

Annual work programme of grants and contracts for 2013

[Commission Decision C(2013)1833 of 3 April 2013]

SUMMARY

DG EMPL's annual work programme of grants and contracts for 2013, serving as a financing decision

This draft Implementing Decision constitutes DG EMPL's annual work programme of grants and contracts, serving as a financing decision for 2013. It determines the essential details of the actions which will involve expenditure from the 2013 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 2013.

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

This draft Implementing Decision relates to the following budget lines:

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- 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, studies on and awareness raising in connection with the social situation, demographics and the family	
- 04 03 13:	Preparatory action — Your first EURES Job	
- 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	

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

and 2

- 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 Implementing Decision sets out, for each budget line concerned, the details of the various actions scheduled by DG EMPL for 2013.

ANNEX

Summary table - overview of the activities planned for 2013 with the corresponding amounts

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	92,472,000
Calls for proposals	59,805,000
De jure monopoly	3,640,000
De facto monopoly	15,685,000
Grants to partners	13,342,000
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENCIES	34,542,9801
PROCUREMENT	37,404,034
JOINT MANAGEMENT	6,185,000
SUBDELEGATIONS	27,506,174
INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT	1,100,000
OTHER INTERVENTIONS	804,000
TOTAL AMOUNT	200,014,188

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[&]quot;This figure represents only the EU Subsidy for the agencies (EUROFOUND and EU-OSHA) as foreseen in the voted EU Budget 2013. In addition, the total revenue for EU-OSHA in 2013 includes also EUR 643 900 of assigned revenue stemming from 2011 and EUR 160 100 of revenue from the Spanish and local authorities."

$04\,03\,02$ – Cost of preliminary consultation meetings with trade union representatives

LEGAL BASIS

Tasks resulting from the Commission's prerogatives at institutional level, as provided for in Article 54(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, 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 2013, 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

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
SUBDELEGATIONS	450 000
TOTAL 04 03 02	450 000

04 03 03 01 - INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

LEGAL BASIS

Task resulting from specific powers directly conferred on the Commission by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union pursuant to Articles 154 and 155.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 16 675 000

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.

These objectives will be achieved via a Call for Proposals for action grants (containing two sub-headings on the aforementioned themes), studies via calls for tender, use of framework contracts and a joint project with ILO (joint management).

The specific objectives of the calls for proposals are each year adapted to reflect current political priorities, and recent Commission initiatives such as the Employment Package 2012 or a European Year. The same is true for procurement activities, particularly those related to Industrial Relations, which focus on analysis of recent developments and policy actions.

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 crosssectoral 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 13 975 000.

In general, this call for proposals will support actions to which the maximum EU funding is 80% 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 2013 and will foresee two deadlines for the submission of applications (subject to the detailed conditions announced in the call):

- -March 2013. Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted: EUR 5 500 000;
- -Late August / early September 2013. Indicative amount foreseen depending on the quality of the proposals submitted: EUR 8 475 000.

a) Exclusion

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met;
- 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);
- The lead applicant must have its registered office in one of the EU Member States²;
- Co-applicants must have their registered office in one of the EU
 Member States or the candidate countries³.

To be eligible, actions must:

Be linked to at least one objective of the call;

- Have co-applicants from several Member States and/or Candidate Countries in case of proposals not submitted by a European level or international organisation;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or the candidate countries⁴;
- Have a letter of support from a European social partner organisation, if they are submitted under the sub-programme "Support for European social dialogue".

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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.

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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.

c) Selection

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

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: applicants 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: applicants 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 the consortium, 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, including the quality and/or innovativeness of dissemination plans.
- 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. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 1 700 000.

2.1. Calls for tender

- 2.1.1. Europeanisation of Industrial Relations: to support knowledge in the field of the Europeanisation of Industrial Relations through small studies and chapters for the Industrial Relations in Europe report. It is envisaged to launch the procedures in the second quarter of 2013.
- 2.1.2. Chief Editor for the 2014 Industrial Relations in Europe report. The Chief Editor will draft parts of the report and assist the Commission services in all aspects of the editing and production process. It is envisaged to launch the procedure in April 2013.
- 2.1.3. Statistical data handling and data quality control for industrial relations indicators to assist the Commission and the Chief Editor of the "Industrial Relations in Europe 2014" report in assuring the quality and consistency of all data, indicators, graphs and tables to be included in the final publication. It is envisaged to launch the procedure in October 2013.
- 2.1.4. 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. It is envisaged to launch the call in the second quarter of 2013.
- 2.1.5. 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 was transmitted to the Commission in July 2012 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 2013.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

- 2.2.1. Social dialogue negotiation meetings and conferences on social dialogue and industrial relations to be implemented through service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract on services for the organisation of meetings, conferences and other events signed on 23 December 2011 in 5 lots (VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199, VC/2011/0200) for a period of 2 years and renewable for 2 years. It is intended to sign approximately 90 specific contracts.
- 2.2.2. Development of information and communication tools to be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL Framework contract for services in support of communication activities in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion signed on 27 April 2012 with reference VC/2012/0034 for a period of 2 years and renewable once. It is intended to sign 2 specific contracts.

- 2.2.3. Publications in the context of Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue to be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL Framework contract for services in support of communication activities in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion signed on 27 April 2012 with reference VC/2012/0034 for a period of 2 years and renewable once. It is intended to sign 2 specific contracts.
- 2.2.4. Evaluation and evaluation related services and Impact Assessment Activities to be implemented through one service order based on the DG EMPL multiple framework contracts VT/2008/087 "Evaluation and Impact Assessment Activities" (4 lots available VC/2012/273 to VC/2012/0221, 3rd renewal of contracts signed on 19 April 2012, duration 12 months).
- 2.2.5. Development of an on-line meeting registration tool to be used for the social dialogue committee meetings to be implemented through one service order based on the framework contract for services of DG DIGIT ESP-DESIS II n° DI/6760, valid until 8 September 2013 (and until 7 March 2014 provided the specific contract is signed before). The framework contract can be extended for one additional year.

3. **JOINT MANAGEMENT**

According to Article 53d of the Financial Regulation 2002 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 2013 for delivery in 2014.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	13 975 000
Calls for proposals	13 975 000
PROCUREMENT	1 700 000
JOINT MANAGEMENT	1 000 000
TOTAL 04	03 03 01 16 675 000

04 03 03 02 - Information and training measures for workers' organisations

LEGAL BASIS

Task resulting from specific powers directly conferred on the Commission by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union pursuant to Article 154.

Convention concluded in 1959 between the ECSC High Authority and the International Occupational Safety and Health Information Centre (CIS) of the International Labour Office.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 17 600 000

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 reform⁵, as they are increasingly called upon to contribute to the social and economic objectives of the European Union, as reflected 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.

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

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 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 3 740 000. 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 2013 and will foresee a single deadline for the submission of applications in March/April 2013.

Evaluation criteria

- a) Exclusion
- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.
- b) Eligibility

To be eligible,

- The lead applicant must be a social partner organisation representing workers at European, national or regional level;
- The lead applicant must have its registered office in one of the Member States of the European Union;

- Co-applicants must have their registered office in one of the Member States or Candidate Countries;
- Applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal persons. In application of article 131 of the Financial Regulation, workers' organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met;

To be eligible, actions must:

- Be linked to the objectives of the call for proposals;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union or the Candidate Countries;
- Have co-applicants 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)§2⁶) are not eligible.

c) Selection

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

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their 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: applicants 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. They must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

[&]quot;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).

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 the consortium, 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, including the quality and/or innovativeness of dissemination plans;
- The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation.

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 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation, and are granted direct support in accordance with article 128.1 of the Financial Regulation.

These institutes are the following:

- The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) is a research and training centre which conducts research and provides scientific, educational and technical support to workers' organisations and contributes to the development of Social Europe and the social dialogue. It provides information and training in European matters of strategic importance for the trade unions. This institute is linked to the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC);
- The European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA), which provides a trade union education with a European dimension for European Christian worker's organisations through the promotion of education activities, programmes and exchanges, it widens the knowledge of workers about the EU's objectives and policies in the social field and strengthens a common European identity.

On the basis of the framework partnership agreements mentioned above, that will be amended in 2013 since operating grants no longer need to be gradually decreased under the next Financial Regulation, 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 2013 and will cover the period 01/04/2013-31/03/2014.

The award criteria used for the specific operating grant agreements will be:

- Extent to which the operation meets the objectives of the budget heading
- Transnational dimension
- Quality of partnerships
- Contribution to the priorities, activities or results of European social dialogue
- Added value (Lasting impact and/or multiplier effect)
- Cost-effectiveness
- Arrangements to publicise the operation and dissemination methods envisaged
- Overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation

Indicative amounts of the grants will be respectively EUR 10 611 000 for ETUI and EUR 3 249 000 for EZA.

In both cases, EU financial aid may not exceed 85% of the total eligible cost of the annual work programme.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	17 600 000
Calls for proposals	3 740 000
De facto monopolies	13 860 000
TOTAL 04 03 03 0	17 600 000

04 03 03 03 – Information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings

LEGAL BASIS

Task resulting from specific powers directly conferred on the Commission by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union under Articles 154 and 155.

In this context, the EU law on employee involvement concerns:

- 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 purpose of informing and consulting employees (Recast) (OJ L 122, 16.5.2009, p. 28).
- 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, 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, 23.3.2002, 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, 18.8.2003, p. 25).
- 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, 25.11.2005, p. 1).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 7 250 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

Priority objectives of this appropriation are the following:

- setting the conditions for social dialogue in companies and proper employee involvement in undertakings as provided under directive 2009/38/EC on European Works Councils, Directives 2001/86/EC and 2003/72/EC on employees' involvement in the European company and in the European cooperative society, respectively, Directive 2002/14/EC establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community, Directive 98/59/EC on collective redundancies and article 16 of Directive 2005/56/EC on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies.
- strengthening transnational cooperation between workers' and employers' representatives
 in respect of information, consultation and participation of employees within companies
 operating in more than one Member State and short training actions for negotiators and
 representatives in transnational information, consultation and participation bodies may be
 funded in that context.

- enabling social partners to exercise their rights and duties as regards employee involvement, especially within the framework of European Works Councils, to familiarise them with transnational company agreements and strengthen their cooperation in respect to Union law on employee involvement.
- promoting innovative actions relating to employee involvement, with the view of supporting the anticipation of change and the prevention and resolution of disputes in the context of corporate restructuring, mergers, take-overs and relocation in union-scale undertakings and union-scale groups of undertakings.
- cooperation between the social partners for the development of employee involvement in the design of solutions addressing the consequences of the economic crisis, such as mass redundancies, or the need for a shift towards an inclusive, sustainable and low-carbon economy.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

This appropriation is intended to finance activities aimed at:

- 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 employee involvement 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;
- develop expertise on employee involvement across Member States, promoting cooperation between relevant Authorities and stakeholders and fostering relations with the

Union Institutions so as to support the implementation and improve the effectiveness of EU law on employee involvement.

1. GRANTS

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

1.2. Calls for proposals

1.2.1. Information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings

Objectives and foreseen results

The call for proposals will support projects related to transnational cooperation between workers' and employers' representatives in respect of employee involvement within companies operating in more than one Member State, as well as the negotiation of transnational company agreements

The foreseen results include:

- training for negotiators and representatives dealing with employee involvement 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;
- promoting cooperation between relevant Authorities and stakeholders in fostering relations with the Union Institutions so as to support the implementation and improve the effectiveness of EU law on employee involvement.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The indicative amount for 2013 is EUR 7 250 000. The grant may not exceed 80% of the eligible costs of the operation.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be published in January 2013. The indicative deadlines for the submission of applications (and indicative amounts) are as follows:

 30 March 2013 for actions commencing no earlier than 30 May 2013 (EUR 3 250 000); 04 September 2013 for actions commencing no earlier than 04 November 2013 and no later than 22 December 2013 (EUR 4 000 000).

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

b) Eligibility criteria

The applicants must be properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered office based in one of the Member States of the European Union. In derogation from this requirement and pursuant to Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, the organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met.

Applicants must be representatives of workers or employers of Member States, based in one of the Member States of the European Union. Thus

- A) for workers: applicants may be works councils or similar bodies ensuring the general representation of workers; regional, national, European, sectoral or multi-sectoral trade unions based in one of the Member States of the European Union;
- B) for employers: applicants may be the management of undertakings, organisations representing employers at regional, national, European, sectoral or multi-sectoral level based in one of the Member States of the European Union. In case of commercial undertakings, the objective of the project must be non-commercial in nature.

As a departure from these rules, applications from technical bodies such as non-profit training or research bodies and commercial companies can be accepted only if the aim of the project is non-commercial.

The above quoted technical bodies and commercial undertakings will be considered eligible only where they are expressly mandated by one or more of the eligible parties listed in the Call and when a mandatory letter of mandate is included.

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:

- i. The extent to which the action meets the objectives of the budget heading and the priority objectives of this Call for proposals;
- **ii.** 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 calls for proposals of Budget Heading 04.03.03.03;
- **iii.** The extent to which the project concerns innovative measures or new subjects in relation to information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings;
- **iv.** The extent to which the project promotes the joint participation of employers and workers:
- **v.** The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension;
- vi. The extent to which workers' and/or employers' representatives from new Member States or candidate countries are actively involved in the project;
- vii. The cost-effectiveness of the action;
- **viii.** The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal, including the budgetary aspects and the arrangements to publicise the operation, including aspects related to the European Union funding, and dissemination methods envisaged.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	
Calls for proposals	7 250 000
TOTAL 04 03 03 03	7 250 000

04 03 04 - EURES (EUROPEAN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES)

LEGAL BASIS

- Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Unity (codification (OJ L 141 of 27.05.2011, p. 1).
- Commission Decision No 2003/8/EC of 23 December 2002 implementing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 as regards the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 21 300 000 + EUR 596 400 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 21 896 400

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 EU 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. Call for proposals

1.1.1. EURES: European Employment Services

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 2013 the Commission will launch a new call for proposals to ensure continuity of the action for the budget year 2013 and an appropriate transition towards the next multi-annual financial framework (MFF) and related legal bases.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched in the first quarter of 2013.

The budget allocations will take account of quantitative indicators, such as the size of the country, data on cross-border commuting flows, and the number of EURES advisers in both PES and EURES cross-border partnerships.

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

b) Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be legal persons properly constituted and registered in one of the EU Member States or other EFTA/EEA participating countries;
- In application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met.

The eligible applicants are the EURES members, social partners, cross-border organisations, as defined by art 8 of the Commission Decision 2003/8/EC,

1. Public Employment Services (PES) from the 27 EU Member States and the other EEA/EFTA participating countries (and Croatia⁷). The PES of the EU/EEA countries are listed in the table below:

Austria	AMS – Arbeitsmarktservice Österreich	
Belgium	-Le FOREM – Office Communautaire et régional de la formation	
_	professionnelle et de l'emploi	
	- VDAB – Vlaamse Dienst voor Arbeidsbemiddeling en	
	Beroepsopleiding	
	- ACTIRIS - Brussels Employment Office	
Bulgaria	National Employment Agency (BG)	
Croatia	Croatian Employment Service (see footnote 9)	
Cyprus	Department of Labour	
Czech Republic	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs – Employment Services	
	Administration	
Denmark	AMS – Arbejdsmarkedsstyrelsen	
Estonia	Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund	
Finland	Tyoministerio (Ministry of Labour)	
France	Pôle Emploi	
Germany	BA/ZAV Bundesagentur für Arbeit/Zentrale Auslands- und	
_	Fachvermittlung	
Greece	OAED – Ministère du Travail et de Sécurité Sociale	
Hungary	Ministry of Employment and Labour, National Labour Office	
Iceland	VMTS – Vinnusmalastofnun (Directorate of Labour)	
Ireland	Department of Social Protection	
Italy	Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali	
Latvia	State Employment Agency	
Liechtenstein	Office of Economy – Department Work	
Lithuania	Lithuanian Labour Exchange	
Luxemburg	ADEM - Administration de l'Emploi	
Malta	Employment & Training Corporation	
Netherlands	UWV -Uitvoeringsinstituut Werknemersverzekeringen	
Norway	NAV - the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration	
Poland	The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	
Portugal	IEFP – Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional	
Romania	(NAEVT) National Agency for Employment and Vocational	
	Training (RO)	
Slovak Republic	Ùstredie prace, socialnych veci a rodiny – Central Office of Latour,	
-	Social Affairs and Family	
Slovenia	Employment Service of Slovenia	
Spain	INEM – Instituto Nacional de Empleo	
Sweden	AMS – Arbetsmarknadsstyrelsen	
United Kingdom	Job Centre Plus	

2. The social partners represented in the Advisory Committee for ensuring close cooperation between the member states in matters concerning the freedom of movement of workers and their employment⁸:

-

Subject to ratification of the Accession Treaty with Croatia and becoming a Member State 1 July 2013.

- 3. Cross-border organisations within the meaning of Article 15(1)(b) of Regulation 492/2011 which fulfil the following requirements:
- In line with Article 15(1)(b) of Regulation 492/2011, be considered necessary cooperation and service structures, as testified in a declaration by the Member States concerned;
- Comprise the Public Employment Services of all the regions involved, together with tradeunions and employer organisations, as proposed by the EURES members. Other organisations can as well be co-applicants, in particular regional and local authorities or associations of these; organisations dealing with vocational training, universities and institutes of higher education and other relevant actors active on the cross-border labour market. All co-applicants must be committed to the objectives of the call for proposal and contribute to the financing of its activities;
- Fulfil the requirements set forth in the following documents:
 - Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5
 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Unity (codification (OJ L 141 of 27.05.2011, p. 1);
 - Commission Decision 2003/8/EC of 23 December 2002 on the implementing of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 as regards the clearance of vacancies and the applications for employment;
 - The EURES Guidelines for 2010-2013.

c) Selection criteria

c) Selection criterio

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: applicants 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: applicants 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. Applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Art 21 of the Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Unity (codification (OJ L 141 of 27.05.2011, p. 1).

d) Award criteria

- Relevance with the objectives of the call for proposals and the priorities identified
- Trans-national dimension and European added value
- Quality of the proposal
- Impact of the proposal
- Visibility of the proposed activities
- Cost efficiency of the proposal

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

A total amount of EUR 14 200 000 and a maximum EU co-financing rate of 95% of the total eligible costs of the actions are envisaged for the grant agreements in 2013.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 7 376 226

2.1. Use of existing framework contracts

It is intended to sign about 50 specific contracts during 2013.

- 2.1.1. EURES Training to train EURES advisers and other staff involved in EURES activities from Public Employment Services, social partner organisations and other EURES partner organisations on basic EURES services to be offered to both job-seekers and employers. To be implemented through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new framework contract launched in 2012 to start as from May 2013. It is intended to sign about 15 specific contracts.
- 2.1.2. Maintenance, enhancement and continuous development of the EURES IT platform to further develop the EU Job Mobility Portal and the related IT platform. To be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on the DG DIGIT framework contract such as ESP-DESIS II n° DI/6760 to DI/6777 concluded on October 2010 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times. Software and other licenses will be purchased through DG DIGIT framework contracts such as SACHA II no. DI/06820. Specific orders will also be concluded on the basis of the new framework contract to be launched in 2012. The OPOCE framework contract EUROVOC Thesaurus Management and Dissemination System (reference OP 10122) may also be used, for the implementation of these activities through the conclusion of specific contracts. It is intended to sign about 10 specific contracts.

2.1.3. Information, Publications and Communication Activities to provide 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". To be implemented through specific service orders on the basis of the DG EMPL framework contract for EURES information and communication activities (2 lots - VC/2011/001 and VC/2011/002), renewed under ref. VC/2012/0303 and VC/2012/0377 and/or on the FPI framework contract (FPI-2011-01-LOT 2) and/or on the new DG EMPL framework contract for services in support of communication activities in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion concluded on 27/04/2012 (VC/2012/034) for a period of 24 months, renewable once. It is intended to sign about 5 specific contracts.

Specific orders will also be concluded on the basis of the new framework contact to be launched in 2012. The OPOCE framework contract EUROVOC Thesaurus Management and Dissemination System (reference OP 10122) may also be used, for the implementation of these activities through the conclusion of specific contracts.

- 2.1.4. 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. To be implemented through the conclusion of service orders based on the DG EMPL framework contract on Helpdesk and other support services to the EURES portal concluded on 22 December 2011 (VC/2011/0452) for a period of 24 months, renewable once. It is intended to sign about 5 specific contracts.
- 2.1.5. EURES NETWORK meets annually for internal seminars, working groups and working party meetings, and other information sessions and network meetings. This activity will also cover the organisation of events related to "European Mobility Day" and the "European Job Days". To be implemented through specific service orders on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200) for a period of 24 months, renewable once. It is intended to sign about 10 specific contracts.
- 2.1.6. Audit of EURES activities covering about 3 EURES projects grants to be audited "on-the-spot" throughout 2013 through specific service orders that will be concluded based on the new DG BUDG multiple framework contract with reopening of competition for supply of technical assistance services in the field of audits and controls (reference BUDG-11-PO-03 concluded on 15/12/2011). It is intended to sign about 3 specific contracts.
- 2.1.7. Ex-post evaluation of the EURES programme covering the period 2009-2013

This activity will be implemented through the conclusion of a specific service order based on the DG EMPL 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 three times or the new framework contract for evaluations and studies launched by DG EMPL in 2012.

The EURES charter stipulates that an external evaluation of the operation of EURES should be carried out at least once every three years. As the last evaluation was completed concerned the period 2006-2008, the new evaluation will examine to what extent the EURES network has been able to achieve the objectives set by Regulation (EEC) 1612/68, part II and Commission Decision 93/569/EEC in the period 2009-2013. Particular attention will be given to the implementation of the EURES objectives and priorities that had been set for this period, as well as defining and first experiences with the implementation of the EURES guidelines 2010-2013.

The evaluation will assess the services offered by the members of the network in qualitative and quantitative terms. The assessment will also include an examination of the activities cofinanced by the EU budget in the period 2010-2013 to support the implementation of the above EURES guidelines. The contractor will make full use of the findings of the national evaluation studies –independent external evaluations– that EURES members have carried out in 2012/2013 to assess if their national EURES objectives for the period have been met and provide a comparative analysis on the results achieved, identifying in particular best practices. The results generated by this evaluation will be used by the EURES Co-ordination Office and the members of EURES network to prepare further the network with the reform of EURES as announced in the April 2012 Employment Package. The findings will also serve as input for the two-yearly report on EURES activities to Council and European Parliament.

2.1.8. 10 Years evaluation of the EURES programme covering the period 2003-2012

This activity will be implemented through the conclusion of **a specific service order** based on the DG EMPL 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 three times or the new framework contract for evaluations and studies launched by DG EMPL in 2012.

The evaluation will look into the EURES activities since the last adoption of the EURES charter until the recent days and provide a comprehensive and strategic overall analysis on the performance of the EURES network, identifying in particular best practices, structural strengths and weaknesses, as well as the challenges ahead for delivering on intra-EU labour mobility both by country and at EU level. The results generated by this evaluation will be used by the EURES Co-ordination Office to prepare further the network with the reform of EURES as announced in the April 2012 Employment Package. The findings may also serve as input for the Ex-post evaluation of the EURES programme covering the period 2009-2013 which will be carried out with a view to the preparation of the two-yearly report on EURES activities to Council and European Parliament. It will also serve as input for the definition of some of the policy objectives linked to EURES.

2.1.9. Impact Assessment for EURES elements in the CWP 2013 initiative 34

The 2013 CWP foresees a legislative package for relating to the European Labour Mobility Strategy, including its trans-national dimension. The legislative prackage will notably complete the reform of EURES, in particular the delivery of a European Employment Offer, The Impact Assessment will cover the EURES elements of the legislative package. This activity will be launched through DG EMPL 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 three times or the new framework contract for evaluations and studies launched by DG EMPL in 2012.

It is intended to launch 1 contract in the first semester.

2.2. Renewals

2.2.1. 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. The new Agreement between the European Commission and the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union, signed on 29 May 2012 and valid until 31 December 2012 (reference 68018-09) will be tacitly renewable for successive periods of 12 months. The renewal will enter into force on 1st January and shall expire on 31 December 2013.

