



**DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion**

## **Annual work programme of grants and contracts for 2012 (update)**

[Commission Decision C(2012)4690 du 11 July 2012]

## SUMMARY

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

This draft follows Decision C(2012)1432<sup>1</sup>. It constitutes an amendment to this decision which concerns the appropriations added by the Budgetary Authority upon adoption of the budget for the implementation of three pilot projects (new lines 04 03 08, 04 04 01 16, and 04 04 01 17). The other changes have no financial implications, since they involve only a reallocation of the appropriations within the budget lines concerned. These changes are taken into account in this amendment because they are considered to be substantial.

This amendment aims to make some adjustments to DG EMPL's work programme in order to incorporate the actions to be financed by these new appropriations, and to introduce changes which are essential to the proper implementation of DG EMPL's work programme in order to optimise the use of the available appropriations.

The draft Decision concerns the following budget lines:

- 04 03 04: Eures (European employment services)
- 04 03 08: Pilot Project – Promoting protection of the right to housing
- 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 16: Pilot project - Health and safety at work of older workers
- 04 04 17: Pilot project - Activation measures targeting young people - implementing the 'Youth on the Move' initiative

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

- awarding grants and
- public procurement

The Annex to the draft amending Decision sets out, for each budget line concerned, the details of the various actions scheduled by DG EMPL for 2012 to be financed from the appropriations earmarked for the promotion of initiatives in the fields 'Youth on the move', 'Agenda for New Skills and Jobs' and the 'European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion'.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision C(2012) 1432 of 08.03.2012 adopting DG EMPL's annual programme of grants and contracts, serving as a financing decision for 2012.

## ANNEX

The Annex is amended as follows:

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

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

<i><b>ACTIONS</b></i>	<i><b>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</b></i>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>89 248 020</b>
Calls for proposals	47 253 020
De jure monopoly	2 790 000
De facto monopoly	15 205 000
Grants to partners	24 000 000
<b>Contributions to agencies</b>	<b>35 237 612</b>
<b>Procurement</b>	<b>41 777 037</b>
<b>Joint management</b>	<b>5 590 000</b>
<b>Subdelegations</b>	<b>29 092 535</b>
<b>Indirect centralised management</b>	<b>3 100 000</b>
<b>Other interventions</b>	<b>525 000</b>
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>204 570 204</b>

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 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 out meta-analysis, preparation of workshops/seminars.”

- (2) In Chapter **04 03 04 - EURES (EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES)** the following point 2.2.8 is added:

“2.2.8. *External evaluation of the Preparatory Action "Your first Eures job"*

This activity 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. The evaluation will be launched during the third quarter 2012 under the third renewal of the framework contract which will be signed on 21/04/2012 for a duration of 12 months.”

- (3) After Chapter **04 03 07- ANALYSIS OF AND STUDIES ON THE SOCIAL SITUATION, DEMOGRAPHICS AND THE FAMILY** the following Chapter **04 03 08 – PILOT PROJECT – PROMOTING PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT OF HOUSING** is inserted.

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<b>04 03 08 – PILOT PROJECT – PROMOTING PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT OF HOUSING</b>
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#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Pilot project within the meaning of 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) as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

#### **AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS**

EUR 1 000 000

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR**

This pilot project is intended to support a Union active inclusion strategy, promoting common recognition of fundamental rights. In this context, protecting the main private residence against seizure and preventing the loss of rented housing by low-income families (where the property is mortgaged) should be seen in the framework of the wider right to housing assistance, as recognised by Article 34(3) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED**

### **1. PROCUREMENT**

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

### 1.1. Calls for tender

A study of national measures to forestall domestic property repossession where this would result in homelessness of the owner or a tenant, analysis of the relation of such policies to the notion of a right to housing and assessment of the scope for a common minimum framework to limit seizure of homes. The measures to be studied may encompass social benefits and allowances specifically for homeowners and tenants and services that may be available to help them.

