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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.8.2017

on the financing of innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development to be supported by the European Regional Development Fund for 2017 and 2018

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006¹, and in particular Article 8(1) 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 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an initiative that provides urban areas with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges. It was introduced by Article 8 of ERDF Regulation and allocated with a total ERDF budget of EUR 372 million for 2014-2020. Each year the Commission selects the topics of the annual call among the 12 urban themes of the Urban Agenda for the EU. They are implemented by the Commission in indirect management. The Region Hauts de France is the entrusted entity implementing the UIA.
- (2) In order to ensure the implementation of innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development ('Urban Innovative Actions') to be supported by the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') it is necessary to adopt a financing decision for the years 2017 and 2018. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012³ establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 92(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, indirect management may be used to implement Urban Innovative Actions.

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ 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).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 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 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

- (4) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the Hauts-de-France region in France, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with point (c) of Article 60(1) and Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds.
- (5) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 522/2014⁵, contains detailed rules concerning the principles for the selection of innovative actions to be supported by the ERDF, which require that in addition to the requirements laid down in Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the entrusted entity has a demonstrated track record in managing Union funds in several Member States.
- (6) The authorising officer by delegation has obtained evidence that the entity entrusted with the implementation of the budget by indirect management complies with the conditions set out in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary, and the entity complies with the condition set out in the first subparagraph of Article 1(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 522/2014.
- (7) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the Urban Innovative Actions is set at EUR 53 090 514 for 2017 and at EUR 54 152 324 for 2018 and shall be financed from the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2017 and 2018:

- (a) budget line 13 03 66: EUR 53 090 514 for 2017;
- (b) budget line 13 03 66: EUR 54 152 324 for 2018.

The appropriations provided for in the first subparagraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 522/2014 of 11 March 2014 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the detailed rules concerning the principles for the selection and management of innovative actions in the area of sustainable urban development to be supported by the European Regional Development Fund (OJ L 148, 20.05.2014, p. 1).

Article 2
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities

The budget implementation tasks related to the Urban Innovative Actions implemented under indirect management as regards the 2017 and 2018 budgets shall be entrusted to the Hauts-de-France region in France, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

Done at Brussels, 30.8.2017

For the Commission
Corina CREȚU
Member of the Commission