



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.3.2012
C(2012) 2295 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.3.2012

concerning the adoption of the 2012 work programme for the operational and non-operational technical assistance at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission in the framework of the European Social Fund, serving as a financing decision

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.3.2012

concerning the adoption of the 2012 work programme for the operational and non-operational technical assistance at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission in the framework of the European Social Fund, serving as a financing decision

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999¹, and in particular Article 45(3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities² and in particular Articles 75 and 110 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities³ and in particular Article[s] 90, 168(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 75 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, the commitment of expenditure from the Union budget should be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (2) In accordance with Article 110 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, grants are subject to an annual work programme which, according to Article 166 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, specifies the basic act, the objectives, the schedule of calls for proposals with the indicative amount and the expected results.
- (3) The 2012 work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework within the meaning of Article 90(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, this Decision constitutes both a financing decision and a work programme of grants and

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p.25.

² OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

procurement. This work programme implements Article 45(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

- (4) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 83 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and Article 106(5) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (5) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 90(4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Coordination Committee of the Funds and the opinion of the Committee under Article 163 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The list of technical assistance actions at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission which shall be financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) in 2012, as set out in Annexes I and II, is hereby adopted.

It constitutes both a financing decision in the meaning of Article 75 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and a work programme of grants and procurement in the meaning of Article 110 of this Regulation.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for these actions is set at € 26,000,000.00 and shall be financed from the following Budgetary Lines of the General Budget of the European Union for 2012:

- Budgetary Line no 04.022000: €10,000,000.00 (Annex I)
- Budgetary Line no 04.010401: €16,000,000.00 (Annex II)

These appropriations shall cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Cumulated changes⁴ to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20%⁵ of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 are not considered to be substantial within the meaning

⁴ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

⁵ The percentage rate (not exceeding 20% in any event) must be determined by taking into account the maximum Community contribution authorised by the Decision. Therefore, if the maximum Community contribution is significant, a reasonable percentage (in any event not exceeding 20%) must be chosen.

of Article 90(4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such changes in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and principle of proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 30.3.2012

For the Commission
Siim KALLAS
Vice-President

ANNEX I

Operational technical assistance

ANNEX II

Non-operational technical assistance

ANNEX 1

INTRODUCTION:

This list contains the actions planned in 2012 by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion concerning the budget heading for "operational technical assistance": 04.022000.

These appropriations shall cover interest due for late payment.

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

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
<i>GRANTS</i>	2,500,000
<i>Calls for proposals</i>	2,500,000
<i>PROCUREMENT</i>	7,200,000
TOTAL AMOUNT	9,700,000

DETAILED LIST OF ACTIONS:

Budget heading

04.022000 Operational technical assistance

BASIC ACT

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 45(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

€10,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1.1 Calls for proposals

The global budgetary envelope reserved for calls for proposals is EUR 2,500,000

1.1.1 Transnationality Learning Networks Call

Objectives and foreseen results

The call for proposals will finance transnational networks and the development and exchange of good practice on a thematic topic supported by the ESF

The foreseen results are the exchange seminars, policy fora, peer reviews, networks and communities of practice on thematic and horizontal issues.

Indicative amount and possible maximum rate of co-financing

Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted:

EUR 2,500,000

The *maximum rate of co-financing* is set at 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Indicative timetable

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

May 2012.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

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

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

ESF Managing Authorities – whether national or regional – designated pursuant to Art 59 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, Intermediate Bodies and public administrations in charge of policy supported under the ESF.

An Intermediate Body may apply, provided that:

- it is a public authority (at national or regional level); and
- it has been designated to carry out tasks referred to in Art. 60 a) to c) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, and is responsible – for the territory of the OP in question – in particular for selecting, promoting, analysing, monitoring and supporting actions, for the priority axis related to the key issues of the network; and
- it has been mandated by the relevant ESF Managing Authority to submit a proposal under this call.