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

#### SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
<b>PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>1 000 000</b>
<b>TOTAL 04 03 08</b>	<b>1 000 000</b>

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(4) Chapter **04 04 01 01 - PROGRESS - EMPLOYMENT** is amended as follows:

(a) Point 1.2.1.2. is replaced by the following:

#### “1.2.1.2. Presidency Conferences

Two major Presidency conferences will be organised in 2012 to discuss employment-related topics, one 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 500 000 for the two events (EUR 250 000 each) and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.”

(b) Point 2.1.2. is replaced by the following:

*“2.1.2. Two studies 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 third quarter of 2012.”

(c) the following Point 2.1.5. is inserted:

*“2.1.5. European Employment Observatory service contract is aimed to provide a regular information base for European Employment Strategy policy-makers and stakeholders; independent assessment of labour market trends and policies; network of national labour market experts; publications and website maintenance.*

The contract is envisaged for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

The indicative timeframe for launching the procedure is the third quarter of 2012. The new contract will enter into force in May 2013 once the current service contract ended (cfr. Point 2.3.1. – renewal)”

(d) Point 2.2.1.1. is deleted.

(e) Point 2.2.1.2. is deleted.

(f) Point 2.2.1.4. is deleted.

(g) Point 2.2.1.5. is deleted.

(h) Point 3.1.2. is replaced by the following:

*“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 915 000.”

(i) Point 3.2.1. is replaced by the following:

*“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 400 000 for 18 months.”

(j) the following Point 3.3.2. is inserted:

*“3.3.2. Joint management project with World Bank on Policy Analysis in the Western Balkans*

The Joint Management project with the World Bank is a follow-up to the operational conclusions for cooperation in the fields of employment and social policies agreed at the High level meeting between EMPL and the World Bank. Its purpose is to develop evidence for policy assessment and capacity-building as regards employment and social policies in the Western Balkans and Turkey in order to strengthen the knowledge base of the Commission.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 150 000.”

(k) the following Point 3.4 is inserted:

**“3.4. ICMPD**

*3.4.1. Joint management project with the ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) on labour market outcomes of regularised migrants.*

The aim of the proposed empirical research project is to run a feasibility study establishing a rigorous methodological approach aiming to identify processes and outcomes of various migrant regularization measures and their impact on migrants’ employment trajectories. The project will review trends in eight EU Member-States which are representative of the variety of socio-economic clusters within the EU.

On the basis of the methodological approach to be tested by this project, DG EMPL will consider the launching next year of a large scale study project which could help drawing a better understanding on the labour market outcomes of different policy approaches to regularization.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 100 000.”

(l) The summary table on page 67 is replaced by the following table:

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**SUMMARY TABLE**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>5 740 000</b>

Calls for proposals	5 100 000
De jure monopolies	640 000
<b>PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>10 630 748</b>
<b>JOINT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2 815 000</b>
<b>SUBDELEGATIONS</b>	<b>806 760</b>
<b>INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>1 100 000</b>
<b>TOTAL 04 04 01 01</b>	<b>21 092 508</b>

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(5) Chapter **04 04 01 02 - PROGRESS – SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION** is amended as follows:

(a) Point 1.2.1.1. is replaced by the following:

**“1.2.1.1. CYPRIOT PRESIDENCY CONFERENCE ON CHILD POVERTY**

An event during the second semester 2012 under the Cypriot Presidency will be co-financed by the Commission, focusing on child poverty and children's well-being.

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

(b) Point 1.2.1.3. is deleted.

(c) Point 2. is replaced by the following:

**“2. PROCUREMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 7 415 610.”

(d) Point 2.1.3. is deleted

(e) Point 2.2.1. is replaced by the following:

*“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 or specific contracts 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) and based on the DG AGRI Framework contract AGRI-

2012-0024 (ABAC30-CE-0476530/00-58) signed on 15 February 2012 for a duration of 48 months.”

