

ANNEX I: ERDF Work Programme for 2014

LEGAL BASIS

Article 58 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission)

BUDGET LINE

13 03 65 01 (ERDF Operational Technical Assistance)

1.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in Article 58 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission) this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2014 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): € 28 135 000
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3): € 29 280 910
- for actions implemented under indirect management modes (1.4): € 210 000
- for other actions (1.5): € 6 149 650

1.2. Grants

1.2.1. 23rd annual meeting of the European financial controllers (Homologues group meeting),

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The 23rd annual meeting of the European financial controllers (Homologues group meeting) will be hosted by the Slovakian National Audit Authority. This is an annual conference gathering of representatives of Member States and the Commission to discuss issues related to controls of the management of the Structural Funds. The objectives of this meeting are sharing and dissemination of best practices amongst Member States. The expected result is better cooperation between Member States and the EC.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded

The Annual conference gathering representatives of Member States to discuss issues related to controls of the management of the Structural Funds.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) point (c) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly, duly substantiated in the award decision. Because of the treatment and exchange of confidential and sensitive information during the 23rd meeting of the Homologue Group between the representatives of the Ministries of Finance of the Member States, the European Court of Auditors and the European Commission, the organisation of this meeting is limited to the national bodies of control and audit. These entities have decided to designate annually (during the meeting of year n-1) the body amongst them that will ensure the organisation of the meeting for year n. For 2014 the designated body is the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. Therefore a de facto monopoly has been established. The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the MS shall be a) relevance with the objectives of the action and b) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will be of an amount of EUR 250 000 of which: EUR 175 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 75 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grant awarded without a call for proposals

	Date	Amount
	4th quarter 2014	EUR 175 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the total eligible costs

80%

- 1.2.2. *Action plan for **Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)** improvements: Grants to MS to support the further developments and improvements of SILC, in the context of its redesign, its timeliness and its regional coverage*

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

These grants will ensure a better regional coverage of SILC indicators such as risk of poverty or social exclusion rate. This will help national statistical institutes to change their samples, create a regional weighting scheme and/or increase the sample size of the SILC survey among other things. This will ensure the publication of more and more reliable regional SILC indicators.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grants

Grants will be awarded to Member States to support the further developments and improvements of SILC, in the context of its redesign, its timeliness and its regional coverage.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) point (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in the case(s) of bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 54 of the Financial Regulation, as beneficiaries of a grant. According to Article 5(3) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, grants may be awarded to the National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and the other national authorities as designed by the Member states without a call for proposals.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposals submitted by the NSIs shall be a)- relevance with the objectives of the action and b) cost-effectiveness

Implementation

This action will be implemented by ESTAT through cross-subdelegation. The grant will be of an amount of EUR 1 500 000 of which: EUR 1 050 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 450 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grants awarded without a call for proposals

	Date	Amount
	4th quarter 2014	EUR 1 050 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the total eligible costs

90%

1.2.3. JASPERS 2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Continuing assistance to Member States (EU 12, Croatia, Greece) to prepare major projects, and capacity building. Faster approval of projects and better quality of investment.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant

¹ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

Assessment of major projects applications.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) point (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in the case(s) of bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 54 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, as beneficiaries of a grant. According to Article 31(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a grant may be awarded to the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund covering initiatives implemented on a multi-annual basis. JASPERS will be implemented throughout the 2014-2020 programming period (in continuation of JASPERS action in the 2007-2013 programming period) .

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the EIB shall be a)- relevance with the objectives of the action and b) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by REGIO. The grant will be of an amount of EUR 33 000 000 of which: EUR 23 100 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 9 900 000 will be financed under the 13 04 61 01 budget line.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grants awarded without a call for proposals

	Date	Amount
	1 st quarter 2014	EUR 23 100 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of total costs

80 %

Financing through unit costs for technical assistance actions implemented by the EIB shall be established by a separate Commission Decision.

*1.2.4. Technical Assistance Platform for financial instruments – Multi-region Assistance
Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results*

The objective is to improve the knowledge of the managing authorities on the set-up and implementation of financial instruments 2014-2020 with regard to issues common to a certain number of Member States/regions to ensure a wider and smoother uptake of these instruments in the coming programming period. Results: 1 seminar in Brussels in 2014 and one in 2015.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The action aims at provision of advisory services and guidance that is applicable to a certain number of Member States/regions and types of financial instruments. Such activities would typically include

support for the development of financial instruments targeting development objectives or market failure that are shared by a number of regions (e.g. the financing of energy efficiency interventions in large housing estates in Central and Eastern Europe, support to cross-border initiatives aimed at reaching economies of scale and integration or Roma).

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

This call shall be limited to international financial institutions and financial institutions established in a Member State in the meaning of Article 38(4)(b)(ii) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

SELECTION criteria:

- Financial capacity to carry out the proposed operation in terms of stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain the activity throughout the project and to be able to co-finance it;
- Operational capacity to complete the operation;
- Experience in the design and implementation of financial instruments with funding from EU or other donors.

AWARD criteria:

- Relevance of the actions proposed in view of the objectives established in the call;
- Relevance of the means of implementation and the resources deployed in relation to the objectives established in the call (in particular in terms of cost-effectiveness);
- The impact of the results on target audience;
- The resulting geographical coverage.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by REGIO.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grants

	Date	Amount
	1st quarter 2014	EUR 3 600 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the total eligible costs

95 %

1.2.5. Action Grant to Euronews- Cross-subdelegation to DG COMM

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

DG REGIO will participate alongside with other DGs in providing contents to the economic magazine “Real Economy”. In the framework of the partnership agreement signed on 28 December 2010, as per Commission Decision C(2010)6827final of 6 October 2010 on the amended annual work programme for grants and public contracts in the field of communication for 2010 (http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/pdf/c_2010_6827_decision_de_la_commission_en.pdf) an action grant will be awarded to the Euronews. The aim is to explain to EU citizens how regional policy has a real impact in their lives, supporting the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs and plays an important role in the EU’s response to the current economic crisis. Several DGs have been invited to provide contents to this magazine. The projects selected will significantly increase the volume and quality of the coverage of EU affairs. Euronews will provide more information packaged in new attractive formats able to reach larger audience and therefore contribute to forging closer links between citizens and the institutions of the European Union.

Description of the activities to be funded

The projects selected will significantly increase the volume and quality of the coverage of EU affairs. The grant will finance a fortnightly, 12 minute programme with a total number of 25 per year. The format includes reportages, interviews and/or studio debates

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

According to its editorial charter, Euronews ensures an information mission with a European angle: "En particulier, Euronews se garde scrupuleusement d'adopter l'un ou l'autre point de vue national privilégiant une vision européenne de l'actualité même nationale" On this basis, Euronews can be considered as being the only channel analysing news from a European perspective together with a very high level of news on EU affairs. Therefore, Euronews is to be considered as being in a situation of a de facto monopoly, as well as, a particular type of body on account of its high degree of specialisation carrying out actions with specific characteristics.

A direct grant shall be awarded to Euronews under Article 190(1) point (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.

AWARD criteria to be applied for evaluating the proposal:

- Relevance and general interest of the project
- European dimension and added value of the project
- Expected multiplier effect.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG COMM through cross subdelegation. The action grant shall take the form of reimbursement on the basis of unit costs as authorised by the Commission Decision C(2013)7360 final of 7 November 2013. Annex II of the decision establishes the unit costs to be applied in the case of magazines. The grant will be of an amount of EUR 300 000 of which: EUR

210 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 90 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grants awarded without a call for proposals

	Date	Amount
	1st quarter 2014	EUR 210 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the total eligible costs

95 %

1.3. Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2014 amounts to EUR 29 490 910.

