



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.5.2014  
C(2014) 3166 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 20.5.2014**

**concerning the adoption of a work programme for 2014 for the implementation of  
"Technical assistance and dissemination of information on the EU Strategy for the  
Baltic Sea Region and an improved knowledge of macro-regions strategy" to be  
financed under budget line 13 03 67**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.5.2014

**concerning the adoption of a work programme for 2014 for the implementation of "Technical assistance and dissemination of information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and an improved knowledge of macro-regions strategy" to be financed under budget line 13 03 67**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, and in particular Article 58(2) thereof,

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 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation')<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 defines the technical assistance actions at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission which can be financed, amongst others, by the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF).
- (2) In addition to the ERDF technical assistance covered on available credits from budgetary lines 13 01 04 01 (ERDF) and 13 03 65 01 (ERDF), a budget line for "Technical assistance and dissemination of information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and an improved knowledge of macro-regions strategy" was introduced in the 2011 budget (13 03 31) by the European Parliament and continued in the 2012, 2013 (13 03 31) and 2014 budget (13 03 67).
- (3) In order to ensure implementation of the work programme for 2014 for technical assistance and dissemination of information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and an improved knowledge of macro-regions strategy, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and the work programme for 2014. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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<sup>2</sup> established detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (4) It is appropriate to authorise award of grants without a call for proposals to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland or a Region or organisation appointed by the

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, designated by the Finnish EUBSR presidency for the organisation of the Annual Forum on the Baltic Sea Region strategy. In addition, grants will be awarded to the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs), the Horizontal Action Leaders (HALs) and Flagship Project Leaders (FPLs) dealing with thematic priorities, as well as the Seed Money Facility for projects supporting the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Since those Priority Area Coordinators, Horizontal Action Leaders and Flagship Project Leaders have been designated in the strategy endorsed by the European Council they are in a *de facto* monopoly situation. A direct grant may be awarded to the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, which is also the managing authority of the Baltic Sea Region programme for 2007–2013 and is designated as a Flagship Project Leader (FPL).

- (5) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.
- (6) For the application of this decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### *The work programme*

The 2014 annual work programme for the implementation of the activities of "Technical assistance and dissemination of information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and an improved knowledge of macro-regions strategy", as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The annual work programme constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation for actions funded from appropriations of 2014.

#### *Article 2*

##### *Union contribution*

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 2 500 000, to be financed from budget line 13 03 67 of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014.

These appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

#### *Article 3*

##### *Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012 where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and of proportionality.

*Article 4*  
*Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland or a Region or organisation appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, designated by the Finnish EUBSR presidency for the organisation of the Annual Forum on the Baltic Sea Region strategy, to the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs), the Horizontal Action Leaders (HALs) and Flagship Project Leaders (FPLs) dealing with thematic priorities. A direct grant will also be awarded to the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein, that holds a de facto monopoly as Flagship Project Leader in accordance with the conditions detailed in the annexed work programme.

Done at Brussels, 20.5.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes HAHN*  
*Member of the Commission*