(f) Point 2.2.4. is replaced by the following:

*“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 or specific contracts based on the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that will be concluded following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal no. 2011/S 135-223581 on 16/07/2011) and based on the DG AGRI Framework contract AGRI-2012-0024 (ABAC30-CE-0476530/00-58) signed on 15 February 2012 for a duration of 48 months and based on DG Comm Framework contract for services linked to information campaigns and communication, valid until 23 January 2016.”

(g) Point 3.1.2. is replaced by the following:

*“3.1.2. EC/OECD cooperation 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 660 000.”

(h) The summary table on page 86 is replaced by the following table:

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**SUMMARY TABLE**

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>20 450 000</b>
Calls for proposals	7 750 000
De jure monopolies	1 200 000
De facto monopolies	1 500 000
Grants to partners	10 000 000
<b>PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>7 415 610</b>
<b>JOINT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>1 360 000</b>

<b>TOTAL 04 04 01 02</b>	<b>29 225 610</b>
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- (6) Chapter **04 04 01 03 - PROGRESS – WORKING CONDITIONS** is amended as follows:

(a) Point 2 is replaced by the following:

**“2. PROCUREMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for the procurements is **EUR 5 181 650.**”

(b) Point 2.1.6 is replaced by the following:

*“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. The coordination of maintenance and update on European agreements will be subject to a call for tenders while the update and development on international agreements will be subject to a joint project with the ILO (see under 3.2).

Indicative timeframe: launch of call in second quarter 2012.”

(c) Point 3 is replaced by the following:

**“3. JOINT MANAGEMENT**

**3.1 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**

### **3.2. Joint project with ILO**

The Commission intends to carry out a joint project for the updating and development of the database on transnational company agreements it established in 2011 (see under 2.1.6). Joint wishes have been expressed for an increased cooperation between ILO and DG EMPL over this instrument: The ILO is ready to actively contribute to the update and development of the database for agreements having an international scope, in particular international framework agreements on fundamental rights at work. ILO is the most appropriate organisation to carry out this work as a database of international agreements has already been created by ILO and there is an organisational structure in place to deal with such agreements. The Commission will focus more directly on agreements having a European scope and on the overall maintenance of the database. The joint project would facilitate synergies and information on transnational company agreements and increase visibility of both ILO's and EU's initiatives in this field. 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 technical setting and control of the action.

Indicative amount: EUR 40 000

Indicative timetable: project to be launched in second quarter 2012

### **3.3 Joint project with ILO on combating undeclared work.**

The Commission intends to carry out a joint project in the area of combating undeclared work with the ILO.

Undeclared work is a complex phenomenon and fighting it requires a comprehensive approach. On one hand cooperation between labour inspectorates and other enforcement



bodies (social security authorities, tax authorities) must be improved. On the other hand, deterrence measures should be accompanied by prevention measures and measures to enable greater compliance.

This project will aim to seek good practices in a selected number of European countries and will identify how Labour Inspectorates in particular are tackling the fight against undeclared work.

The individual agreement will be elaborated jointly and contain detailed provisions for the implementation of the tasks.

Indicative amount: EUR 100 000.”

(d) the following Point 5 is inserted:

**“5. SUBDELEGATIONS**

**5.1 Subdelegation to ESTAT - Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2013 ad hoc module on accidents at work and work-related health problems**

Commission Regulation (EU) No 220/2010 of 16 March 2010 adopting the programme of ad hoc modules, covering the years 2013 to 2015, for the labour force sample survey provided for by Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 includes an ad hoc module on accidents at work and other work-related health problems to be conducted in 2013. The objective of the ad hoc module is to collect self-reported data on accidents at work, work-related health problems, their burden in terms of absenteeism and exposure to factors adversely affecting health. This data collection complements the administrative statistical sources such as European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) and European Occupational Disease Statistics (EODS) giving a more comprehensive picture of health and safety at work in the EU. The results of the LFS 2013 ad hoc module will allow a comparison of the trends with the LFS AHM 2007.

This will help to support analysis underpinning health and safety at work policy.

Indicative amount: EUR 2 000 000.”

(e) The summary table on page 94 is replaced by the following table:

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**SUMMARY TABLE**

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN €</i>
<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>625.000</b>
De jure monopolies - Presidency conferences	600.000
De facto monopolies - ICNIRP	25.000
<b>PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>5.181.650</b>
<b>JOINT MANAGEMENT</b>	415.000
<b>OTHER INTERVENTIONS</b>	<b>525.000</b>

<b>SUBDELEGATIONS</b>	2.000.000
<b><i>TOTAL BUDGET LINE 04.04.01.03</i></b>	<b>8.746.650</b>

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- (7) After Chapter **04 04 15 – EUROPEAN PROGRESS MICROFINANCE FACILITY**, the following Chapters **04 04 16 PILOT PROJECT - HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK OF OLDER WORKERS** and **04 04 17 - Preparatory Action — Activation measures targeting young people - implementing Youth on the Move initiative** are added:

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<b>04 04 16 PILOT PROJECT - HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK OF OLDER WORKERS</b>
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#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Pilot project within the meaning of 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), as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1525/2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p. 9).

#### **AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS**

EUR 2 000 000

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR**

Based on the European Parliament's study on new forms of physical and psychosocial health risks at work (IP/A/EMPL/FWC/2006-205/C1-SC1) and its resolution on the Community strategy 2007-2013 on health and safety at work (OJ C 41 E, 19.2.2009, p. 14), this pilot project should enhance the implementation of the recommendations and the exchange of best practice with the assistance of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA).

The main objective of the project is to develop company toolkits to promote the health and safety of older workers. The toolkits should include tools to improve the workability and employability of older workers.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED**

## **1. INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT**

The indicative amount envisaged for this action during 2012 is EUR 2 000 000.

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 OSHA according to Articles 54(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation and 41 of the Implementing Rules." In particular, it will specify that the Commission only delegates specific implementation tasks decided by the Commission, and how the Commission will ensure the monitoring and supervision of this pilot project.

As the main beneficiaries of the toolkits should be enterprises, particularly SMEs, emphasis will be made on the development of tools which are easy to integrate within existing company systems. In addition, the project will be supported by EU-OSHA's research into the best way to improve uptake of the tools by the intended beneficiaries.

The toolkits should include tools and guidance on these aspects:

- Analysing the age and gender profiles of the company and assisting good age management at enterprise level: identifying future challenges and promoting a balance between younger and older workers.
- Sharing best practices in workplace health promotion, including those identified by Member States and existing European networks, e.g., European Network of Workplace Health Promotion (ENWHP)
- Sharing best practices in ‘return to work’ and rehabilitation policies and protocols, including guidance on promoting the workability of workers with chronic diseases.
- Developing career models for certain (strenuous) professions and/or sectors, ensuring that workers’ tasks and training throughout their working lives match their skills and capacities (building on existing examples developed for sectors such as healthcare, construction, agriculture or cleaning)
- Including age-related aspects in risk assessment, as part of the promotion of diversity awareness in risk assessment

EU-OSHA will launch a call for tender for the development of the toolkits. The work of the contractors will be complemented with input from an Expert Group set up by the Agency to support its activities on this topic. The Agency will also use its network of focal points to gather information on existing case studies and good practice. It will also cooperate closely with Eurofound in order to make good use of the information already collected by both agencies. The progress of the project will be monitored by the Agency’s Advisory Groups, which include representatives from the governments, social partners and the Commission. 2 conferences will be foreseen, one at an early stage to present case studies and one to present the final results.

#### SUMMARY TABLE

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
<b>INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>
<b>TOTAL 04 04 16</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>

<b>04 04 17 - Preparatory Action — Activation measures targeting young people - implementing Youth on the Move initiative</b>
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#### **LEGAL BASIS**

Preparatory action within the meaning of 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 4 000 000

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR**

- **General objectives:**

In the framework of Europe 2020 and the European Employment Strategy, the "Youth on the Move" flagship initiative<sup>2</sup>, launched in September 2010, presented a framework of policy priorities for action at national and EU level to reduce youth unemployment, with particular focus on facilitating the transition from school to work and reducing labour market segmentation. The Commission called in particular upon Member States to ensure that all young people are in a job, further education or activation measures within four months of leaving school and to provide this as a 'Youth Guarantee'.