1.3.1. Actions to be implemented via procurement procedure

Audit	
Type of procurement	service
Indicative amount	1.207.710,00
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC, direct contract
Indicative number of contracts	7 Specific Contracts, 1 Direct Contract
Timeframe	2nd quarter
Implementation	EUR 420 000 will be cross-subdelegated to EMPL
Communication and publication	
Type of procurement	service
Indicative amount	7.472.700,00
Type of Contract	25 Specific Contracts under FWC, 5 direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	30
Timeframe	2nd quarter

Implementation	Out of the overall amount: EUR 189 000 will be cross-subdelegated to COMM, EUR 270 000 will be co-delegated to OPOCE, and EUR 2 411 100 will be co-delegated to DG COMM for the Corporate Communication Pilot. The rest will be managed directly by DG REGIO
Evaluation	
Type of procurement	service
Indicative amount	5.362.000,00
Type of Contract	direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	20
Timeframe	3rd quarter
Implementation	Directly by DG REGIO
Meetings and conferences	
Type of procurement	service
Indicative amount	770.000,00
Type of Contract	7 Specific Contracts under FWC, 1 direct contract
Indicative number of contracts	8
Timeframe	3rd quarter
Implementation	Directly by DG REGIO
Study	
Type of procurement	service
Indicative amount	2.848.500,00
Type of Contract	20 Specific Contracts under FWC, 5 direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	25
Timeframe	3rd quarter

Implementation	Directly by DG REGIO
Technical and other administrative assistance. This includes a direct contract to the EIB for the “TA platform-Horizontal assistance “.	
Type of procurement	service
Indicative amount	11.830.000,00
Type of Contract	5 Specific Contracts under FWC, 5 direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	10
Timeframe	3rd quarter
Implementation	Directly by DG REGIO

1.4. Actions implemented in indirect management

1.4.1. Poverty mapping

Legal basis

Article 58 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission)

Budget line

13 03 65 01

Amount

EUR 210 000

Implementing entity

Implementing entity: World Bank (under the FAFA negotiated with the Commission services)

Justification: The European Commission and World Bank mutually interest in reducing poverty and socio-economic exclusion. The WB’s extensive experience in developing poverty maps based on small area estimation methods and its collaboration with Eastern European Governments since more than 20 years makes this international organisation a unique partner in developing strategic projects with the endorsement of the national Governments. In the case of the poverty maps, the WB has partnered with the National Statistical Offices and responsible Ministries by signing MoU and access census and survey data carried out by each Member State. These Member States are also Bank members and many of them are still borrowing countries (the Bank operates with the Government through multiannual investments programmes). Such strategic partnership in so many countries can only be achieved in a joint action between the European Commission and an International Organisation of the

size of the World Bank.

Overall objective and purpose of the action

This is the follow-up to the poverty mapping project with the World Bank launched in 2011. The project will update the poverty maps and provide technical assistance to the national statistical institutes that are interested in small area estimations.

1.5. Other Actions

1.5.1. Expert Contracts – AMI List

Amount

EUR 2 720 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts, implemented under Article 204 FR.

1.5.2. Smart specialisation platform (Administrative Agreement with JRC)

Amount

EUR 1 644 650

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Member States and regions have been asked to develop smart specialisation strategies. The S3Platform was set-up in the first phase to provide strategic intelligence and hands-on support, including a web-site, newsletter, guidance documents, data material, individual advice, training, database, organization of conferences and meetings, peer-reviews, etc..In the second phase, the Platform will build on this by continuing some of the above-mentioned strategy design support activities for as long as not all smart specialization strategies are in place (until possibly December 2016), maintain the web-site, database, etc.

*1.5.3. Regional Model for Impact Assessment of EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2016
(Administrative Agreement with JRC)*

Amount

EUR 1 470 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action aims at developing further, update and maintain the regional economic model of DG REGIO (RHOMOLO) and use it to carry out a series of simulations in order to support the design, the implementation and the evaluation of cohesion policy (impact assessment of the 2007-2013 period, analysis of the 2014-2020 programmes, preparation of the budget review, ...).

The objective is to provide DG REGIO with a set of quantitative information concerning the impact of cohesion policy interventions on the performance of the EU NUTS 2 regions. The model will also allow to analyse and compare various policy scenarios relevant for cohesion policy at the level of NUTS 2 regions and on a large number of economic variables (GDP, prices, employment, public finance, ...).

1.5.4. Analysing settlement patterns and population distribution (Administrative Agreement with JRC)

Amount

€ 315 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This project will analyse the location of people and built-up areas and their changes over time. This is a critical input for analysis of accessibility to services and urbanisation.

The results would be a high-resolution GIS layer of built up areas and population and a high-resolution change layer.