To be eligible, applications must:

- include signed letters of commitment from **Managing Authorities or Intermediate Bodies from at least five other Member States**, confirming that they would carry out the tasks foreseen in the application, have the resources and capacities to actively contribute to, and have the potential to use the results of, the network.

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 will be assessed according to the following award criteria:

A. Strategy aiming to transform learning into policy messages in order to influence policy change / adaptations

- quality and appropriateness of the partnership, in particular the extent to which it involves a good mix of Member States and Regions and a broad range of experience in participating in a transnational partnership;

- quality and appropriateness of the diagnosis of the issue(s) to be addressed and the assessment of its relevance across Europe, including a solid mapping of relevant actors and stakeholders, political agenda and actions;
- quality of the indication of the expected results, and description of activities to achieve these results;
- strategy to identify, assess and document good practice to be able to actively contribute to network activities;
- strategy for developing/reinforcing links and synergies with national and regional networks relevant for the network's domain of activities

B. Organisation of work

- the extent to which the network meets the specific objectives of the call,
- the extent to which the work programme is clear, realistic and well detailed, in particular as regards the definition of the domain of the network, its objectives, and how to transform learning into clear and realistic policy messages;
- the extent to which realistic time-lines and well defined and planned value chains of activities are set;
- the partnership's capacity for achieving the desired results, by means of a clear allocation of tasks and responsibilities amongst the partners;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed managerial and organisational approach, including arrangements for decision-making and details of the roles and contributions of each partner to the network's learning;
- quality of the method proposed to ensure effective communication and collaboration between the network partners, including the approach to handle languages;
- quality of the method for disseminating experience, practice and results to other Member States and regions, including to ESF managers and policy makers;
- approach to mobilise competencies and experience from a broad range of institutions, and to integrate them in the network;
- quality and relevance of the planned monitoring, including a system of regular reporting by all the network's partners;
- quality and relevance of the external evaluation arrangements.

C. Effectiveness and potential impact

- strategy for using the results of the network for improving the quality, efficiency and impact of ESF programmes;
- strategy to raise awareness on issues related to the network's domain;
- synergies with other ESF Learning Networks, with other EU-level relevant networks and with other EU Programmes and actions;
- quality for mainstreaming innovative validated policies and practices into national and regional ESF programmes and other relevant policies and programmes;
- quality and relevance of mechanisms foreseen to ensure the lasting effect of the network;
- measure the impact and effectiveness of policies related to the network's domain, including the elaboration, testing and validation of relevant indicators;
- relevance for, and approach to, make an impact on EU policies, actions and agendas, in particular by transforming learning into policy messages in order to influence policy change relevant to the specific theme/issue.

D. Financial quality

- a reasonable and detailed budget, reflecting the actual financial needs of the action, as well as a realistic contribution from the partnership;
- the extent to which the application presents good value for money.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 7,200,000

2.1 New procurement procedures to be launched in 2012 (3 contracts)

2.1.1 ESF data collection support office

The contract will offer guidance for Member States on the definition of common and recommended indicators, on the collection of the data and their transmission to the Commission through SFC.

The objective of the action is to improve the capacity of ESF managing authorities to provide data on participation in ESF co-financed measures.

The expected results are more reliable and consistent data on participations in measures supported by the ESF.

The call is foreseen to be launched in the first semester of 2012.

2.1.2 Interactive database on studies on New Job for New Skills

The objective is to obtain an animation of an interactive web site compound by 3 elements (library, forum and a wiki part) called "anticipedia".

This will enable the different stakeholders working in the field of adaptation and New Skills for New Jobs (public bodies, experts, trade unions and businesses) to share information.

The call will be launched in the second semester 2012.

2.1.3 Youth Opportunities Initiative

The objective of the contract is to support Member States in the setting up of support schemes for young business starters and social entrepreneurs.

This initiative is in line with the Youth Opportunities Initiative Communication. The expected result is to contribute to speed up of ESF implementation and to use the ESF as much as possible to get young people back into education, training and jobs.

