of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Support Measure 2015 for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Asia Regional

Action Document

1. IDENTIFICATION

| Title/Number | Support Measures 2015 in favour of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Asia Regional  
CRIS number: 2014 / 037-512 |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Total cost   | Total estimated cost: EUR 17 710 000  
Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 17 710 000  
For an amount of EUR 0 (zero) from the general budget of the European Union for 2014 and for an amount of EUR 17710000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2015, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget. |
| Aid method / Management mode and type of financing | Project Approach  
Direct management – procurement |
| DAC-code     | 43010  
Sector  
Multisector aid |

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The provision of support measures of this kind is foreseen in each of the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Asia Regional for 2014-2020. This financing instrument aims to provide financial support to run the support measures related to the political, economic, cultural, financial and technical cooperation with the Asian developing countries for the period 2015-2016 and to support the ongoing and the future programmes already established in the respective country.

Based on the Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and in particular on Article 3 "Support Measures" thereof, the Support Measures will provide funding for supporting the preparation and implementation of operations financed under the DCI Regulation. The current Decision will cover expenditure
associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation of operations financed under the DCI in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Asia Regional. It will allow funding country and multi-country studies, the organisation of meetings and cultural and information activities in the same countries.

2.2. Context

Country/ regional context

Home to more than half of the world’s population, Asia is characterised by a high diversity in terms of political, economic, social, security and environmental systems. Asia has surpassed North America by becoming Europe’s main trading partner. Even in the wake of the global economic crisis, Asian economies have been growing on average at 7% or more. Fast economic growth has resulted in a sharp decline of poverty over the years. However extreme poverty remains over 20% in several economies, especially in South Asia, but also in Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic. Despite overall impressive performance, poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable and inclusive growth remain considerable challenges. At the same time the environment is under growing pressure as a result of population growth, economic development, urbanisation, land and soil degradation, deforestation, water scarcity, air pollution and climate change. South-East Asia, in particular, is a biodiversity hotspot including about 20% of global plant, animal and marine species, making the current threat against the biological resources in the area all the more important. Around one third of the world’s coral reefs and a large part of the mangrove forests are South-East Asia. Asia emits now more than 30% of worldwide greenhouse gases which on the basis of current trends would reach over 40% in 2030. In the recent past, the degradation and burning of peat soils in South-East Asia represented 6-7 per cent of global fossil fuel emissions. Asia also has the largest incidence of natural disasters worldwide. The anticipated effects of climate change imply a serious risk for future development in Asia.

This financing proposal aims at providing financial provisions related to the political, economic, cultural, financial and technical cooperation with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Asia Regional for the period 2015-2016.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Experience has shown that the resources made available to run activities of short-term technical assistance are vital to adequately prepare, implement, monitor, and evaluate bilateral and regional projects and programmes.

In this way the support measures improve significantly the quality and efficiency levels of project identification, management and control, enabling the achievement of project and programme objectives and increasing the results and impact of EU assistance.

To achieve similar objectives over the past years, the European Commission adopted several Decisions which covered short term technical assistance (in 2006, Decisions 18313 and 18300; in 2007, Decision 18889; in 2008, Decision 19770; in 2009, Decision 21502; in 2010, Decision 22571 and in 2012, Decision 23636, in 2013 Decision 24732). The resources made available under these decisions have been used
to provide operational short term technical assistance related to the financial and technical co-operation with developing countries in Asia.

The large majority of these interventions concerned diagnostic and formulation missions, the preparation of studies (including environment country profiles) and finally activities of technical assistance of various nature (trainings, preparation of action plans, etc.).

Activities financed through these facilities were essentially related to the identification and the formulation of projects and/or programmes included in the different Country Strategy papers (CSPs) or National/Regional Indicative Programmes (NIPs).

2.4. **Complementary actions**

The administrative technical assistance (ATA) budget complements the operational short term technical assistance budget, as it funds technical assistance that is in the interest of the Commission, as opposed to the beneficiary countries.

2.5. **Donor coordination**

In the preparation of new actions, the other donors' activities will be assessed and possible synergies for joint co-operation will be explored.

3. **Detailed Description**

3.1. **Objectives**

The overall objective of this EU support is to contribute to enhancing the capacity of Asian developing countries to integrate into the regional and global systems, to reduce poverty and improve living conditions.

The purpose of this EU support is to provide adequate resources to finance the provision of support measures related to the financial and technical cooperation with the Asian developing countries covered by the Development Cooperation Instrument, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Asia Regional.

3.2. **Expected results and main activities**

The expected results are:

**ER1:** Improved expertise in various areas provided to Asian countries.

**ER2:** Enhanced ownership among beneficiaries and therefore improved sustainability of the programmes and projects.

The main activities expected to be funded could pertain to the entire project cycle and will cover one of the following activities:

- Identification, formulation, monitoring, evaluation and audit of projects and programmes.
- Feasibility studies, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, conferences, publication activities.
- Seminars, workshops, meetings, awareness raising activities, training sessions and study visits.
- Technical assistance expenditure necessary for the management of actions.
- Research activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof.
- Provision of information and communication actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union.

The specific nature, content, objectives and expected results of each assignment will be defined on a country by country level and on a case by case basis. Detailed terms of reference will be prepared and attached to each request for services. Programmes related to thematic budget lines should be funded under the relevant budget lines.

3.3. **Risks and assumptions**

Given the specificity of this operation there are no major risks and assumptions. However a fully successful implementation will depend on:

- Willingness of the Asian countries of continuing the process of improvement of their institutions.
- Keeping and improvement of the political, social and economic stability.
- Good knowledge of this instrument by potential users.
- Provision of assistance to the Delegations interested in the tool.
- Good EU internal co-ordination.
- Good management of the various contracts.
- High quality of experts supplied.
- Full involvement and support of beneficiary countries and related stakeholders in the implementation of the activities.

3.4. **Cross-cutting issues**

The European Commission recognises in full the importance of considering cross-cutting issues (i.e. gender, environment, human rights, migration, security, climate change etc.) during the design, formulation and implementation of projects.

In using the resources that will be made available under this financing proposal, the Commission will make sure that cross-cutting issues are duly considered in each funded activity.

3.5. **Stakeholders**

The main stakeholders of this action will be the European Commission, the European External Action Service, the Asian beneficiary countries and other specific development co-operation partners such as NGOs, citizens, etc.
4. **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

4.1. **Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. **Indicative operational implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2. and 4.3. will be carried out, is **48** months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement or, where none is concluded, from the adoption of this Action Document, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements. The European Parliament and the relevant Committee shall be informed of the extension of the operational implementation period within one month of that extension being granted.

4.3. **Implementation components and modules**

4.3.1. **Procurement (direct management)**

The activities will be implemented via direct management through the use of Framework Contracts (Commission Framework Contract) and procurement contract.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject in generic terms, if possible</th>
<th>Type (works, supplies, services)</th>
<th>Indicative number of contracts</th>
<th>Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support measure</td>
<td>Services</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>First semester of 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Second semester of 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>First semester 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Second semester 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4. **Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

The responsible authorising officer may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.
4.5. Indicative budget

The indicative budget for this action is EUR 17 710 000 distributed as follows across the countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Amount in EUR</th>
<th>Third party contribution (indicative, where known)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2.1 – Procurement (direct management)</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. – Afghanistan</td>
<td>2.000.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. – Bangladesh</td>
<td>2.000.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. – Bhutan</td>
<td>400.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. – Cambodia</td>
<td>2.000.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. – Lao People's Democratic Republic</td>
<td>880.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. – Mongolia</td>
<td>400.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. – Myanmar</td>
<td>2.000.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. – Nepal</td>
<td>1.000.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. – Pakistan</td>
<td>1.800.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. – Philippines</td>
<td>1.380.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. – Sri Lanka</td>
<td>900.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. – Vietnam</td>
<td>950.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. – Regional Asia</td>
<td>2.000.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>17.710.000</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.6. Performance monitoring

The activities funded under this operation will be monitored by the European Commission services.

Key indicators for measuring the performance of this operation will be:

- Short-term technical assistance activities delivered.
- Study and reports submitted.
- Identification and formulation missions funded.

Key indicators for measuring the performance of this operation will be derived from the Contractor Assessment Form to be completed at the end of the assignments covering performance of the contractor, performance of experts and overall performance.
4.7. **Evaluation and audit**

Projects financed under this decision may be evaluated and audited by external experts contracted by the Commission, if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be normally funded through other sources, because of the "N+1" rule applying to the contracting-out period of this decision.

4.8. **Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.