In June 2011, Council Conclusions<sup>3</sup> on youth employment invited Member States to strengthen cooperation with the social partners, employment services and other labour market stakeholders, and education and training bodies where appropriate, in particular where young people are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs), promoting their return to education, training or the labour market, which could be achieved by developing an integrated approach similar to the 'youth guarantee' already developed in a number of Member States.

In the preparation for the budget 2012, the European Parliament backed up this approach and asked the Commission to implement a preparatory action (PA) for supporting the setting-up of Youth Guarantees (YG) in Member States, for which a budget of EUR 4 000 000 is made available.

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<sup>2</sup> COM (2010) 1047 of 15 September 2010

<sup>3</sup> Council Conclusions 11838/11 of 17 June 2011 on promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives

In response to the dramatic rise of youth unemployment in many Member States, the Commission launched the "Youth Opportunities Initiative"<sup>4</sup> (YOI) in December 2011, calling for immediate action to be taken in 2012 and 2013, both by Member States and by the Commission, including the implementation of the PA-YG.

At the informal European Council of 30 January 2012, the Commission President called upon Heads of States and Government to urgently step up action tackling youth unemployment.

The European Council statement stated that *"a particular effort needs to be made immediately at national level [...] to reduce youth unemployment by stepping up efforts to promote young people's first work experience and their participation in the labour market: the objective should be that within a few months of leaving school, young people receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship"*.

Building upon existing YG approaches in some Member States (e.g. Austria, Finland and Sweden) and on analytical work undertaken in 2011 by the EU network of public employment services (PES)<sup>5</sup>, the PA will support Member States (as well as regions and local authorities) with youth unemployment rates above EU average (22.4% in January 2012) with activation measures targeting young people through projects in the context of Youth Guarantee schemes.

The practices developed through the PA shall be continued and further developed in Member States with the support of the Structural Funds, in particular the European Social Fund, in the new financing period (2014-2020). In this respect, the *"Elements for a Common Strategic Framework 2014 to 2020"*<sup>6</sup> proposes that *"a key action for the European Social Fund is to contribute to the sustainable integration of the NEETs into the labour market by the introduction of a 'Youth Guarantee', with a particular focus on apprenticeship-type vocational training and internships for graduates to acquire first work experience"*.

- **Priorities of the year:**

Launch of a call for proposals in the third quarter of 2012 and selection of proposals, so that grant agreements can be concluded with beneficiaries before the end of 2012.

Launch of a call for tenders before the end of 2012 (using existing Framework Contract in the field of evaluation).

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<sup>4</sup> COM (2011) 933 of 20 December 2011.

<sup>5</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=105&newsId=1009&furtherNews=yes>

<sup>6</sup> SWD (2012) 61 final of 14 March 2012



## 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 activation measures targeting young people through projects in the context of Youth Guarantee schemes at national, regional or local level*

###### *Objectives*

For the implementation of the PA YG, a call for proposals will be launched in the third quarter of 2012 for the submission of project proposals supporting:

- Cooperation between relevant actors/stakeholders to carry out activation measures targeting young people in the context of Youth Guarantee schemes. Relevant stakeholders would be supported locally in providing counselling and help regarding the implementation of a Youth Guarantee.
- A specific focus should be put on programmes at local level for young people at risk of leaving education early: to develop their skills and, in this context, put a special focus on the networking between all relevant stakeholders (such as companies, schools, youth welfare services, employment services, etc.) as an important measure to improve the integration of young people into the labour market;
- In regions and local areas where youth unemployment rates are above the EU average and/or well above the national average, the Commission is willing to support innovative approaches that apply to young people facing multiple barriers to labour market entry, in particular those living in rural, deprived urban, remote and peripheral areas.
- In order for the PA YG to feed into the next programming period of the Structural Funds, in particular of the ESF, each project should deliver results that are replicable and transferable within and between Member States; therefore each project should provide analytical and methodological findings (including success and failure factors) focusing in particular on the nature of the established partnership, on its ability to deliver the planned activities and to ensure the replication/transferability of the project's results.