3. SUBDELEGATIONS

3.1. Subdelegation to DIGIT

3.1.1. Memorandum of Understanding signed between DG EMPL and DG DIGIT on "EURES2-JIRA"

Following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding number DIGIT-00295-00 to cover the hosting of the EURES portal and its evolution for the period 2012-2014, a subdelegation was given to DG DIGIT.

For 2013, an amount of EUR 320 174 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.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	14 200 000
Call for proposals	14 200 000
PROCUREMENT	7 376 226
SUBDELEGATION TO DG DIGIT	320 174
TOTAL 04 03 04	21 896 400

04 03 05 - Free movement of workers, co-ordination of social security schemes and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries

LEGAL BASIS

- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in particular Articles 45 and 48 thereof.
- Council Regulation (EEC) no. 1612/68 of 15 October 1968 on freedom of movement of workers within the Community, codified as Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of 5 April 2011 (OJ L 257, 19.10.1968, p.2 and 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).
- Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems (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 5 692 000 + p.m. (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 5 692 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

These appropriations are intended to cover:

- The analysis and evaluation of major trends in legislation in the Member States with regard to the free movement of workers and coordination of social security schemes as well as the financing of networks of experts in those 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 as well as support to the work of the Technical and Advisory Committees on free movement of workers;
- The financing of actions aimed at providing better services to and the development of awareness for the public, including measures aimed at identifying migrant workers' social security problems and measures speeding up and simplifying administrative procedures; analysis of barriers to free movement and lack of coordination of social security systems and their impact on disabled people, including the 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 and Regulation (EC) No 859/2003 as well as Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and its implementing Regulation No 987/2009 and Regulation (EU) No 1231/2010;
- The financing of actions related to the electronic exchange of social security information among and aiming at developing cooperation between Member States, with a view to facilitate implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 and its Implementing Regulation (EC) No 987/2009. These activities include in particular the maintenance of the central node of the EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information) system, testing system components, help-desk activities and the development of the system and related training actions.

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 for the establishment of a Framework Partnership Agreement "EESSI Pool of Excellence"

Objectives and foreseen results

The Member States have agreed on the introduction of the system for electronic exchange of social security data (EESSI). The shift from paper to electronic data exchange calls for enormous investments by Member States. 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.

The objective of the call is to conclude a single Framework Partnership Agreement with multiple beneficiaries for the setting-up and implementation of an *EESSI Pool of Excellence*, covering the Member States, EEA countries and Croatia for a duration of four years, as provision of financing for the respective objectives will still be relevant under the new MFF, to allow Member States and participating countries to

- 1. strengthen their own, national competences related to EESSI;
- 2. to develop common tools, share experience, best practise and know-how;
- 3. to collect and share direct feed-back from a user-perspective.

The objective is going to be coherent with the objectives foreseen under the next MFF.

Under the call, a variety of actions concerning the implementation of EESSI may be cofinanced: training initiatives, seminars and workshops, setting-up of national networks, publications, studies, development and reinforcement of administrative and technical capacity (for example, exchange of experience on training, exchange of public servants between institutions, sharing and exchanging best practices, experience and knowledge on the coordination or on the technical and business implementation and roll out of the EESSI, testing and piloting the EESSI system and business component, etc.).

Applicants will be invited to present an outline of a work programme for the full duration of the Framework Partnership Agreement. Following award of the FPA, a specific grant agreement will be concluded on the basis of a specific proposal including the annual activity plan for the first year..

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

For the first year activity plan an indicative amount of 2 342 000 shall be made available. 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 the first semester of 2013 whilst the signature of the Framework Partnership Agreement and the first Specific Grant Agreement is planned for the second semester 2013.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered offices based in one of the Member States of the European Union, in one of the EEA countries (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland)⁹ or in Croatia¹⁰;
- Fall within one of the following categories:
- national social security institutions, or
- liaison bodies and organisations hosting the Access Points to the EESSI.

To be eligible, the action must:

- Be clearly linked to the objective of the call for framework partnership agreement,
- Must be carried out in cooperation between active applicants from at least 10 different Member States, EEA countries or from Croatia.

c) Selection

Only applicants with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be considered for award.

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain the 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 applicants 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 applicants 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 criteria for the Framework Partnership Agreement

The Framework Partnership Agreement will be awarded following a comparative assessment of the proposals on the basis of the following criteria:

 the extent to which the proposed action ensures coverage of Member States, EEA countries and Croatia;

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

More information on the eligibility of Croatia will be announced in the call for proposals.

- the extent to which the action ensures transnational activities, supports and creates synergies;
- the extent to which the action takes into consideration the wider multi-annual national strategy for implementing EESSI and to which the action meets the objective 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, adequate and effective
 methods used for addressing these issues and a clear indication
 of the proposal's contribution to the objectives of the call;
- the clarity and feasibility of the proposed action plan, including timetable and methodology, and in particular its capacity to achieve the planned objectives through well-identified and wellplanned activities;
- the efficiency and adequacy of the management and coordination structures between the applicants and in relation with the team of experts;
- the extent to which the applicants plan to ensure sustainability after the end of the EU funding;

e) Award criteria for the specific agreement to be signed in 2013

One specific grant agreement, based upon the framework partnership agreement, will be signed after having directly submitted a proposal to the Commission and following an assessment of the proposal based on the below-mentioned criteria:

- Coherence of the annual activity plan with the outline work programme of the Framework Partnership Agreement;
- The extent to which the proposed activities take into consideration the current priorities of the EESSI project and respond to actual needs relevant for the period concerned:
- The added value and relevance at European level of the activities proposed as well their dissemination and availability to all countries involved in EESSI;
- The clarity and feasibility of the annual activity plan, including time-table and methodology and in particular its capacity to achieve the planned objectives;
- The quality, efficiency and feasibility of the work organisation including a clear description of the allocation of human resources in relation to the individual tasks or activities;
- The financial quality of the proposal, including the existence of a clear, detailed, and reasonable budget, which is coherent with the actions proposed.

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

According to Article 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage.

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.

Description and indicative timetable

One conference will be organised together with the Lithuanian Presidency in the second semester of 2013 on the roll-out of the EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information) system.

This conference, highly political in nature and needing representation at 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.

The indicative amount for the above-described event is EUR 250 000 with a maximum EU co-financing rate of 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

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.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurements is EUR 2 550 000.

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. 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 focusing 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 2013.

- 2.1.2. Service contract for the Organisation and Co-ordination of Network of Legal Experts on Free Movement and Social Security Coordination, following up the activities carried out under and replacing contracts established under the call for tenders no VT/2009/026 and VT/2010/035. The procedure will be launched in the second quarter of 2013, the contract shall be renewable for three times.
- 2.1.3. Assistance to the Audit Board of the Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers, following up the activities carried out and replacing the contract established under the call for tender VT/2009/050. The procedure is scheduled is scheduled to be launched in the second quarter of 2013, the contract shall be renewable three times.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

- 2.2.1. Seminars/Events related to 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 DG EMPL framework contract, signed on 23/12/2011 in 5 lots (VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199, VC/2011/0200) for a period of 2 years and renewable for 2 years, and other relevant available framework contracts. It is intended to sign approx. 20 specific contracts during 2013.
- 2.2.2 Campaign on the Modernised social security coordination to continue the information campaign launched in previous years 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. Part of these activities will be a Eurobarometer study on the topic 'awareness of the public of existing EU regulations in the field of free movement of workers and social security coordination'.

These activities will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL Framework contract for services in support of communication activities in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion signed on 27 April 2012 with reference VC/2012/0034 for a period of 2 years and renewable once, and other relevant available framework contracts. It is intended to sign approx. 4 specific contracts during 2013.

2.2.3. Report measuring administrative cost and burdens of various options relating to the revision of Regulation 883/2004. This activity will be implemented by using the DG ENTR framework contract no ENTR/2008/006 and it is intended to sign one specific contract during 2013.

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1. Service contract for the provision of training and technical support in the field of coordination of social security. First renewal of a contract awarded in 2012 following a competitive call for tenders.

3. SUBDELEGATIONS

3.1. Subdelegation to DG DIGIT

3.1.1. EESSI Hosting and maintenance costs

An estimated amount of EUR 550 000 is envisaged to cover the hosting and maintenance costs (including staffing) of the EESSI system that will be charged by DIGIT in 2013. The transfer of funds will be executed through a sub-delegation 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

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	2 592 000
De jure monopolies	250 000
Grant to Partners	2 342 000
PROCUREMENT	2 550 000
SUBDELEGATIONS	550 000
TOTAL 04 03 05	5 692 000

04 03 07 - ANALYSIS OF, STUDIES ON AND AWARENESS RAISING IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOCIAL SITUATION, DEMOGRAPHICS AND THE FAMILY

LEGAL BASIS

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 159 and 161 thereof.

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 4 130 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

- **Objectives:** 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. 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. Support to the development of comprehensive active ageing strategies

Objectives and foreseen results

The European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations aimed at raising awareness of the importance of active ageing in tackling the challenges of demographic ageing to the EU's growth potential, prosperity and social cohesion. This greater awareness should translate into better policies to promote active ageing. The aim of this call is to provide financial support for public authorities willing to engage in the development of comprehensive strategies for active ageing with a reference to the Guiding Principles for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations adopted by the Council in December 2012. Such strategies should involve different policy areas, as well as different levels of governance and relevant stakeholders. Applicants shall take due account in their proposal not only of the progress under the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, but also the broader national and EU policy making context, notably such as set out in the Social Investment Package. The grants would be used for facilitating international learning and for benefiting from the experience of international organisations.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget should be around EUR 2 000 000. European Union financial aid granted will not exceed 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action. Applicants have to guarantee the cofinancing in cash of the remaining 20 %. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester of 2013.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)a of the Financial regulation

b) Eligibility

Eligibility of the applicant

Applicants must

- Be properly constituted and registered legal persons, having their registered office in one of the member States of the European Union;
- 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.

In case they submit the proposal with other co-applicants they must be the lead-applicant;

- Where the national level is not responsible for the subject matter
 of the action, the application must be submitted by a consortium
 of at least two competent public authorities from different
 territorial entities in the same country, one acting as lead
 applicant;
- Co-applicants (apart from the compulsory additional territorial entity or entities in counties where the national level is not responsible) can be any type of non-profit organisation established in the country of the lead applicant or another Member State of the EU, as well as relevant international organisations.

Eligibility of the proposals

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

- Be clearly linked to the objective of the call for proposal;
- Be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union.

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 active 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 mobilize the right kind of expertise as well as input from relevant stakeholders, and if there are co-applicants, are the respective roles and responsibilities 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 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?

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

According to Article 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage.

1.2.1. De jure monopolies – Presidency event

An event under the Lithuanian or Greek Presidency will be co-financed by the Commission. The conference will deal with demographic issues and should preferably be linked to the Social Investment Package. It is also envisaged to link the event to the Social Protection Committee work programme.

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

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

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 Member State holding the 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.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 1 830 000

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1. Studies and reports on demography, ageing and family policies. Around 10 procurement procedures (3 in the 2nd, 4 in the 3rd and 3 in 4th quarter) will be launched to commission studies or reports 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. Other DGs will be involved as appropriate in the conception of these studies and reports.

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. Maximum of 50 service orders for up to 15 seminars and conferences will be launched throughout the year on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings", five contracts (for five lots) signed on 23 December 2011, valid until 22 December 2013, renewable once for further 24 months (references VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC 2011/0200) and based on the DG AGRI Framework contract AGRI-2012-0024 (ABAC 30-CE-0476530/00-58) signed on 15 February 2012 for a duration of 12 months. Maximum 10 service orders for up to 10 communication activities will be launched on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract for services in support of communication activities, VC/2012/0034 signed on 27/04/2012, valid until 26/04/2014, renewable once for further 24 months or on the basis of the multiple Framework Contract with reopening of competition of DG EAC (EAC/20/2008/01), concluded on 12 March 2009, valid until 11 March 2013, or upon its successor. These activities will be carried out throughout the year.
- 2.2.2. Maintenance of the Web Portal of the European Alliance for Families 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. Follow-up of the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

Public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders in the Member States have been encouraged, through the European Year, to commit to developing new initiatives and strategies for promoting active ageing. The website of the European Year had been designed to document such commitments and to foster mutual learning on successful initiatives to promote active ageing. The European Year website will be adapted and maintained so that it can serve as a monitoring tool for active ageing strategies across the EU.

