



Brussels, 8.11.2017
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.11.2017

**on the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Republic of Moldova to be
financed from the general budget of the Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to 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 (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Having regard to 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 action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 lays down the objectives and main principles for assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (2) The Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to the Republic of Moldova for the period 2017-2020². In line with the SSF, this Implementing Decision falls under the focal sectors of (i) Economic development and market opportunities; (ii) Strengthening institutions and good governance; and (iii) Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change. It also contains (a) Support for civil society development and (b) Strategic communication as foreseen in the SSF.
- (3) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument³ are to (i) empower citizens through constructive participation of civil society organisations in local, regional and national decision making processes, (ii) support a more transparent, efficient, competitive and resilient economic environment in the Republic of Moldova, (iii) promote key EU policies and core values, including media freedom in the Republic of Moldova, and (iv) contribute to improved living conditions of the population through the minimisation of health risks, and to improved environmental protection and smarter use of natural resources. The Annual Action Programme 2017 contains four actions.
- (4) The first action entitled “Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova” aims to contribute to the following priority area: Support for civil society development. The action will be implemented under indirect management with: Deutsche Gesellschaft

¹ OJ L77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² C(2017)6091

³ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and under direct management through procurement of services.

- (5) The second action entitled “Strengthening the growth potential of the Republic of Moldova through a more transparent, efficient, competitive and resilient economic environment” aims to contribute to the following priority areas: Economic development and market opportunities, Strengthening institutions and good governance and Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change. The action will be implemented under direct management through grants and procurement of services, and through indirect management with World Bank Group (WBG) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- (6) The third action entitled “Strategic communication and media support” aims to contribute to the priority area on Strengthening institutions and good governance and to the complementary envelope on Strategic communication. The action will be implemented under direct management –through procurement of services.
- (7) The fourth action entitled “Water Supply and Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Investments in the Region of Cahul” aims to contribute to the following priority area: Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change. The action will be implemented under Indirect management with Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) for the Water Supply and Sanitation Investment and under direct management through procurement of services.
- (8) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision, the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁴.
- (9) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants, the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is set out in Annex 2.
- (10) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in Annexes 1, 2 and 4 to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of delegation agreements. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. These entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.
- (11) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals only in the exceptional cases set out in Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (12) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (13) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, any substantial change to a financing decision that has already been adopted should follow the same

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

procedure as the initial decision. It is therefore appropriate that the Commission defines the changes to this Decision that are considered non substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible..

- (14) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Republic of Moldova, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

Annex 1: Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova

Annex 2: Strengthening the growth potential of the Republic of Moldova through a more transparent, efficient, competitive and resilient economic environment

Annex 3 : Strategic communication and media support

Annex 4 : Water Supply and Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Investments in the Region of Cahul

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 33 million and shall be financed from the general budget of the European Union for 2017 for an amount of:

- EUR 10 million from budget line 22 04 02 01;
- EUR 23 million from budget line 22 04 02 02.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in Annexes 1, 2 and 4 subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are set out in the Annexes to this Decision.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4
Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 8.11.2017

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission