).

The estimated amount of the grant is EUR 350 000. The EU grant will not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.1.4. Irish Presidency Conference on Social Protection

An event on social protection issues in the context of the Europe2020 strategy will be co-financed by the Commission under the Irish Presidency.

The indicative amount for the conference is EUR 300 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.1.5. Irish Presidency MISSOC Network meeting

A meeting with MISSOC correspondents will be co-funded as part of the Irish Presidency of the European Union. The meeting will take place in May 2013.

The meeting will focus on the regular updating and continued improvement of the MISSOC deliverables. The target audience consists of the MISSOC correspondents from the Member States.

The indicative amount for the conference is EUR 150 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.1.6. Twelfth meeting with people experiencing poverty

The Irish presidency will organise the twelfth meeting of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. The event will take place in Brussels in May-June 2013.

The indicative amount for the conference is EUR 300 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action.

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.

1.2.2. De facto monopolies

1.2.2.1. EUROMOD

EUROMOD is the only micro-simulation tool currently available for modelling the impact of a given set of policy measures on a specific outcome (poverty rate, financial situation of households, etc) in a comparable way across countries.

The Commission has identified EUROMOD as a key tool to enhance its capacity for quantitative policy evaluation in the context of Europe 2020 and of the OMC on social protection/inclusion and it is necessary, in order for EUROMOD to serve its specific purpose of policy evaluation, to upgrade it to cover all EU MS and to ensure its regular updating.

A three-year partnership agreement was signed in 2011 with the University of Essex. The second specific grant agreement based on the partnership agreement will be signed in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Indicative global amount and maximum possible rate of co financing

The total budget for the specific agreement to be signed in 2012 should be around EUR 1.500 000, the EU financial aid granted will not exceed 80 % of the total of the eligible costs.

1.3. Grants on the basis of framework partnership agreements

EU-level Networks active in promoting social protection and inclusion

Objectives:

Reinforce the capacity of the selected organisations to take part in the development of social protection and inclusion policies and objectives

Justification:

PROGRESS Decision limits the maximum amount of EU co-funding to 80% of the total expenditure incurred by the recipient, unless exceptional circumstances duly justified.

PROGRESS mission 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 PROGRESS Decision.

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 EU funding will annually gradually decrease. 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 call for proposals VP/2007/013 and VP/2010/012.

The exceptional circumstances for exceeding the 80% ceiling will be duly justified in the specific award decisions.

Indicative timetable:

On the basis of the call for proposals VP/2010/012 14 framework partnership agreements were signed in the fourth quarter of 2010 for a period of 3 years. The first specific agreements were signed in the fourth quarter of 2010, covering the period 1.1.2011-31.12.2011; the second specific agreement will be signed in the fourth quarter of 2011, covering the period 1.1.2012-31.12.2012.

A third specific agreement will be signed with partners in the fourth quarter of 2012 covering the period 1.1.2013-31.12.2013

Indicative amount and maximum co-financing rate:

The indicative amount for the specific agreements to be signed in 2012 will be EUR 10 000 000. Co-financing will be maximum 81 % of the total eligible costs for 2012 as established in Commission Decision C (2007) 1451 of 2 April 2007.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 7 225 610

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. ASISP – Network of independent social protection experts

The Commission needs to be regularly updated on the evolution of social protection systems across the EU and the socio-economic impact of social protection reforms. The contract for this monitoring activity (VC/2010/0650) will run out in 2012 and a call for tenders will be launched to select a new contractor who will collect information focusing on the analysis and evaluation of major trends in national security systems and their key components (mainly health care, long-term care and pensions). The contractor will provide semi-annual reviews of research and studies done on the socio-economic impact of reforms in the field of social protection in all the EU Member States.

The call for tender will be published during the second quarter of 2012.

2.1.2. Small-scale studies and support for the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" and the OMC for social protection and social inclusion

The aim is to cover short-term needs in relation to analytical work by ad-hoc literature, reviews, analysis, research and fact finding including contributions to seminars and conferences.

The calls will be launched throughout 2012.

2.1.3. Consultancy work to produce input for the 2014 progress report on sustainable, adequate and safe pensions in the EU

Following the White Paper on Pensions (to be adopted in November 2011), the Commission services will prepare a progress report on adequate, sustainable and safe pensions in 2014. A contractor will be selected by the end of 2012 to support the Commission services in gathering appropriate evidence throughout the year 2013 for this progress report.

The call for tender will be published during the second quarter of 2012.

2.1.4. European research excellence network for social experimentation

This network, to be set up from existing scientific networks and evaluation practitioners communities, should become a reference for : i) helping public authorities who are willing to test policy reforms and to design a social experimentation project; ii) providing expertise and rigorous methods to evaluate these projects; iii) training evaluators and experts in this field; iv) contribute to establishing and capitalizing on the lessons and experiences learned from on-going and completed projects (which reforms do work and in which context); v) contributing to the organisation of workshops/learning seminars at EU level on the subject. The deliverables would include meetings, virtual tools, handbooks and operational guides, etc

The call for tender will be published during the second quarter of 2012.

2.1.5. Framework contract for training on EU rules applying to SSGI

A training programme for local public authorities on EU rules applying to SSGI will be developed, which will encompass the preparation of a training package and the organisation of trainings in a number of Member States.

The call for tender will be published in the third quarter of 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1 Seminars and conferences within the context of the SPC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion

Seminars and conferences will be organised on various social protection and social inclusion themes. A maximum of 50 service orders will be launched throughout the year on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.2. Evaluation and impact assessments

Activities in relation to social evaluation and impact assessments will be implemented through a maximum of 3 service orders based upon DG EMPL multiple framework contract 'Evaluation and Impact Assessment activities' concluded on 21 April 2009 (5 lots – VC/2009/0035 to VC/2009/0056), for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

2.2.3. Eurobarometer (Social climate, active and dignified ageing, social impact of the crisis)

Since 2009, the Eurobarometer survey on Social Climate offers a timely review of the EU citizens' perceptions of the socio-economic situation. It covers people's views on their personal situation, the general situation in the country and on the role of social protection and social inclusion policies meant to address these situations. This survey will contribute to enrich existing administrative, economic statistical data from an attitudinal point of view.

The survey may include specific questions related to the issue of active and dignified ageing. The survey provides input for the Quarterly Monitors and Annual Reports published by DG EMPL.

The related specific contracts will be based upon the DG COMM framework service contract for Eurobarometer surveys PO/2008-15/A3 concluded on 1 April 2009 for a period of 12 months and renewable 3 times.

In addition it is envisaged to conduct short Eurobarometer telephone surveys, as input to the analysis and reporting on how citizens are faring in the current socio-economic context. A maximum of 5 related specific contracts carried out throughout the year will be based upon the DG COMM framework contract PO/2010-30/A2 Flash surveys, signed on 18 of July 2011.

2.2.4. Communication and networking activities

These activities will aim to raise awareness and promote debates on social inclusion/social protection related issues at European and national (or sub-national) level and will particularly cover information on and follow-up of the results obtained through the different activities developed under PROGRESS as well as networking activities between the different stakeholders involved at European and national (or sub-national) level.

These activities will be implemented throughout the year through a maximum of 10 service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011).

2.2.5. Translation of documents related to social inclusion and social protection

This activity will be implemented throughout the year through a maximum of 20 service orders on the basis of the service contract concluded with the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the EU (VC/2008/0585) in July 2008 for a period of 12 months, thereafter tacitly renewable for successive periods of twelve months.

2.2.6. Training on social inclusion/social protection

These trainings for training for national administrators will be implemented throughout the year through a maximum of 20 service orders on the basis of the framework contract VC/2011/109 concluded on 22 February 2011 valid 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.7. Training on EU rules applying to SSGI

A training programme for local public authorities on EU rules applying to SSGI will be developed, which will encompass the preparation of a training package and the organisation of trainings in a number of Member States. These activities will be implemented on the basis of the framework contract to be concluded in 2012 (see item 2.1.5).

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1. Secretariat for MISSOC- the Mutual Information System on Social Protection

The contract VC/2011/0528 concluded in the fourth quarter of 2011 for a period of 12 months, renewable up to three times, is envisaged to be renewed for the first time in the fourth quarter of 2012 for further 12 months.

2.3.2. Peer Review in Social Protection and Social Inclusion Programme

A contract following the call for tender VT/2011/002 published in July 2011 will be concluded in the fourth quarter 2011. This contract will run for a period of 12 months, renewable up to three times and it is envisaged to renew for the first time in the fourth quarter 2012 for further 12 months.

2.3.3. Network of independent expert on social inclusion

A contract following the call for tender VT/2011/003 published in July 2011 will be concluded in the fourth quarter 2011. This contract will run for a period of 12 months, renewable up to three times and it is envisaged to renew for the first time in the fourth quarter 2012 for further 12 months.

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.

3.1. Cooperation with the OECD

The Commission has signed on 4/04/2006 a Contribution Agreement with the OECD which represents a long term framework agreement with the Commission.

3.1.1. EC/OECD project on efficient public support for occupation and private pension provision

An individual agreement for a project on efficient public support for occupation and private pension provision 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. Supplementary pension schemes (2nd and 3rd pillar) are likely to play an increasingly important role in securing adequate incomes in retirement.

The purpose of this joint project is to explore ways in which public authorities can foster the development of high-quality supplementary pension schemes at low costs for individuals, employers and public budgets. The project should focus in particular on the effectiveness and efficiency of tax incentives, taking into account their distributional impact.

OECD has the highest degree of expertise and experience in the field of social policy, tax related matters and private pensions.

The estimated amount for this action is EUR 400 000.

3.1.2. EC/OECD project on jobs, wages and inequalities

The project is a follow up of the EU expert conference on inequalities held November 2011, in which the OECD participated actively. A 2011 report of the OECD on the causes of growing inequalities brings together evidence that over the past two decades before the crisis, the majority of EU countries witnessed a widespread increase in earnings disparities and household income inequality. Joint management has been chosen because the project will be jointly elaborated with the partner organisation. The aim of this joint management project is to analyse the consequences of the recent economic crisis on inequalities and to undertake further analysis to assess the long-term trends in wage and income inequality and their key drivers. The consequences of the evolution of top incomes for inequalities and for tax policies will also be analysed.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 500 000.

3.2. Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is carrying out extensive work on the issue of the "shared" responsibilities for social inclusion. This work can usefully contribute to the work done at EU and Member State level in the context of the Open Method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion, and in particular on the overarching objective of good governance, transparency and involvement of stakeholders.

The estimated amount for this action is EUR 300 000.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
GRANTS	20 800 000
Calls for proposals	7 750 000
De jure monopolies	1 550 000
De facto monopolies	1 500 000
Grants to partners	10 000 000
PROCUREMENT	7 225 610
JOINT MANAGEMENT	1 200 000
TOTAL 04 04 01 02	29 225 610

04 04 01 03 - PROGRESS – WORKING CONDITIONS

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 8 525 000 + EUR 221 650 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 8 746 650

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The PROGRESS activities in this section will cover the following fields:

Labour Law

The main objective of this section is to support the Commission's role in controlling the implementation of EU labour legislation in Member States and promoting its adaptation in line with the principles of Better Regulation, by monitoring and evaluating the transposition of EU Directives into national legislation, assessing the impact of legislative proposals, promoting cooperation among Member States and social partners, and contributing to improved dissemination among citizens, workers and enterprises, of their rights and obligations as derived from the application of EU labour law.

Health and safety at work

A special attention will be given to the launching of studies to support a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the OSH directives in the 27 Member States (legal obligation from Article 17a of Directive 89/391/EEC), to actions to foster a better implementation of existing EU OSH legislation, to the promotion of greater involvement of labour inspectors in encouraging the effective and equivalent enforcement of Community law throughout the European Union through the activities of SLIC (Senior Labour Inspectors Committee) such as raising awareness campaigns and exchange of national inspectors. It is also intended to organise the biannual EU-USA OSH conference which will concentrate on emerging risks due to new technologies and working methods.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. GRANTS

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.

1.1.1. De jure monopolies– Presidency events

Description and indicative timetable

Conferences and awareness-raising events on working conditions included in EU Presidencies' programmes for 2012.

At least two conferences and events will be organised by each of the Presidencies in 2012 (Danish and Cypriot) on matters related to industrial relations, workers' rights and health and safety at work. The indicative global amount for all the events is **EUR 600.000**. The maximum Commission co-financing rate is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Two of these events are the "thematic day" of the SLIC meeting which is organised by each Presidency and for which it is envisaged to grant a maximum co-financing amount of EUR 50 000 per meeting.

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 European Union activities, the Member State responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a monopoly.

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

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the list of priorities agreed between the respective Presidency and the Directorate-General 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.

The procedures will be launched during the first semester for events during the Danish presidency and during the second semester for the Cypriot presidency.

1.1.2 De facto monopolies

1.1.2.1 Grant to the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)

ICNIRP is a body of independent scientific experts. It is recognised non-governmental organisation in non-ionising radiation for the World Health Organisation, the International Labour Organisation and the European Commission. Its principal aim is to disseminate information and advice on the potential health hazards of exposure to non-ionising radiation. ICNIRP is independent from industry in both membership and funding and the experts do not represent their countries of origin or their institutes, and therefore it is the only possible interlocutor for the Commission in this area. The principle of awarding a grant to this body was decided by the Commission in 1992¹⁶.

Their expertise is brought to bear on addressing the important issues of possible adverse effects on human health of exposure to non-ionising radiation.

Indicative amount: an amount of **EUR 25 000** is envisaged for the co-funding of the ICNIRP's work programme for 2012. The grant agreement should be signed by the end of March 2012.

¹⁶ *Decision to grant an annual subsidy of ECU 25 000 to the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) of 2 December 1992 (PE/1992/1717).*

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for the procurements is **EUR 7 321 650**

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. Developing a non-binding guide to help improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the protection of workers from Work Related Vehicle Risk to improve the understanding of both employers and workers of the risks associated with the use of a vehicle at work, by providing practical advice on how to comply with the requirements of Directive 89/391/EEC and in particular the use of risk assessments.

The call for tender is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.2. Comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the OSH directives in the 27 Member States (legal obligation from Article 17a of Directive 89/391/EEC) – as required by Article 17a(4) of this directive. It should evaluate the implementation of the Directives on health and safety at work in terms of their relevance, of research and of new scientific knowledge in the various fields in question.

The call for tender to carry out such evaluation is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.3. Study on Mental Health in the Workplace

This study will cover essentially three aspects:

- 1.** Whether the current EU OSH legal framework, individual / ad hoc approaches and practices and partnership agreements address specifically, effectively, efficiently and sufficiently, workplace mental health aspects.
- 2.** Elaborate a range of scenarios on how to improve the current *status quo*, from a legal standpoint or otherwise.
- 3.** Elaboration of as practical as possible set of guidelines that any worker and manager can resort to.

The call for tender is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.4. Supplementary study to analyse and evaluate the health, social, economic and environmental impact of a possible EU initiative on the protection of workers' health from risks related to exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke at the workplace

This study will aim at gathering specific additional information identified, during the preparation of an analytical document supporting the second stage of social partners' consultation, as necessary to support a full impact assessment of a possible initiative on the protection of workers' from risks related to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS).

The call for tender is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2012.

2.1.5. *Study on the economic and social impact of EU labour legislation*, in particular the interaction between frameworks established at EU level for protection of workers and employment trends, particularly in view of achieving Lisbon objectives such as increased employment participation rates for women, older workers and younger workers; the measurement of productivity effects arising from measures to improve working conditions; the new insights can be gained into the relationship between core levels of worker protection, and the creation and maintenance of employment and skills.

The call for tender is expected to be launched in the second semester of 2012.

2.1.6. *Database on transnational company agreements: updating and maintenance*

As part of the Commission's support to transnational company agreements and as requested by the stakeholders, a searchable on-line database on such transnational agreements between companies and workers' organisations has been established in 2010 on the Commission's website. It contains over 200 full texts of these agreements in different languages as well as sheets with details on every company and agreement. A series of criteria, such as headquarter country, topic or sector are provided for simple and advanced search in English, French and German. To fulfil its objectives, the database needs to be maintained and updated, notably to include new agreements concluded and to update information sheets. This requires mainly data collection, verification, analysis, translation and input on the website.

Indicative timeframe: launch of call in first quarter 2012.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. *Biannual EU-US Conference on OSH issues*

The conference will be the 7th of this kind, organised under the umbrella of the 1995 New Transatlantic Agenda. The event will convene OSH experts from both sides of the Atlantic representing governments, social partners and research institutions to exchange views and information on topical issues in the area of health and safety at work. It will be organised through service orders based on DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no; 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.2. *Networking, information and communication on the results of the PROGRESS "Working conditions" strand*

The action will aim at identifying activities to promote the sharing of information, to organise events, and to assess the quality of the website in the area of EU labour law. The aim is to inform citizens on the rights, benefits and opportunities created by EU labour law legislation. The aim for the decision-makers is to inform them on new legislation and changes of policies, as well as to promote networking and disseminate good practices.

These activities will be organised through service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011) and on new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.3. Meetings of working groups in the field of labour law

These activities will be organised through service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.2.4. Conference on Labour Law

This conference, for an audience of participating countries, social partners, universities and research institutes, will be organised through service orders based on new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).

2.3 Renewals

2.3.1. Establishment, organisation, management and coordination of a European network of legal experts in the field of labour law to assist the Commission in its role of ensuring a correct application of EU law across all Member States, and to reinforce its capacity to anticipate any problems that may eventually arise as a consequence of application, by analysing the legal issues raised by EU directives, to inform on legal developments taking place in Member States in areas covered or related to EU labour law, to provide a forum for an open discussion and exchange of information, and to improve awareness and encourage public debate on topical issues of interest for EU labour legislation.

The contract (VT 2011/065 published in the Official Journal no. 2011/S 144-238005 on 29/07/2011) to be signed end 2011 is renewable 3 times. The first renewal is expected to be signed end 2012.

3. JOINT MANAGEMENT

International organisations in the field of health and safety at work

There are other international bodies active in the area the health protection, hygiene and safety at work, in particular the United Nations. Hence, some tasks relating to this objective are executed jointly with other specialised international organisations. The financing of organisations set up by the United Nations is based on the bilateral agreements between the Commission and these organisations, by signing the "Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement" (FAFA) between the European Communities and the United Nations of 29/04/2003.

Indicative amounts

- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organisation: **EUR 60 000**
- Centre International d'Information de Sécurité et Santé au Travail (CIS) de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail : **EUR 50 000**
- World Health Organisation (WHO) : **EUR 165 000**

4. OTHER INTERVENTIONS

4.1. Exchange of national inspectors

To promote greater involvement of labour inspectors in encouraging the effective and equivalent enforcement of European Union law throughout the European Union.

This action stems from the priorities set-out by the Community strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work (COM(2007) 62 final), in particular, its point 4.2 "*Reinforcing cooperation in efforts to monitor the application of legislation*", as well as, from the Commission decision setting a Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (95/319/CE), in particular its Article 3§4: "promoting the exchange of inspectors between national administrations and the development of training programs for inspectors".

An indicative amount of EUR 90 000 is reserved for this activity. The Commission's financial contribution will be limited to reimbursing travel and subsistence expenses under the current rules on the reimbursement of experts' expenses

4.2 Committee of experts on posting of workers

A Commission Decision of 19 December 2008 has set up a committee of experts on posting of workers as a follow-up to the Commission Recommendation of 4 April 2008 on enhanced administrative cooperation. The committee should promote the identification and exchange of good practices in the field of posting of workers and provide support to the development of an electronic exchange system between national administrations.

An indicative amount of EUR 135 000 is envisaged for this activity. The Commission's financial contribution will be limited to reimbursing travel and, where appropriate, subsistence expenses under the current rules for the reimbursement of external experts' expenses.

4.3 Administrative arrangement with JRC

On the basis of an administrative arrangement, DG EMPL intends to use the expertise of JRC whose role will be to provide scientific and technical support to DG EMPL for the work to be done for the Scientific Committee of Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL). The work will consist namely on the collection of information and the preparation of a number of preliminary evaluation documents for identified priority chemical substances.

An indicative amount of EUR 300.000 is foreseen for this action in 2012.

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN €</i>
GRANTS	625.000
De jure monopolies - Presidency conferences	600.000
De facto monopolies - ICNIRP	25.000
PROCUREMENT	7.321.650
JOINT MANAGEMENT	275.000
OTHER INTERVENTIONS	525.000
TOTAL BUDGET LINE 04.04.01.03	8.746.650

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 1 354 000 + EUR 35 204 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = EUR 1 389 204 (Total amount)

1. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 1 389 204.

1.1 Calls for tender

1.1.1. Preparation of the ex post evaluation of the EU programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS 2007 – 2013

According to article 19.3 of Decision No 1672/2006/EC, an ex-post evaluation covering the whole Programme shall be carried out, by 31 December 2015, by the Commission with the assistance of external experts, in order to measure the impact of the Programme objectives and its European added value.

The call for tender should be launched in the second quarter of 2012, and allow for an assessment on availability of data and approach to follow.

1.2. Use of existing framework contracts

1.2.1. Information and communication

This activity involves timely communication and debate on policies and activities supported by Progress. It will include meetings with key-stakeholders and information dissemination (web and various publications).

This activity will be implemented through

- a maximum of 15 service orders based on: the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender published in the second quarter of 2011 under the reference VT/2011/001 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 072-116736 on 13/04/2011).
- a maximum of 10 service orders based on: the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011) ".