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

2.2 Specific contracts to be signed under existing framework contracts (15 contracts)

2.2.1 Campaign on the modernised social security coordination

The contract will buy promotional material for the campaign.

The objective is to improve the capacity of ESF managing authorities to enhance the mobility of workers throughout Europe. The campaign should improve the life of EU Citizens by giving them better job prospects in the framework of the EU 2020 strategy. This contract will contribute to the effectiveness of the ESF supported labour mobility actions.

It is expected that there will be a greater awareness among EU citizens about the modernised social security coordination. The campaign will inform citizens about their rights & information obligations.

These activities will be organised through the conclusion of specific contract(s) based on the DG EMPL framework contract VT/2011/051.

The contract will be signed in the second quarter of 2012

2.2.2 Contracts for the development and rolling out of the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI)

Contracts are needed for the development of the software tool and for the implementation of the tool in the MS.

The objective is to enhance the mobility of workers throughout Europe. Citizens exercising their right of free movement within the EU will profit of EESSI by giving them better job prospects. This contract will contribute to the effectiveness of the ESF supported labour mobility actions.

The expected results are to grant social security benefits to mobile citizens in a speedy & efficient way & provision of electronic exchange of information between social security national institutions.

The contracts will be allocated under existing framework contracts of DG DIGIT ESP DESIS 2 Nr 06750 to 6775 in first, second, third and fourth quarter of 2012.

2.2.3 Study of the contribution, added-value and effective governance of the ESF in relation to European political priorities

The study will analyse the contribution and the added value of the ESF in DE in relation to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and the ESF-delivery in relation to the complementarities and possible overlaps between regional and federal programmes.

This study will provide the Commission services with a clearer picture of the contribution and the added-value of the ESF, in order to identify areas for future ESF-investment corresponding to European political priorities and of the ESF-delivery in relation to the complementarities and possible overlaps between regional and federal programmes. It will help the Commission services to with the development of ESF-strategies for MS for the next programming period (2014-2020) taking the above findings into account.

It is expected that this study will enable able to identify the contributions and the added-value of the ESF in a MS in terms of process, volume, scope and innovation, in order to identify areas for future investment of the ESF corresponding to European political priorities, in particular the Europe 2020 strategy. It is also expected that the Commission services will get a better picture of ESF-delivery and will be able to assess the possible gains as well as the possible losses of both complementarities and overlaps between regional and federal programmes and the current ESF-governance structure in a MS.

The contract will be allocated in the second quarter under Lot N°1 Employment, VT/2008/087 in the framework of the Multiple Framework Contract for the Evaluation.

2.2.4 Preparatory studies for the ESF 2007-2013 ex post evaluation

The objective is to prepare the ex-post evaluation at EU-level of the ESF operational Programmes 2007-2013.

The studies are expected to lay the ground for the launching of the ESF ex post evaluation 2007-2013 by providing information about data availability in the Member States and get insight on modalities regarding the evaluation approach and methodologies.

The contract will be allocated in the second quarter of 2012 under Lot N° 4 or 5 of VT/2008/087 in the framework of the Multiple Framework Contract for the Evaluation.

2.2.5 Transnationality support Office

The objective of the contracts is to offer on the one hand administrative and logistic support to organise exchange seminars, peer reviews, networks and communities of practice on thematic and governance issues and on the other hand to perform an evaluation of the transnationality learning networks. The contracts shall contribute to speed up the dissemination and use of good practice, methods and tools in order to improve the effectiveness and quality of ESF interventions and to evaluate the transnationality learning networks.

The expected results are good practice fiches, policy briefs, background documents, web articles; animation of meetings and workshops, articles for brochures and publications.

The existing contract VC/2011/0136 to AEIDL will be renewed in the first or second quarter of 2012.

For the evaluation a contract will be signed under in the second or third quarter of 2012 badge 2 of the EMPL evaluation framework contracts VT/2011/327; 316; 333; 334 or 339.