Web services including publishing and migration will be implemented through max. 5 service orders using the Framework service contract of DG INFSO, Lot 4, Smart Number 2009/0102, valid until 28/02/2015.

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 has been concluded on 22 December 2011. This contract (ref. VC/2011/524) will run for a period of 12 months, renewable up to three times and it is envisaged to renew for the second time in the fourth quarter 2013 for further 12 months.

2.3.2. Social Situation Monitor

First renewal of the call for tender launched in 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.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	2 300 000
Calls for proposals	2 000 000
De jure monopolies	300 000
PROCUREMENT	1 830 000
TOTAL 04 03 07	4 130 000

04 03 13 - PREPARATORY ACTION: Your first EURES job

LEGAL BASIS

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

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 5 000 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

According to the budgetary comment, the budget line is aimed at financing the third year (2013) of "Your first EURES job" activities in the framework of the preparatory action approved by the budgetary authority. In 2013, using for the first time the possibility of this budget commentary, a particular focus will be put on trainees and apprentices in line with the recommendation by the European Council of 28-29 June 2012¹¹. The objective will be to provide young people with access not only to jobs in other EU countries but to facilitate also the matching and placement for apprentices and trainees as a critical element to help transition from school or education to work.

"Your first EURES job" is a Union preparatory action contributing to enhance workers' freedom of movement as set out in the Treaties (Art. 45 of the TFEU).

It is, moreover one of key actions of the Europe 2020 flagship Communication "Youth on the Move" and the communication "Youth Opportunities Initiative" 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 particular¹⁴). The preparatory action is based on support from national employment services - information, job matching, recruitment and financial support – for both young jobseekers aged 18-30 willing to work in another EU Member State and businesses (SME in particular) interested in recruiting from outside their home country and providing mobile workers with an integration programme. This may also be applicable to apprentices and trainees.

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Conclusions European Council of 28-29 June 2012. "Compact for Growth and Jobs", § (1).

¹² COM(2010) 477 final, dated 15/09/2010.

COM(2011) 933, dated 20/11/2011.

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).

In Europe there are many job vacancies that remain unfilled due to the lack of a suitable work force¹⁵. Current imbalances in the EU labour markets are partly due to a lack of labour mobility within the Union. 'Your first EURES job' is a targeted market-based facility which can help young people and employers to fill in open bottleneck vacancies in accordance with economic needs.

Likewise, employers can thus benefit from financial support to help integrate their young mobile workers.

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" will be implemented by public, private or third sector employment services from the 27 Member States though a call for proposals. The expected <u>result</u> should be the job placement of around 2000 young people in Member States¹⁶ other than their country of residence throughout the duration of selected projects.

The call will draw attention to the minimum required service level from applicant organisations.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total available budget for this call is EUR 5 000 000.

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% of eligible costs 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; this may also be applicable to apprentices and trainees;
 - b) a contribution to the employers' costs (SME only) with the mobile worker's integration programme (e.g. induction training, language course, administrative support);
 - 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.

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[&]quot;A new strategy for the single market", report by M. Monti, 9 May 2010, p.57.

The cost per job placement can vary from around € 1800 to € 2200, as some support measures are optional.

Items a) and b) will be covered on the basis of flat-rate financing (see below); item c) will be covered on the basis of declared actual costs by legal or natural persons.

- a maximum of 20% of eligible costs 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 and in the Financing Decision of 2012.

Given the nature and policy objectives of the "Your first EURES job" preparatory action and as other EU mobility programmes, the financial support to third parties is the primary aim of the action, allowed by the revised Financial Regulation that will be in force in the moment of publication of the call.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched as early as possible in 2013. The action will have a duration of 12 months.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(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
- can be public, private¹⁷ 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;
- shall give their projects a meaningful EU dimension by ensuring the provision of customer-oriented information and services in at least 3 different EU Member States.

To be eligible, actions must:

- be fully carried out in the Member States of the European Union;

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

 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.

- 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 the highest evaluation scores will be selected for award.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	5 000 000
Call for proposals	5 000 000
TOTAL 04 03 13	5 000 000

PROGRESS - COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No.1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – Progress (OJ L 315, 15.11.2006, p. 1).

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 33 06 01 (ex-04 04 01 04)
- (5) Gender equality 33 06 02 (ex-04 04 01 05).

Since 1 January 2011, budget lines 33 06 01 (ex-04 04 01 04) and 33 06 02 (ex-04 04 01 05) previously managed by DG EMPL are managed by DG Justice. Although PROGRESS will be implemented in two DGs, DG EMPL and DG JUST, PROGRESS as such will continue to be run as an integrated programme, exploiting synergies across the policy sections.

The Europe 2020 strategy¹⁸ adopted by the European Council 17 June 2010 provides the political framework for the planning for the PROGRESS programme for 2011 till 2013 and for its successor programme. The strategy puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- <u>Sustainable growth</u>: promoting a resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;
- <u>Inclusive growth</u>: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.

All three priorities have significant employment and social dimensions as well as a gender equality dimension. They include the definition of targets to be reached at the European level and by the Member States by 2020. Out of the five headline targets, one relates to employment, one to the fight against poverty and social exclusion and one to early school leavers.

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 at the meetings in April and September 2012. A written consultation will be launched on the final draft financing decision.

For practical reasons, the activities are detailed by budget lines.

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¹⁸ EUCO 13/10

04 04 01 01 - PROGRESS - EMPLOYMENT

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 20 808 000 + EUR 582 624 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 21 390 624

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.

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

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

In 2012, the adoption of the employment package urges Member States to strengthen their national employment policies. Key areas for reform are laid down in order for labour markets to become more dynamic and inclusive and therefore more resilient to economic change. Furthermore, the "employment package" aims at creating a genuine EU labour market. Finally, the employment package paves the way for reinforced coordination and monitoring of employment policies at EU level in line with EU economic governance.

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

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

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Skills and employment. EU Sectoral Skills Councils and Restructuring

Objectives and foreseen results

The first 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" and of the Employment Package (with a special attention to the personal and household services (SWD(2012)95 final)).

The second objective is to support 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, as announced in the flagship "An Agenda for New Skills and Jobs". 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.

The third 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) and in the Green Paper "Restructuring and anticipation of change: what lessons from recent experience?" (SEC (2012) 59 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 4 200 000 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 in the first quarter of 2013.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must:

 Be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation

b) Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal entities in one of the PROGRESS participating countries. In application of article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met;
- Fall within one of the following categories: social partners, public authorities, international organisations, non-profit making organisations, profit-making organisations, research centres and institutes, universities and civil society organisations.

Activities must:

- Be linked to at least one objective of the call for proposals;
- Be carried out in cooperation between co-applicants from several different PROGRESS participating countries in the case of proposals which are not submitted by European or international organisations;
- Be fully carried out in the PROGRESS participating countries.

c) Selection criteria

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

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: applicants 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: applicants 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 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 this call for proposals;

- The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension;
- The quality of consortium, i.e. the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the social partners/stakeholders in the action;
- The added value and innovativeness of the action:
- The lasting impact and/or multiplier effect of the action;
- The cost-effectiveness of the action;
- The arrangements to publicise the action and dissemination methods envisaged;
- The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal and budget explanation.

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 initiative partnerships for a better delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy by encouraging cooperation and benchmarking 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. The objective is to identify common subjects that lend themselves to being addressed and implemented in a partnership type approach among different employment service providers. These should mainly take the form of innovative and experimental service delivery methods or indeed a deepening of on-going cooperation, and where possible include benchmarks and in depth quality assurance and evaluation mechanisms for such interventions.

The call for proposals will focus on strategic alliances between interested labour market actors as part of PARES, whilst also supporting labour market transitions with a clear employment reintegration and/or placement component, and favour particularly jobseekers whilst giving particular attention to gender issues.

The purpose is to provide within PROGRESS and its successor programme start-up funding to potential future self-sustainable cooperation and benchmarking projects and further development of on-going yet innovative actions in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and the 2012 Employment Package. These will include priority focus areas such as green jobs, youth employment, ageing workers, career guidance, creation of local partnerships for employment, support and services to employers and benchmarking between employment services. The criteria below are subject to change, depending on the successor programme.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

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

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched during the third quarter of 2013. The action will have a duration of 18 months.

a) Exclusion criteria

- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation;

b) Eligibility criteria

- 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 aim to encourage public, private and third sector employment services, education and training providers, NGOs, welfare institutions, etc. to work together. It must include active co-applicants from PROGRESS participating countries and from at least two different types: public, private or third sector.

c) Selection criteria

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

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicants 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 applicants 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 applicants 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 grants will be awarded following a comparative assessment of the proposals according to the following award criteria:

- Relevance with the objectives of the PARES initiative;
- Management and quality control methods of the proposal;
- European added value and multiplier effect of the proposed action;
- Visibility of the action;
- Adequacy of the methodology of the proposed action;
- Cost/efficiency of the proposed action.

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

According to Article 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage.

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

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the 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.

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.

1.2.1.1. 32nd and 33rd 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 32nd and 33rd meetings of the Heads of PES are both Presidency events (respectively Ireland and Lituania) and will help to co-ordinate the operation of Public Employment Services throughout the EU/EEA in support of the European Employment Strategy and the 2012 Employment Package.

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 Conference

Two major Presidency conferences will be organised in 2013 to discuss employment related topics – one during the Irish Presidency and one other under the Lithuanian 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 550 000 and the maximum EU co-financing rate 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.3. Grants on the basis of framework partnership agreements

1.3.1. Call for proposals for the establishment of long-term partnerships with European level organisations active in the field of combating social exclusion in society and European level networks of financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation

Objectives and foreseen results

This call aims at concluding framework partnership agreements for establishing long-term cooperation between non-governmental organisations active in promoting social inclusion in society as well as European-level networks of financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation and social inclusion on the one hand and the Commission on the other hand. The legal bases of this call are Article 9 (c) of Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS (employment and social inclusion strands) and its successor programme for the period 2014-2020 – Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) (Commission's proposal COM/2011/609), which adoption is expected in 2013.

The primary aim of the grant is to make European-level non-governmental organisations our involved consultative partners and exploit their specialist expertise to further develop and advocate for EU social policies through various instruments like awareness-raising activities, producing studies and analysis or organising thematic events. Furthermore the awarded grants for selected organisations help: 1) improving the organizational capacity and management of the networks; 2) voicing the needs of people exposed to social exclusion, difficult access to finance, discrimination and gender inequality, formulating them to influence policy making at EU and national levels; or providing services to people exposed to social exclusion, difficult access to finance, discrimination and gender inequality; 3) reinforcing the advocacy and campaigning skills of the European partner organizations and those of their national members to advance, support and further develop EU objectives and priorities at EU and national level; 4) better integrating cross-cutting issues (e.g. gender, poverty, disability non-discrimination and job creation) in the day-to-day work of the European partner organizations.

In the framework of this call, partnership agreements will also be concluded under budget line 04 04 01 02.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The call will be launched as soon as a political agreement is achieved for the PSCI and it will require the submission of the work programme for 2014 (funded under the current PROGRESS) in the same time.

For 2013, the indicative amount for the specific grant agreements to be signed with European level networks of financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation will be EUR 1 000 000.

Co-financing: As a general rule, EU support under the PROGRESS Programme is limited to 80% of the total eligible costs. This will be the applicable maximum co-financing rate for the specific operating grants covering the 2014 budgetary year of the partners. Under the successor programme of PROGRESS starting in 2014, co-financing rates may change.

Specific operating grants covering subsequent budgetary years of the partners will be awarded in accordance with the co-financing rate provided in the successor programme.

Indicative timetable

The indicative timetable envisages the launching of this call immediately after a political agreement has been reached on the PSCI (presumably in the first semester of 2013), and the conclusion of the framework partnership agreements in the third quarter 2013 following the assessment of the proposals submitted, including a four years strategic plan for the period 2014-2017 and a work programme for 2014. On basis of the concluded framework partnership agreements and agreed annual work programme and budget, specific operating grant agreements will be signed in the four quarter 2013 for the period of activities starting on 1st January 2014. These agreements will award a financial contribution towards the operating costs of the selected organisations.

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

b) Eligibility criteria

Applicant organisations must be European-level organisations

- (a) which are properly constituted and registered legal entities established in one of the PROGRESS participating countries for at least three years;
- (b) which are non-governmental, non-profit-making, and independent of industry, commercial and business or other conflicting interests, whose members are mainly non-profit organisations;
- (c) whose mission falls under the objectives and scope of the priorities established under each relevant section of the call, namely they should be financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation;

- (d) whose main purpose is to contribute to promoting greater social inclusion and job creation and strengthening social protection;
- (e) which have national member organisations in at least fifteen Member States of the European Union;
- (f) which are mandated by their members, through a Management Board or other administrative forum, to represent these members at the EU level and to be responsible for the activities of the network;
- (g) which will not pursue general objectives directly or indirectly contrary to the policies of the Union or be associated with disreputable projects or images.

Eligibility of the application:

 The proposed activity must fit in with the activities under the Progress Programme and the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) and the objectives of this call

c) Selection

The selection criteria will enable the Commission to assess the applicant organisation's financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed work programme.

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the four-year period
- Operational capacity applicants must have a sound administrative and financial management structure, the operational resources (technical, management, etc.) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed work programme, as well as the ability to implement it. The applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field.

d) Award

Award criteria for the Framework Partnership Agreements

Applications from European networks which satisfy the above exclusion, eligibility and selection criteria will then be assessed according to the following award criteria:

1. Quality of the proposal

The quality will be judged by the extent to which the triennial strategy

 is in line with the objectives set out in the Decision establishing the PROGRESS programme and the Regulation establishing the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation;

- corresponds to EU policy objectives in one or more of the fields covered by the call. A clear link should be made with the most recent EU strategic documents;
- is clear, realistic and detailed, in particular as regards the definition of the objectives and their suitability for achieving the desired results, and this in a 4 year perspective;
- explains its potential impact on EU and national policy-shaping and implementation of legislation and policies;
- proves its potential to voice the public's concerns from different regions of Europe and to promote them in all EU and national policies;
- includes awareness raising and knowledge-enhancement activities of EU and national policies and provides for solid and concrete actions to disseminate the results of their work;
- comprises appropriate means for monitoring and evaluating the activities of the organisation.

2. Effective and efficient organisation of work

The effective and efficient organisation of work will be judged by the extent to which the applicant

- outlines its relations with its national members, including arrangements to ensure involvement of member organisations in policy development and policy statements, goal-orientation and planning practices, reporting methods
- demonstrates its ability to interact with external actors, including key institutions, other NGO networks and relevant constituents when designing and implementing each activity envisaged
- shows the organisation's ability to encourage cooperation and membership in PROGRESS participating countries
- demonstrates its ability to make its achievements in advancing EU objectives and priorities visible and transferable.

Award criteria for the Specific operating grant agreements to be signed in 2013 under this budget line

Specific grant agreements, based upon the framework partnership agreements, will be signed after having directly submitted a proposal to the Commission and following an assessment of the proposals based on the below-mentioned criteria:

 Coherence of the annual work programme with the Framework Partnership Agreement;

- The extent to which the proposed programme take into consideration the objectives laid down in the PROGRESS programme and the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) and respond to actual needs relevant for the period concerned;
- The added value and relevance at European level of the programme proposed as well its dissemination and availability to all countries involved in the PROGRESS Programme and the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI);
- The clarity and feasibility of the annual programme, including time-table and methodology and in particular its capacity to achieve the planned objectives;
- The quality, efficiency and feasibility of the work organisation including a clear description of the allocation of human resources in relation to the individual tasks or activities;
- The financial quality of the proposal, including the existence of a clear, detailed, and reasonable budget, which is coherent with the proposal.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 9 904 624

2.1. Calls for tender

2.1.1 Call in support of the European Employment Policy Observatory (EEPO) (published in 2012 but having financial impact on the budget 2012 and 2013)

A call for tender will be launched in 2012 covered by the 2nd update of the Financing Decision 2012.

The contract is aimed at improving the European Commission's information base, monitoring capacity, data collection and policy analyses functions for the benefit of national and EU policy makers and stakeholders establishing and implementing the European Employment Strategy (EES) and the Europe 2020 Agenda and pertinent Flagship initiatives. It will also support capacity building and the exchange of good practices and experiences among them. EEPO will provide information, comparative research and evaluation on employment and labour mobility policies, trends in labour market transitions affecting job changers and job seekers and the role of public employment services (PES) in enabling these in the EU Member States, candidate and associated countries.

2.1.2. Exchange of good practices through the <u>production of a good practice handbook for green jobs</u>, to elicit good practices in Member States and highlight elements for replicability and transferability.

If the framework contract for studies could not be signed on time, a low value procedure will be launched for the publication of a handbook of good practices to raise awareness on the best bipartite or tripartite initiatives and activities for green employment. The handbook, which fulfils one of the actions stemming for the Employment Package (adopted on 18th April 2012), will be based and will further update work undertaken by the European Foundation for the

improvement of living and working conditions as well as other available sources such as ILO, OECD. The handbook will also focus on replicability aspects of the assessed practices The call for tender will be launched during the second quarter of 2013.

2.1.3. Study on PES Case Load Management, in line with the priorities announced in the Employment Package – support to the practical implementation of efficient and effective PES business models in order to support Europe 2020 targets – the study on PES caseload management will look into several core parts of PES personalised service delivery to the benefits of clients. The study will look at caseload 1) caseload prioritization 2) profiling 3) activation 4) caseloads management of flows in, and out of, the advisers portfolio as well as frequency of contracts 5) recent trends including the impact of the crisis and budget constraints 6) country fiches. The indicative timeframe for launching the procedure is the second quarter of 2013.

2.1.4. Studies supporting policy analysis

- to cover short term needs in relation to analytical work for underpinning policy development and in support of the Europe 2020 strategy (notably by research, development and processing of quantitative and qualitative information into a new database for country monitoring);
- to monitor general labour market trends and developments in policies which affect employment (e.g. tax and energy policies, training and education);
- to elaborate background papers for policy, bilateral and regional conferences & seminars or contribute to the drafting of 'joint papers' with our international partners.

Calls will be launched throughout 2013, in quarter 2, 3 and 4.

It is intended to launch between 5 to 10 contracts.

2.1.5. European PES knowledge database: this is a country/information description database bringing together and consolidating country reports (e.g. PES business models, PES performance measurement systems, PES caseloads, PES to PES peer reviews reports, PES flexicurity practises, PES skills anticipation systems, etc). It will help the Commission to develop and support PES related CSR under the 2020 strategy while enhancing the exchange of good practices within the HoPES network and feedback to EMCO on implementation of key elements of employment policies/ and procedures.

Two low value procedures (around 5 small scale contracts) will be launched during the second half of 2013.

2.1.6. Labour Market Policy (LMP) database

Further work on the LMP database 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, e.g. for calculating activation rates of long-term unemployed persons. The work programme includes the annual LMP data production and dissemination, and the improvement and general maintenance of the LMP application 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.

An open call for tender procedure will be launched in the 2nd quarter of 2013.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. 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 conclusion of specific service orders based on the DG EMPL 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 three times. This multiple framework contract can be used for carrying out evaluation and studies to prepare impact assessment work. It is intended to launch around 5 specific contracts during the first and second quarter of 2013, including one on the next steps as regards the contents of the Skills Panorama.

The activity will also be implemented through a study on IT solutions for the EU skills panorama through the conclusion of a specific service order based on the DG DIGIT framework contract ESP-DESIS II n° DI/6760 to DI/6777 concluded on October 2010 for a period of 12 months, renewable 3 times.

For meetings to consult and discuss with stakeholders notably for the next steps, activities will be implemented through around 5 specific service orders on the basis of the new DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots – VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.2. ESCO (common multilingual taxonomy of occupations and skills), based on the ISCO classification, has been identified as one of the flagship initiatives under the Europe 2020 strategy. It will be made freely available as a standard tool for all interested stakeholders. The work to develop ESCO involves 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 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-DESIS II n° DI/6760 to DI/6777, valid until 9 September 2012 and/or the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL Framework contracts following the calls for tender published in 2011 under the reference VT/2011/007 (Lots 1 & 3) and VT/2011/103 (Lot 2).

2.2.3. Eurobarometer on undeclared work in the EU. The re-conduction of special Euro-Barometer 284 (2007) on undeclared work is envisaged. The Employment Package refers to the problem of tackling undeclared work, but there is no comparable recent survey data available, and it is widely recognised that macro-economic methods tend to over-estimate the phenomenon. The re-conduction of the 2007 survey would help to identify the trends in undeclared work in the light of the economic crisis which occurred since, and allow a re-assessment of the extent and socio-economic characteristics of undeclared work in the Member States.

The specific contract will be based on 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 or upon its successor.

2.2.4. Eurobarometer on the quality of traineeships in the EU. Following several calls by the EP, the Council and youth organisations the Youth on the Move flagship initiative (2010), the Youth Opportunities Initiative (2011) as well as the Employment Package (2012) and finally the Youth Employment Package (2012) announced that the Commission would present a Quality framework for Traineeships in order to ensure that traineeships really help young people in their education-to-work transitions. However, such an initiative will have to be underpinned by an impact assessment, and data on traineeships is rather scarce, existing evidence is mostly qualitative. Therefore a Eurobarometer on the quality of traineeships is essential for the Commission to build up solid quantitative evidence to be used in the impact assessment on a Quality Framework for Traineeships. Furthermore, it will support communication efforts by the Commission about highlighting the important role of traineeships in increasing young people's employability and why the quality of traineeships counts.

The specific contract will be based on the DG COMM framework service contract for flash Eurobarometer surveys PO/2010–30/A2 concluded on 18 July 2011 for a period of four years.

2.2.5. Employment seminars, meetings and conferences, communication and networking activities

Organisation of up to 20 meetings, forums, seminars, conferences and information sessions: The aim is 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.

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

- the DG EMPL Framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.
- the DG EMPL Framework contract for services in support of communication activities in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion concluded on 27/04/2012 (VC/2012/034) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.
- 2.2.6. Policy, bilateral, international & regional conferences

Conferences will be organised:

- to discuss the findings of the annual publication on employment and social situation (ESDE);
- to discuss a thematic issue which is relevant in the EU2020 strategy.
- to discuss DG EMPL priority issues, raise awareness, disseminate information and share best practice under the bilateral, regional and global policy dialogue of the Social Agenda's external dimension.
- to present and discuss the results of the on-going joint EU-OECD project on "Matching supply to demand through labour migration".

These activities will be launched throughout 2013 through the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots – VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

It is intended to launch about 30 specific contracts.

2.2.7. PARES Dissemination Conference 2013 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 advancement of the EU2020 flagship initiative 'An agenda for new skills and jobs' whilst also contributing to the revision of the core services and competences of PES as referred in the 2012 Employment Package. One element of the PARES conference in autumn 2013 will be the dissemination of the results achieved in 2012 in the working groups of the Strategic Dialogue, other elements are the results of the projects selected under the call for proposals and the first edition of WEESP.

These activities will be launched throughout 2013 through the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots – VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200) for a period of 24 months, renewable once.

2.2.8. Personal and household services

This activity will relate to the organisation of meetings, seminars, conferences, information sessions, studies and support activities concerning the development of personal and household services as announced in the Employment Package. The aim is to facilitate the sharing of information and the development of new business models on these kinds of services.

These activities will be launched throughout 2013 through the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots – VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200) for a period of 24 months, renewable once and through the DG EMPL 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 three times.

It is intended to launch 3 contracts in the first semester of 2013 and 3 contracts in the second.

In the case that the framework contract "Evaluation and Impact Assessment Activities" mentioned above cannot be used for the studies and support activities, other procedures will be separately launched during the first semester 2013.

It is intended to launch 3 contracts in the 2nd quarter and 3 contracts in the 3rd quarter.

2.2.9. Information, publications, networking and communication strategy. In order to facilitate the communication and exchange of information and good practices between the Programme participants and with persons not directly participating, a request will be made for dissemination, publications, networking and communication activities to be implemented through the conclusion of specific service orders based on the new DG EMPL framework contract for services in support of communication activities in the field of employment, social affairs and inclusion concluded on 27/04/2012 (VC/2012/034) and on the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" concluded on 23 December 2011 (5 lots – VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC/2011/0200); all of them for a period of 24 months, renewable once . This activity also includes the participation in campaigns facilitating communication and exchange of information in the area of employment, social affairs and inclusion.

2.2.10. Impact Assessment for the modernisation of PES elements in the CWP 2013 initiative 34

The 2013 CWP foresees a legislative package covering notably the modernisation of Public Employment Services, in particular the setting up a formal European network of Public Employment Services, to help develop and implement a European Labour Mobility Action Plan for modernisation and strengthening of PES to help transitions on labour markets. The Impact Assessment will cover the PES elements of the legislative package. This activity will be launched through DG EMPL 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 three times or the new framework contract for evaluations and studies launched by DG EMPL in 2012.

It is intended to launch 1 contract in the first semester.

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1. 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.

2.3.2. *Mutual Learning support service contract* to assist in the implementation of the Mutual Learning Programme (exchange of information and transferability of good practices).

The call for tender was launched in 2012 (under the reference VT/2012/004, published in Official Journal No. 2012/S 057-092174 on 22/03/2012) for a service contract (call for tender covered by Financing Decision C(2012) 1432 of 08/03/2012). The contract, concluded for a duration of 12 months and renewable 3 times, shall enter into force end December 2012 and will be renewed in December 2013.

3. **JOINT MANAGEMENT**

According to Article 53d of the Financial Regulation 2002 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 2013 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-LEED

The aim is to support the Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) programme of the OECD to support activities closely related to Employment policy priority areas and in particular to generate innovative guidance on policies to support employment creation and economic development through locally based initiatives.

The indicative amount for this project is EUR 660 000.

3.1.3. Forum promoting skills development at the local level in cooperation with OECD

The purpose of this activity is to co-finance with the OECD the Forum on "Partnerships and Local Governance" which concentrates on promoting partnerships and the exchange of good practices pertaining to local economic and employment development. The Forum concentrates on skills development and the linkages between changing labour market needs and new skills as well as initiatives to promote sustainable and job-rich growth.

The indicative amount for this project is EUR 600 000.

3.2. ILO

3.2.1. ILO project on wages

In 2011 and early 2012, the ILO has contributed to the building of expertise on wages and labour income. The focus was essentially macro-economic on the supporting role of labour income policies in supporting recovery, the interaction between employment and imbalances and how policies can help to achieve balanced income development while promoting jobs and meeting fiscal goals. In 2012, the modelling component of the analysis has been strengthened and a broad sector dimension introduced. Subject to agreement and building on past results, the 2013 project would further develop and diversify the sector-specific approach, both by modelling and empirical analysis.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 500 000.

3.3. ICMPD

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

Follow-up of the feasibility study run in 2012 on a rigorous methodological approach aiming to identify processes and outcomes of various migrant regularization measures and their impact on migrants' employment trajectories, in view of drawing a better understanding on the labour market outcomes of different policy approaches to regularization.

The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 350 000.

4. SUBDELEGATIONS

4.1. Subdelegation to DIGIT

4.1.1. 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 2013, an amount of \in 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. 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 2013 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) manage the business

survey following previously carried out feasibility study with a view to complementing the skills forecasting activity by providing data from employers.

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.

The indicative amount envisaged for this action during 2013 is EUR 1 100 000.

6. OTHER INTERVENTIONS

6.1. Administrative arrangement with DG Joint Research Centre (DG JRC)

Building on earlier collaboration on flexicurity indicators, it is envisaged to complement this project with JRC in order to ensure continuity of implementation of the monitoring methodology endorsed by the Employment Committee in 2009:

- improve the methodology used, adapt it to new research findings and to the approach set out in the Communication on "job-rich recovery" (notably the CSWD on "open, dynamic and inclusive labour markets");
- support the integration of the Flexicurity indicators into a possible DG-wide data warehouse for monitoring;

The indicative amount envisaged for this action is EUR 250 000.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	7 390 000
Calls for proposals	5 700 000
De jure monopolies	690 000
Grants to partners	1.000 000
PROCUREMENT	9 904 624
JOINT MANAGEMENT	2 660 000
SUBDELEGATIONS	86 000
INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT	1 100 000
OTHER INTERVENTIONS	250 000
TOTAL 04 04 01 01	21 390 624

04 04 01 02 - PROGRESS - SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

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 -Progress¹⁹, 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. 20

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 28 735 000 + EUR 804 580 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 29 539 580

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

For 2013, the strategic framework for the annual work plan for the PROGRESS programme will be based on the Commission Communication on EUROPE 2020 and on the social investment orientations of the Social Investment Package foreseen for adoption in February 2013.

This 2020 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 Social Investment approach sets out the implications for social policy of these three priorities, under five pillars: increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of social investment and protection; pursuing activating and enabling policies; securing social inclusion and adequate livelihoods; advancing social policy innovation and social policy experimentation; and streamlining monitoring, governance and information. Through the Social Investment Package, the Commission will help Member States to define what is needed in social protection areas, in the short, medium and longer term, taking full account of the impact of the crisis, the need for fiscal consolidation and the demographic transformations. The Commission will thus ensure stronger alignment of guidance and assessment of social policies and will provide support to the Member States' investments in social policies and actions, based on facts and data, best practices and comparisons.

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 Europe 2020 strategy explicitly reinforcing its social dimension.

OJ L 87, 7.4.2010, p.6.

¹⁹ OJ L 315, 15.11.2006, p.1.

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, social protection, social inclusion and health/long term care), 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

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

1.1. Calls for proposals

1.1.1. Transnational projects on social policy experimentation

Objectives and foreseen results

This call for proposals will seek to promote social policy 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, reducing health inequalities and strengthening the accessibility, quality and viability of health care and long-term care (both institutional care and alternative community based care)²¹, fight against housing exclusion and homelessness, and social integration of Roma²², as well as vulnerable migrant and ethnic minority groups

The social policy experimentation projects have to be submitted by consortiums of 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, methodologies to evaluate the social policy experimentations and strategies to generalise social policy experimentations' into broader policy measures or programmes or to implement them at larger scales. The projects should seek development of links and synergies if appropriate with other transnational networks supporting the scaling up of social innovations.

The European Commission will disseminate 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.

1 000 000 € will be allocated to projects focusing on youth opportunities in relation to the objectives described above. If the quality of the applications dedicated to this theme is not judged sufficient by the Evaluation Committee, the Commission reserves the right to reallocate this budget to the applications addressing other themes.

The grant requested should be 700 000 € minimum and 1 000 000 € maximum.

EU financial aid granted will not exceed 80 % of the total eligible costs of the action. The consortium must guarantee the co-financing in cash of the remaining 20 % of the eligible costs. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester 2013. Indicative projects duration between 18 and 36 months.

Evaluation criteria

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)a of the Financial regulation

²¹ COM(2009)567

COM(2011)173

b) Eligibility

Eligibility of the applicant

The applicants should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1. Applicants must be a properly constituted and registered legal persons, established in one of the PROGRESS-participating countries²³;
- 2. Lead applicants must be public authorities, at central, regional or local level, or bodies governed by public law.
- 3. Co-applicants must be public authorities, at central, regional or local level, bodies governed by public law, civil society or private sector.

Eligibility of the proposal

The proposal should meet the following eligibility criteria:

- 1. Be a social policy experiment;
- 2. Only seek funding for activities in PROGRESS participating countries;
- 3. Include an evaluation. The evaluation should be carried out in conditions allowing the independence of its results from the applicants;
- 4. Include co-applicants from at least two other PROGRESS-participating countries for the sake of the dissemination of the results;
- 5. Contain a description of how the scaling-up of the experiment could occur, so that there is an actual perspective that the test, if successful, is transformed into a policy reform.

c) Selection

c) Selection

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

- 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.
- 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).

EU27, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia

d) Award

Policy Criteria

- 1. Relevance of the project: conformity with the objectives described under 1.1.1 above 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 experiment to advancing social policies and its ability to be implemented on a larger scale. Target group, envisaged set of actions and expected impact must be clearly defined;
- 2. Ability of the evaluation framework to deliver robust information on the impact of the tested policy intervention: relevant and clear objectives, robust methodology and precise indicators. In particular, the European added value: the extent to which the results of the project are expected to be useful for informing policy development and activities at EU, national and local levels

Organisational Criteria

- 1. Organisational capacity to achieve the objectives through the proposed activities within realistic deadlines;
- 2. Quality of the set-up: extent of the involvement of other co-applicants and balance between co-applicants. Including relevant stakeholders from other PROGRESS countries in the wider consortium is strongly encouraged.
- 3. Quality and extent of the dissemination strategy.

Financial Criteria

- 1. Adequacy of the allocated resources (human and financial) to the planned activities (cost-effectiveness);
- 2. Overall quality, clarity and completeness of the budget.
- 1.1.2. Supporting Member States in designing reform strategies for more cost-effective social protection systems

Objectives and foreseen results

In response to tight budgets and demographic change, Member States have to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and adequacy of social protection and investment. This involves finding ways of making their pension, health and long-term care systems more efficient, and their financing methods more employment and growth-friendly. The purpose of this call for proposals is to help Member States review various aspects of their social protection systems to identify potentials for efficiency improvements and design reform strategies for realising these potentials as well as developing a better capability for social investments. Grants awarded under this call will allow Member States to access international experiences and the expertise of international organisations. The grants should allow Member States to reform their social protection systems in such a way that adequate and universal social protection can be delivered at the lowest possible cost, making them more sustainable under adverse budgetary and demographic conditions.

The grants could be used for a wide range of activities, including analysis of the current efficiency of parts of the social protection system or social investments, reform design and modelling the impact of various reform options. The expertise of other countries or international organisations could be mobilised through study visits from and to countries with relevant experience, secondments of policy advisers from another country to the beneficiary country, workshops and seminars and country reviews by international organisations which may place the reform needs and potentials in a broader comparative perspective.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget allocated for this call for proposals will be EUR 2 000 000. 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%.

Indicative timetable

The call will be launched in the first semester of 2013.

- a) Exclusion criteria
- Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)a of the Financial regulation
- b) Eligibility criteria

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;
- Lead applicants in charge of coordinating the action must 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;
- Co-applicants can be any type of non-profit organisation, including international organisations.

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 criteria

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

- Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicant must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies).
- Operational capacity to complete the proposed action: the applicant 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 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 the EU's social policy objectives and the broader goals of the Europe2020 strategy?
- 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 co-applicants 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?

1.1.3. Call for the proposals for the establishment of long-term partnerships with European level organisations active in the field of combating social exclusion. and European level networks of financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation

Objectives and foreseen results

This call aims at concluding framework partnership agreements for establishing long-term cooperation between non-governmental organisations active in promoting social inclusion in society as well as European-level networks of financial intermediaries active in the promotion of access to finance with the aim of job creation and social inclusion on the one hand and the Commission on the other hand. The legal bases of this call are Article 9 (c) of Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS (employment and social inclusion strands) and its successor for the period 2014-2020 – Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) (Commission's proposal COM/2011/609), of which adoption is expected in 2013..

The primary aim of the grant is to make European-level non-governmental organisations our involved consultative partners and exploit their specialist expertise to further develop and advocate for EU social policies through various instruments like awareness-raising activities, producing studies and analysis or organising thematic events. Furthermore the awarded grants for selected organisations help: 1) improving the organizational capacity and management of the networks; 2) voicing the needs of people exposed to social exclusion, difficult access to finance, discrimination and gender inequality, formulating them to influence policy making at EU and national levels; or providing services to people exposed to social exclusion, difficult access to finance, discrimination and gender inequality 3) reinforcing the advocacy and campaigning skills of the European partner organizations and those of their national members to advance, support and further develop EU objectives and priorities at EU and national level; 4) better integrating cross-cutting issues (e.g. gender, poverty, disability non-discrimination and job creation) in the day-to-day work of the European partner organizations.