1.2. Renewals

1.2.1. Monitoring of the performance of the EU programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS 2007 – 2013

Renewal of a contract which will be signed before the end of this year (call for tender VT/2011/016 launched 6 June 2011)

SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
PROCUREMENT	1 389 204
TOTAL 04 04 01 06	1 389 204

04 04 03 01 – EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS – CONTRIBUTION TO TITLES 1 AND 2

04 04 03 02 – EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS – CONTRIBUTION TO TITLE 3

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 of the Council of 26 May 1975 on the creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (OJ L 139, 30.5.1975, p.1), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1111/2005 of 24 June 2005 (OJ L 184, 15.7.2005, p. 1).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

04 04 03 01 – EUR 13 265 379

04 04 03 02 – EUR 7 023 721

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The budget line is intended to finance the activities of a Decentralised Agency, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, whose role is to contribute to the planning and design of better living and working conditions in Europe.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

For 2012, a contribution of EUR 13 265 379 is foreseen to cover the Foundation's staff and administrative expenditure (titles 1 and 2), while a contribution of EUR 7 023 721 is foreseen to cover the Foundation's operating expenditure for the work programme (Title 3).

04 04 04 02 EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK – CONTRIBUTION TO TITLES 1 AND 2

04 04 04 03 EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK – CONTRIBUTION TO TITLE 3

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC) No 2062/94 of 18 July 1994 establishing a European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OJ L216 20.8.1994, p.1) last modified by Regulation (EC) No 1112/2005 (OJ L 184, 15.7.2005, p.5).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS¹⁷

04 04 04 02: EUR 6 978 964 + EUR 181 453 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 7.160 417

04 04 04 03: EUR 7 590 736 + EUR 197 359 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 7.788 095

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

Title 1 and 2 appropriations are intended to cover the personal expenses and the payment of buildings, equipment and miscellaneous operating expenditure and office facilities.

Title 3 appropriations are intended to finance the operational expenditures of the Agency's activities.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

For 2012, a contribution of EUR 7.160 417 is foreseen to cover the Agency's staff and administrative expenditure (titles 1 and 2).

Activities for which the operational costs will be financed from title 3 are defined in EU-OSHA's draft 2012 annual management plan which defines activities in four mission-related areas:

- European Risk Observatory
- Working Environment Information
- Communication, Campaigning and Promotion
- Networking and Coordination

Total amount for Title 3 in 2012 is EUR 7.788 095.

Activity levels in the four mission-related areas have been adjusted following the consequences of the European Parliament and Council's earlier decision to finance the Galileo project.

¹⁷ Including EUR 200.000 from Spanish and local authorities and EUR 112.000 estimated budget outturn 2010

The 2012 activities are implemented within the Agency's 2009-2013 Strategy which aims at ensuring a decisive contribution from EU-OSHA to the implementation of the Community Strategy on OSH 2007-2012.

04 04 15 – EUROPEAN PROGRESS MICROFINANCE FACILITY**LEGAL BASIS**

Decision No 283/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2010 ('the Decision') establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for Employment and Social Inclusion ('the Facility').

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 24 750 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The objective of European Progress Microfinance Facility (article 2 of the Decision) is to increase access to, and availability of, microfinance for:

- (a) persons who have lost or are at risk of losing their job, or who have difficulties entering or re-entering the labour market, as well as persons who are facing the threat of social exclusion or vulnerable persons who are in a disadvantaged position with regard to access to the conventional credit market and who want to start or further develop their own micro-enterprise, including self-employment;
- (b) micro-enterprises, especially in the social economy, as well as micro-enterprises which employ persons referred to in point (a).

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED IN 2012**1. SUBDELEGATIONS**

For 2012, an amount of EUR 24 750 000 will be available to ECFIN (which will implement these instruments on the basis of Commitments Agreements).

The budgetary allocations for 2012 will finance:

- Guarantee instruments to be implemented by the European Investment Fund on behalf of the Commission under the fiduciary management agreement between the Commission and the European Investment Fund. The corresponding budgetary allocation will be of EUR 4 750 000.
- Funded instruments to be implemented by the specialised investment fund, created with the involvement of the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund. The corresponding budgetary allocation will be of EUR 20 000 000.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
SUBDELEGATIONS	24 750 000
TOTAL 04 04 15	24 750 000