The applicant should involve in the implementation of the proposed action other relevant actors/stakeholders (such as<sup>7</sup> national, regional or local authorities, public, private or third sector employment services, ESF managing authorities, education and vocational training institutions, universities, social partners, chambers of commerce, associations of

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<sup>7</sup> Non exhaustive list – each application will have to demonstrate the relevance and quality of the proposed partnership in relation to the specific situation

employers, youth welfare and social services, youth clubs and associations, and any other relevant community actors)

*Foreseen results:*

The experience gained from the projects selected under the call for proposals will provide Member States with various schemes, patterns and practical recommendations for establishing Youth Guarantees with a view to the future Union funding schemes relevant to young people and labour market integration, paving the way for future ESF action.

To that end:

- Their potential for replication/transferability will be assessed and formalised, through an overall external on-going evaluation exercise, in order to be shared within (where implemented at regional or local level) and between Member States;
- A valorisation conference will be organised at the end of 2013 to present the various schemes, patterns and practical recommendations resulting from this call. National authorities should ensure that ESF managing authorities are involved in this conference in order to make sure that all results validated by this conference are taken up in the future ESF planning.

Having regard to the budget appropriations available, the call is expected to support **at least 15 projects** implementing activation measures targeting young people in the context of YG schemes at national/regional/local level **in as many Member States as possible**.

*Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing*

The total indicative budget for this call is EUR 3 600 000.

The European Union's financial contribution will not exceed **95% of the total eligible costs** of the action.

*Indicative timetable*

The call for proposals will be launched in the third quarter 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*

To be eligible, applicant organisations/institutions:

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

and can be either:

- national, regional or local authorities, or
- social partners, or
- public employment services.

To be eligible, actions must be:

- linked to the objectives of the call for proposals;
- implemented in cooperation with other relevant actors/stakeholders (such as national, regional or local authorities, ESF managing authorities, public, private or third sector employment services, education and vocational training institutions, universities, social partners, chambers of commerce, associations of employers, youth welfare and social services, youth clubs and associations, and any other relevant community actors); each proposal should ensure the participation of at least four of the following types of organisations/institutions: public authorities, education sector, employment sector, youth sector or social partners;
- fully carried out at national, regional or local level in one of the Member States of the EU.

#### *c) Selection*

Only organisations/institutions 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, which fulfil the exclusion, eligibility and selection criteria, will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

- The extent to which the proposed action meets the objectives and priorities of the call;
- 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 quality of the proposed partnership, including the degree of commitment, at the application stage, of the different types of organisations/institutions to be involved in the implementation of the proposed action;
- 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;
- The added value i.e. the expected lasting impact, the potential for replication/transferability of the action;
- Visibility of the action;
- The cost-effectiveness of the action;
- The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation.

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

## **2. PROCUREMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 400 000

### **1.2. Use of existing framework contracts**

#### *1.2.1. Evaluation and evaluation related services*

The above mentioned overall external on-going evaluation of the results delivered by all selected actions as well as the organisation of a conference meant to share and validate these results will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL multiple framework contracts "Provision of support in the DEVELOPMENT AND PILOT-TESTING OF METHODS AND TOOLS for evaluations, evaluation related activities, including impact assessments in the framework of DG EMPL activities", concluded on 21 April 2009 (5 lots – VC/2009/0035 to VC/2009/0056), for a period of 12 months, renewable three times).

**SUMMARY TABLE**

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
<b>GRANTS</b>	<b>3 600 000</b>
Calls for proposals	3 600 000
<b>PROCUREMENTS</b>	<b>400 000</b>
<b>TOTAL 04 04 17</b>	<b>4 000 000</b>

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