In the framework of this call, partnership agreements will also be concluded under budget line 04 04 01 01.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The call will be launched as soon as a political agreement is achieved for the PSCI and it will require the submission of the work programme for 2014 (funded under the current PROGRESS) in the same time.

For 2013, the indicative amount for the specific grants agreements with European level organisations active in the field of combating social exclusion will be EUR 10 000 000.

Co-financing: As a general rule, EU support under the PROGRESS Programme is limited to 80% of the total eligible costs. This will be the applicable maximum co-financing rate for the specific operating grants covering the 2014 budgetary year of the partners. Under the successor programme of PROGRESS starting in 2014, co-financing rates may change.

Specific operating grants covering subsequent budgetary years of the partners will be awarded in accordance with the co-financing rate provided in the successor programme.

Indicative timetable

The indicative timetable envisages the launching of this call immediately after a political agreement has been reached on the PSCI (presumably in the first semester of 2013), and the conclusion of the framework partnership agreements in the third quarter 2013 following the assessment of the proposals submitted, including a four years strategic plan for the period 2014-2017 and a work programme for 2014. On basis of the concluded framework partnership agreements and agreed annual work programme and budget, specific operating grant agreements will be signed in the four quarter 2013 for the period of activities starting on 1st January 2014. These agreements will award a financial contribution towards the operating costs of the selected organisations.

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

b) Eligibility criteria

Eligibility of the applicant

The applicant organisations must be European-level organisations

- (a) which is a properly constituted and registered legal entity established in one of the PROGRESS participating countries for at least three years;
- (b) which is non-governmental, non-profit-making, and independent of industry, commercial and business or other conflicting interests, whose members are mainly non-profit organisations;
- (c) whose mission falls under the objectives and scope of the priorities established under each relevant section of the call, namely they should be active in the field of promoting social inclusion;
- (d) whose main purpose is to contribute to promoting greater social inclusion and job creation and strengthening social protection;
- (e) which has national member organisations in at least fifteen Member States of the European Union;
- (f) which is mandated by its members, through a Management Board or other administrative forum, to represent these members at the EU level and to be responsible for the activities of the network;
- (g) which will not pursue general objectives directly or indirectly contrary to the policies of the Union or be associated with disreputable projects or images.

Eligibility of the application:

The proposed four years work programme must fit in with the activities under the Progress Programme and the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) and the objectives of this call.

c) Selection

The selection criteria will enable the Commission to assess the applicant organisation's financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed work programme.

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain its activities for the four-year period.
- Operational capacity applicants must have a sound administrative and financial management structure, the operational resources (technical, management, etc.) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed work programme, as well as the ability to implement it. The applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field.

d) Award criteria

Award criteria for the Framework Partnership Agreements

Applications from European networks which satisfy the above exclusion, eligibility and selection criteria will then be assessed according to the following award criteria:

1. Quality of the proposal

The quality will be judged by the extent to which the triennial strategy

- is in line with the objectives set out in the Decision establishing the PROGRESS programme and the Regulation establishing the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation;
- corresponds to EU policy objectives in one or more of the fields covered by the call. A clear link should be made with the most recent EU strategic documents;
- is clear, realistic and detailed, in particular as regards the definition of the objectives and their suitability for achieving the desired results, and this in a 4 year perspective;
- explains its potential impact on EU and national policy-shaping and implementation of legislation and policies;
- proves its potential to voice the public's concerns from different regions of Europe and to promote them in all EU and national policies;

- includes awareness raising and knowledge-enhancement activities of EU and national policies and provides for solid and concrete actions to disseminate the results of their work;
- comprises appropriate means for monitoring and evaluating the activities of the organisation.

2. Effective and efficient organisation of work

The effective and efficient organisation of work will be judged by the extent to which the applicant

- outlines its relations with its national members, including arrangements to ensure involvement of member organisations in policy development and policy statements, goal-orientation and planning practices, reporting methods
- demonstrates its ability to interact with external actors, including key institutions, other NGO networks and relevant constituents when designing and implementing each activity envisaged
- shows the organisation's ability to encourage cooperation and membership in PROGRESS participating countries
- demonstrates its ability to make its achievements in advancing EU objectives and priorities visible and transferable.

Award criteria for the Specific operating grant agreements to be signed in 2013 with European level organisations active in the field of combating social exclusion.

Specific grant agreements, based upon the framework partnership agreements, will be signed after having directly submitted a proposal to the Commission and following an assessment of the proposals based on the below-mentioned criteria:

- Coherence of the annual work programme with the Framework Partnership Agreement;
- The extent to which the proposed programme takes into consideration the objectives laid down in the PROGRESS programme and the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) and respond to actual needs relevant for the period concerned:
- The added value and relevance at European level of the programme proposed as well its dissemination and availability to all countries involved in the PROGRESS Programme and the future Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI);
- The clarity and feasibility of the programme, including time-table and methodology and in particular its capacity to achieve the planned objectives;
- The quality, efficiency and feasibility of the work organisation including a clear description of the allocation of human resources in relation to the individual tasks or activities;

- The financial quality of the programme, including the existence of a clear, detailed, and reasonable budget, which is coherent with the actions proposal.

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

According to Article 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage. The events described below, 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 procedures will be launched during the first semester for events during the Lithuanian presidency and during the second semester for events during the Greek 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 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.

1.2.1.1. Lithuanian Presidency Conferences

Three events during the second semester of 2013 under the Lithuanian Presidency will be cofinanced by the Commission, focusing on social inclusion, social protection and MISSOC.

The total amount of these three events is EUR 1 050 000 €. Maximum EU co-financing rate will be 80 % of the total eligible costs of each action.

1.2.1.2. Greek Presidency Conferences

Three events during the first semester of 2014 under the Greek Presidency will be co-financed by the Commission, focusing on social protection issues, the twelfth meeting with people experiencing poverty and MISSOC.

The total amount of these three events is EUR 750 000 €. Maximum EU co-financing rate will be 80 % of the total eligible costs of each action.

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 Member States and to ensure its regular updating.

A three-year partnership agreement was signed in 2011 with the University of Essex. The third specific grant agreement based on the partnership agreement will be signed in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Indicative global amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The total budget for the specific agreement to be signed in 2013 should be around EUR 1.500 000, the EU financial aid granted will not exceed 80 % of the total of the eligible costs.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 8 339 580

2.1. Calls for tender

- 2.1.1. Development of a datawarehouse to provide a fully-fledged, sophisticated analytical system, including various interfaces for easy data access and outputs (such as automatic update of charts/ tables) for the use by the Commission and wider public. The call will be launched during the first quarter 2013.
- 2.1.2. Series of small-scale studies and support for the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion" and the OMC for social protection and social inclusion to cover short terms needs in relation to the social agenda of Europe 2020, through:
- ad-hoc literature, reviews, analysis, research and fact finding,
- contributions to seminars and conferences,
- social impact assessment issues.

The calls will be launched throughout 2013. It is intended to launch 6 contracts evenly spread throughout the year 2013 according to the needs.

2.1.3. Social policy network

"EU network on social policy and secretariat of the mutual information system on social protection (MISSOC)"

The Social Policy Network will deliver high quality independent expert research, assessment and recommendations on social protection and social inclusion issues. In particular, the network will give concrete policy advice on how to design and support dedicated actions at EU and Member State level towards social protection and social investments, through ex-ante assessment of impacts of different policy actions, annual assessment of National Reform Programmes and National Social reports, as well as ad-hoc work on request. It will also serve as secretariat for MISSOC providing a central source for up-to-date information on social protection legislation, benefits and conditions whose purpose is to offer harmonised and easily-comparable information across countries to both professional users and citizens. The information gathered from the MISSOC national correspondents and the analysis and assessments of the experts will give a broader and more accurate picture of the situation and results of policy in the member states and the legal basis and conditions delivering these outcomes.

Call to be launched in first semester of 2013.

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 This includes the organisation of regional workshops to facilitate dissemination and exchange of views on how to best achieve the EU and national targets and give more local visibility and weight to the European Platform against poverty and social exclusion (EPAP). Around 50 service orders will be launched throughout the year on the basis of the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings", five contracts (for five lots) signed on 23 December 2011, valid until 22 December 2013, renewable once for further 24 months (references VC/2011/0137, VC/2011/0197, VC/2011/0198, VC/2011/0199 and VC 2011/0200) 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 12 months renewable twice.
- 2.2.2. Evaluation and impact assessments through around 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, social impact of the crisis, ageing related topics or pension reforms)

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 or upon its successor.

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. Around 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 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. To be implemented throughout the year through around 20 service orders based on:
- the new DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities that was concluded at the end of 2011 following the call for tender launched under the reference VT/2011/051 (Official Journal 2011/S 135-223581 of 16/07/2011) or
- the DG AGRI Framework contract AGRI-2012-0024 (ABAC30-CE-0476530/00-58) signed on 15 February 2012 for a duration of 12 months or
- the multiple Framework Contract with reopening of competition of DG EAC (EAC/20/2008/01), concluded on 12 March 2009, valid until 11 March 2013.
- 2.2.5. Translation of documents related to social inclusion and social protection to be implemented throughout the year through around 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.

2.3. Renewals

2.3.1. Peer Review in Social Protection and Social Inclusion Programme

The contract VC/2011/0491 concluded on 19 December 2011 for a period of 12 months, renewable up to three times, is envisaged to be renewed for the second time in the fourth quarter of 2013 for further 12 months.

2.3.2. Support services for the development of social policy experimentation in the European Union

Support services on social policy experimentation will help the European Commission to accompany Member States' efforts to innovate and modernise social policy in the design, implementation and evaluation of social policy experimentation, mainly through the organisation of trainings, information sessions and the production of communication tools.

It is envisaged to renew the contract the first time in the fourth quarter 2013.

2.3.3. Training on social inclusion/social protection

The framework contract on trainings for national administrators VC/2011/109 concluded on 22 February 2011 valid 24 months, is envisaged to be renewed for further 24 months.

Around 20 service orders will be launched throughout of the year.

3. **JOINT MANAGEMENT**

According to Article 53(d) of the Financial Regulation 2002 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 04/04/2006 a Contribution Agreement with the OECD which represents a long term framework agreement with the Commission

3.1.1. OECD/EC project on assessing progress towards adequate, sustainable and safe pension systems

After pensions have become a major focus of the Europe2020 strategy and the Commission has presented a comprehensive reform strategy in the White Paper of February 2012, it would be important to develop the capacity to carry out an overall assessment of progress which should also be linked to the preparation of the 2015 Ageing and Pensions Adequacy Reports. The OECD is a key partner in many aspects of our pensions-related work (replacement rate calculations, role and promotion of private pensions) It would therefore make sense to cooperate with the OECD on this assessment. The results could feed into the 2015 adequacy report and possibly a joint conference.

The estimated amount for this action is EUR 530 000.

3.1.2. EC/OECD project for a multi-country database on benefit recipient

Main aim of this project is to maintain a multi-country benefit recipients database with focus on working—age individuals in receipt of different types of social benefits. The indicative cost is estimated at EUR 470 000.

3.2. Cooperation with UNECE

Further development of the Active Ageing Index

An on-going joint management project with UNECE seeks to develop an active ageing index that allows each country to assess potentials for improvements in terms of realising the full potential of older people. First results are to be presented at the European Year closing conference in December 2012. Assuming that the feasibility of the index and its acceptance can be demonstrated, a follow-up project should be envisaged.

The estimated amount for this action is EUR 300 000.

3.3. Cooperation with WHO

Establishment of a European support centre for public authorities participating in the WHO age-friendly cities programme

The WHO has developed a methodology for cities to become 'age-friendly'. This is now increasingly being used also by regions (Andalusia) or even promoted at the national level (Ireland, Portugal). Getting more cities and regions involved in the WHO age-friendly cities programme is one of the goals of the European Year and is also reflected in the activities of the Action Group D4 'Innovation for age-friendly cities, buildings and environments' of the European Innovation Partnership for Active Ageing

The Commission could cooperate with WHO to set up a structure that would provide such advice and monitor developments.

The estimated amount for this action is EUR 600 000.