SUMMARY INFORMATION ESF OPERATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Budget heading 04022000	Commitments	Payments
Available budget	10,000,000	...
Proposed budget	9,700,000	---
Difference	300,000	---

ANNEX II

INTRODUCTION:

This list contains the actions planned in 2012 by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion concerning the budget heading for "non-operational technical assistance": 04.010401.

These appropriations shall cover interest due for late payment

.

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

<i>ACTIONS</i>	<i>INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR</i>
<i>PROCUREMENT</i>	8,110,000
<i>STAFF EXPENDITURE OTHER THAN OFFICIALS</i>	5,000,000
<i>MEETINGS</i>	710,000
<i>MISSIONS</i>	1,500,000
<i>REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPERTS</i>	500,000
<i>SUBDELEGATION</i>	150,000
TOTAL AMOUNT	15,970,000

DETAILED LIST OF ACTIONS:

Budget heading

04.010401. Non-operational technical assistance

BASIC ACT

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 45(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

€16,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR **8,110,000**

1.1 Use of existing framework contracts (95 contracts)

1.1.1 EMPL audits

The objective of the action is to increase the number of audits and to give the Commission services a better view on assurance level of Managing & Control Systems in MS. This will consist of re-performance audits of project audits of 2007-2013 & possibly closure audits 2000-2006.

These activities will be organised through the conclusion of specific contract(s) based on the DG EMPL/REGIO/MARE joint framework contract on audit services: VC/2009/876,877,878. This Framework contract will be renewal for 2 years in 2012 as foreseen at point I.2.5 of the framework contract.

1.1.2 Contract to support EMPL audits

The contract has the objective to develop an audit IT Tool. This will enable the Commission to monitor efficiently the audit activities of Commission auditors.

The expected result is to provide auditors and managers an integrated environment to better organise and monitor audit tasks and associated files.

These activities will be organised under an existing framework contract DIGIT/R2/PO/2009/029 Software acquisition Channel (SACHAI)

1.1.3 EMPL audits tools

The objective is to develop an IT risk scoring tool. This tool will strengthen the Structural Funds management and control systems. It will lead to Identifying irregular circumstances of SF and CF operations and providing a list of the riskiest operations per Operational Programme.

These activities will be organised through specific contracts under an existing framework contract DIGIT/R2/PO/2009/029 Software acquisition Channel (SACHAI).

1.1.4 Development & maintenance of computer programs (intra muros)

The purpose is to develop & maintain software applications for the management of the Structural Funds pertaining to the daily operational maintenance, corrections & evolution of existing applications, assistance to users (helpdesk), and analysis & development for 2007-13 period and seminars with Member States on SFC 2007-2013.

The result will be the development & maintenance of efficient management tools. It will contribute to the implementation of management tools for structural funds.

These activities will be organised under a DIGIT framework contract

1.1.5 Establishment & maintenance of equipment (hardware / software) required for the transaction of business

The objective is to purchase, replace & maintain software & equipment (PCs, laptops, printers, servers), cost of licensing software applications, small expenses & associated actions including a contribution for hosting IT Tools in the Calculation Centre.

This will allow the replacement of obsolete equipment and to acquire equipment according to population increase, to maintain equipment & software.

These activities will be organised under a DIGIT framework contract.

1.1.6 Technical assistance for the daily operation of systems & training & user support

The purpose is to provide for the Service helpdesk, user support for desktop & applications, managing servers and computer databases. It will be at the benefit of the users of the computer services.

The result will be the provision of logistics services & computer services.

These activities will be organised under a DIGIT framework contract.

1.1.7 ESF Communication services

The contractor(s) will ensure the maintenance and update of ESF website, preparation of ESF publications, media relations and development of audiovisual products, awareness raising campaigns as well as other communication functions and tools. This will contribute to the improvement of the information provision on ESF, highlighting results of ESF and enhancing the public image of ESF & knowledge about ESF among general public.