3.4. 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.

4. OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Administrative arrangement with DG Joint Research Centre (DG JRC)

Project with JRC on strategies for enabling the elderly to continue to live independently even as they become frail or develop disabilities (covering also the activities of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing in these fields).

This is a follow-up to the accent on independent living in the EY2012 and to the long-term care element in the SIP-package scheduled for adoption in February 2013.

The indicative amount envisaged for this action is EUR 200 000.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
GRANTS	18 800 000
Calls for proposals	5 500 000
De jure monopolies	1 800 000
De facto monopolies	1 500 000
Grants to partners	10 000 000
PROCUREMENT	8 339 580
JOINT MANAGEMENT	2 200 000
OTHER INTERVENTIONS	200 000
TOTAL 04 04 01 02	29 539 580

04 04 01 03 - PROGRESS - Working conditions

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 7 893 000 + EUR 221 004 (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = Total amount EUR 8 114 004

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

Besides the recurrent activities, a special attention will be given to an action ensuring appropriate follow-up of ongoing discussions on a legislative proposal COM (2011)348 (protection of workers exposed to electromagnetic fields), to an action to foster a better implementation of existing EU OSH legislation (model for better promotion of the effective implementation of OSH strategies), and to the promotion of greater involvement of labour inspectors through the activities of SLIC (Senior Labour Inspectors Committee) such as raising awareness campaigns and exchange of national inspectors. As a follow-up of a study launched in 2010 on the occupational diseases recognition and registration systems it is also intended to organise a conference which will debate on the results of the study and propose recommendations for the future.

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. Posting of workers

Objectives and foreseen results

The call for proposals will support projects related to transnational cooperation between the responsible authorities of Member States as well as social partners in the area of posting of workers, in order to improve administrative cooperation and to increase mutual trust,

including promoting exchanges of relevant officials and training, as well as developing, facilitating and promoting best practice initiatives, such as the development and updating of databases or joint websites containing general or sector-specific information concerning terms and conditions of employment to be respected.

Indicative amount and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The indicative amount for 2013 is EUR 2 440 000. The grant may not exceed 80% of the eligible costs of the operation.

Indicative timetable

The call for proposals will be launched in the second quarter of 2013.

a) Exclusion criteria

Applicants must:

- Be in conformity with Articles 106(1), 107(1) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial regulation

b) Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be properly constituted and registered legal entities, having their registered office based in one of the Member States of the European Union. In derogation from this requirement and pursuant to Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, the organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met.
- Fall in one of the following categories: Public authorities, social partners, international organisations, non-profit organisations, research centres and institutes, universities and civil societies organisations.

c) Selection criteria

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

Financial capacity to carry out the action: the applicants 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 applicants 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

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 of this call for proposals;
- The extent to which the action has a genuine transnational dimension;
- The quality of the consortium, i.e. the degree of involvement and commitment at the application stage of the stakeholders in the action:
- The cost-effectiveness of the action:
- The overall quality, clarity and completeness of the proposal, including the budgetary aspects and the arrangements to publicise the action, including aspects related to the European Union funding, and dissemination methods envisaged.

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

According to Article 190.1.c) of the Rules of Application, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly. The individual award decisions substantiating the monopoly situation will be adopted at a later stage.

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

- The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the 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.

1.2.1. De jure monopolies—Presidency events

Description and indicative timetable

Conferences and awareness-raising events on working conditions included in EU Presidencies' programmes for 2013.

Several conferences will be organised by the Irish and Lithuanian Presidencies in 2013 on matters to be agreed with the Presidencies during 2012 related to industrial relations, workers' rights and health and safety at work. Two of these conferences are the "thematic day" of the SLIC meeting which is organised by each Presidency (amounting to a maximum of 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 indicative amount is **EUR 600.000** for these events. The maximum EU co-financing rate is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

1.2.2. De facto monopolies

1.2.2.1. 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 1992²⁴.

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 EU co-funding of around 55% of the eligible costs of the ICNIRP's work programme for 2013. The grant agreement should be signed by the end of March 2013.

1.2.2.2. SLIC activities

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The national labour inspectorate have the prime responsibility for analysing and solving the practical problems of implementing secondary EC legislation and checking that it is applied in the field of occupational health and safety. They must therefore liaise closely with the Commission. The Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee (SLIC) was set up by Commission Decision 95/319/EC of 12 July 1995 (OJ N° L188 of 9 August 1995). Thanks to its extensive experience SLIC is well placed to ensure, in close collaboration with the Commission, that secondary EC legislation on occupational health and safety is effectively and uniformly applied and to investigate the practicalities of enforcement. At its plenary meetings SLIC discusses and agrees on the necessary tools, experience-sharing activities and European inspection and information campaigns.

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).

One project is foreseen for 2013 the European campaign "Prevention of falls on the same level and safe workplace housekeeping". Falls on the same level –slips, trips and falls- are the largest cause of work-related accidents in all sectors, from heavy manufacturing to office work, and are the main reason for work absences of more than three days. Accident risks are higher in for those employed in SMEs, particularly those in enterprises with less than 50 employees (EU-OSHA, 2001). Falls on the same level have serious consequences, causing severe injuries such as broken bones of concussion.

Indicative amount: **EUR 300 000** for this activity. The EU co-financing will be limited to a maximum of 70% of the total eligible costs of the actions.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for the procurements is EUR 4 070 004

2.1. Calls for tender

- 2.1.1. Development of a good practice guide for aspects related to the future directive amending Directive 2004/40/EC on Electromagnetic Fields. The call for tender is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2013.
- 2.1.2. Development of a model for better promotion of the effective implementation of the occupational safety and health (OSH) Strategy at EU level. The call for tender is expected to be launched during the first quarter of 2013.

2.2 Use of existing framework contracts

- 2.2.1. Study to quantify the social and economic costs and benefits of EU minimum standards on working time to support decision-making on the outcome of the review of the Working Time Directive (directive 2003/88/EC). One specific contract is to be signed during the first quarter 2013, using DG EMPL framework contract for evaluation-related activities.
- 2.2.2. Study on the economic and social impact of EU Labour legislation

One specific contract is to be signed in the first semester of 2013, possibly using DG EMPL framework contract for evaluation-related activities

2.2.3. Networking, information and communication 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. The action also includes the participation in campaigns facilitating communication and exchange of information in the area of employment, social affairs and inclusion. To be implemented through service orders based on the new DG EMPL Framework Contract for Communication activities VC/2012/034 and on DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" VC/2011/0137.

- 2.2.4. Meetings of working groups in the field of labour on various labour law themes, including meetings of expert groups and meetings for setting up a EU-level platform to combat undeclared work. These activities will be implemented through service orders based on the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" VC/2011/0137.
- 2.2.5. Conference on Labour Law for an audience of participating countries, social partners, universities and research institutes, will be organised through service orders based on the DG EMPL framework contract "Meetings" VC/2011/0137.
- 2.2.6 Conference on Occupational Diseases, as a follow-up of a study launched in 2010 on the status of current occupational diseases recognition and registration systems in the EU and of the usefulness and drawbacks of the current systems. This activity will be implemented through DG EMPL framework contract VC/2011/0137.

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 VC 2011/0644 was signed on 22 December 2011 and is renewable 3 times. The second renewal is expected to be signed end 2013.

3. **JOINT MANAGEMENT**

3.1. Project with the ILO on the international development of the database on transnational company agreements

The Commission intends to continue its cooperation with the ILO launched in 2012 and carried out in the form of a joint management project. Under this project, the ILO has actively contributed to the update and development of the database for agreements having an international scope, in particular international framework agreements on fundamental rights and principles at work. The ILO is the most appropriate organisation to continue carrying out this work, as it can continue to build on its own database of international agreements and the organisational structure in place. The contribution of the ILO would also include the preparation of promotional material and the participation in joint information session(s) for stakeholders. Under the agreement, the Commission would focus more directly on agreements with a European scope and on the overall maintenance of the database's infrastructure. The joint project would facilitate synergies and information on such agreements and increase visibility of both EU's and ILO's action in this field. The individual arrangement will be elaborated jointly with a clear repartition of tasks and responsibilities. The ILO will ensure transparency of operations carried out and the Commission that suitable arrangements exist for the technical setting and verification of the action.

Indicative timetable: conclusion of a contribution agreement in second quarter 2013

Indicative amount: EUR 50 000

3.2. 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 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. The committee is also referred to in the Commission's proposal for a Directive on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC (COM(2012) 131 final). The corresponding costs have been calculated in the financial statement annexed to the proposal.

An indicative amount of EUR 264 000 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.

4.2. 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".

Indicative amount:

An 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 reimbursment of experts' expenses

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	Indicative amount in €
GRANTS	3.365.000
Call for proposals	2.440.000
De jure monopolies - Presidency conferences	600.000
De facto monopolies	325.000
PROCUREMENT	4.070.004
JOINT MANAGEMENT	325.000
OTHER INTERVENTIONS	354.000
TOTAL 04 04 01 03	8.114.004

04 04 01 06 - PROGRESS - SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 1 200 000 + 33 600 EUR (EFTA/EEA Contribution) = EUR 1 233 600 (Total amount)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FINANCED

1. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 1 233 600.

1.1. Calls for tender

1.1.1. Support to the preparation of the launch of the successor to PROGRESS These contracts will aim to provide support and assistance to the Commission for the transition between PROGRESS and its successor for the years 2014-2020, building on the results of PROGRESS. These calls for tender should be launched 2nd Quarter of 2013.

1.2. Renewals

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

According to article 19.1 of Decision No 1672/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 establishing the Progress Programme, annual activity reports focusing on the results of the Programme shall be drawn up by the Commission. The subject of the service contract will be to provide assistance to the Commission in this respect.

To this end, a contract was signed on 16 December 2011 (VC/2011/0210) for one year renewable 2 times.

1.3. Use of existing framework contracts

It is intended to sign 25 specific contracts during 2013.

1.3.1. Information and communication

This activity involves timely communication, debate, events and meetings with the stakeholders as well information and dissemination (web and various publications).

This activity will be implemented through the conclusion of specific contracts based on:

- The DG EMPL Framework contract 'Meetings' VT/2011/001.
- The DG EMPL framework contract for communication activities VT/2011/051.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
PROCUREMENT	1 233 600
TOTAL 04 04 01 06	1 233 600

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 13 263 000

04 04 03 02 - EUR 6 852 000

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE LINE AND PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR

The budget lines are 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 2013, a contribution of EUR 13 263 000 is foreseen to cover the Foundation's staff and administrative expenditure (titles 1 and 2), while a contribution of EUR 6 852 000 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 APPROPRIATIONS

04 04 04 02: Total amount EUR 7.174.375 (incl. EFTA)

04 04 04 03: Total amount EUR 7.253.605 (incl. EFTA)

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 2013, a contribution of EUR 7 334 475²⁵ (C1 credits 6 978 964 + EFTA 195 411 + Others 160 100) 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 2013 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 2013 is EUR 7 897 505²⁶ (C1 credits 7 056 036 + EFTA 197 569 + Outturn 643 900).

Including € 643.900 estimated budget outturn 2011.

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²⁵ Including € 160.100 from Spanish and local authorities

The 2013 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

BASIC ACT

Decision No 283/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 2010 establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for Employment and Social Inclusion (OJ L 87, 7.4.2010, p. 1).

AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

EUR 26 500 000

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 2013

1. SUBDELEGATIONS

The budgetary allocations for 2013 will be available to ECFIN (which will implement these instruments on the basis of Commitments Agreements):

- 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 4 100 000.
- 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 22 000 000.

2. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelop reserved for procurements is EUR 400 000.

2.2. Use of existing framework contracts

2.2.1. Interim evaluation of the European Progress Microfinance Facility in line with Article 9 of Decision 283/2010/EU implemented through the conclusion of a specific service order based on the DG EMPL 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 three times or the new framework contract for evaluations and studies launched by DG EMPL in 2012. This multiple framework contract can be used for carrying out evaluation and studies to prepare impact assessment work.

SUMMARY TABLE

ACTIONS	INDICATIVE AMOUNT IN EUR
SUBDELEGATIONS	26 100 000
PROCUREMENT	400 000
TOTAL 04 04 15	26 500 000