It will result in an up-to-date website, publication of various documents, production of audiovisual material and overall increased information availability for the general public.

These activities will be organised through the conclusion of specific contract(s) throughout 2012 based on VC/2010/0038, DI/06763,, DI/06760, DI/06764, VT/2011/051, DG COMM framework contract for services linked to the organisation of information and communication campaigns (PO/2011-9/A1), DG SCIC framework contract (*SCIC/S6/2011/FWC/01*).

1.1.8 OPOCE

The objectives are the publication, printing dissemination and storage of ESF publications produced in all Community languages.

This will result in high quality information available to general public.

These activities will be organised throughout the year under OP framework contract CC 10084.

1.1.9 Maintenance/updating of Transnational Toolkit

The existing Transnational Toolkit has to be updated. It will result in a tool for Managing Authorities involved in ESF transnational activities to help them to better implement the operations.

These activities will be organised under a DIGIT framework contract in the first quarter of 2012.

1.1.10 Organisation of Conferences

The objective is to organise ESF-related events (logistical support/travel expenses/catering, etc.). These events will contribute to highlight what the ESF does. It will contribute to a better knowledge of the fields of intervention of the ESF and the value-added of ESF.

These activities will be organised through service orders under new SG framework contracts during the year 2012: VC/2011/0137; VC/2011/0197; VC/2011/0198; VC/2011/0199; VC/2011/0200.

1.1.11 Conferences and workshops on restructuring

The objective is to organise conferences and workshops concerning restructuring. These for a are an opportunity for exchanges and discussions, the fora play an important role in helping trade unions, businesses and workers to tackle the current challenges. The fora meet on a regular basis to tackle specific issues on restructuring and adaptation with the aim to collect, promote & disseminate useful information.

These activities will be organised under SG framework contracts during the year 2012: VC/2011/0137; VC/2011/0197; VC/2011/0198; VC/2011/0199; VC/2011/0200.

2. EXPENDITURE ON STAFF OTHER THAN OFFICIALS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for expenditure other than officials is EUR **5,000,000**

The expenditure will be spent on staff other than officials (contract agents/national experts on secondment/agency workers) to perform technical tasks to implement the ESF. It will result in assistance implementing the ESF in 2012.

3. MISSIONS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for missions is EUR **1.500,000**

The objective is to pay the mission expenses for DG EMPL staff - other than officials - involved in the programming, monitoring & control of the ESF. These missions will contribute to the programming, implementation & monitoring on-the-spot activities supported by the ESF – control & audit of the ESF.

This will result in local work with the Member States and a good coverage in terms of control & audit of activities supported by the ESF.

4. MEETINGS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for meetings is EUR **710,000**

The objective is to pay the costs associated with meetings of groups of experts associated with the ESF (in particular, the ESF Committee) throughout 2012.

These ESF Committee is a Treaty based Committee that assists the Commission with the administration of the ESF.

The result will be a better adherence to regulatory requirements & better coordination with the Member States.

5. REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPERTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for reimbursement of experts is EUR **500,000**

The objective is to pay for the expenses of experts invited by the TASK FORCE FOR GREECE. This will contribute to measures aimed at partners from the ESF. It will contribute to a better operation implementation and budget execution of the Greek ESF OP's for the period 2007-2013.

6. SUB-DELEGATION TO DIGIT

6.1 Memorandum of understanding signed between DG EMPL and DG DIGIT

Following the signature of a memorandum of understanding to cover the hosting of the 2 IT tools in a data-centre, a sub-delegation must be given to DG DIGIT. For 2012 an amount of **EUR 150,000** will be available to DIGIT. This amount represents the expenditure to be incurred by DIGIT to provide services as defined and described under Article 2 "Subject" of the Memorandum of Understanding signed, related tot the expenditure as calculated by DIGIT based on the budget expenditure and the services to be provided.