



Brussels, 14.12.2017
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 14.12.2017

on the adoption of the work programme for 2017 and on the financing of the implementation of the pilot project "European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects with genuine added value for the region as a whole"

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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 1605/2002¹, and in particular Articles 54(2)(a) and 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the pilot project "European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects with genuine added value for the region as a whole", it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and a work programme for 2017. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012² establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) Under Article 54(2)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, appropriations for pilot projects of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness may be implemented without a basic act provided the action which they are intended to finance fall within the competence of the Union.
- (3) It is appropriate to authorise the award of a grant without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190(1)(f) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to the Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC) Consortium for its technical competence and high degree of specialisation in bringing together the key Adriatic Ionian stakeholders ensuring the support to the implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan. It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190(1)(c) of that Regulation to the designated national authorities of Albania (Ministry of European Integration), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers), Montenegro (Ministry of European Affairs) and Serbia (Ministry of European Integration) as designated National Coordinators for the EUSAIR.

¹ 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 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1).

² 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) It is necessary to allow for 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.
- (5) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual work programme for 2017 for the implementation of the pilot project "European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects with genuine added value for the region as a whole", as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The annual work programme constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the year 2017 is set at EUR 1 300 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 13 03 77 21 of the General Budget of the Union for 2017.

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

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to 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) 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 apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies referred to in point 2 of the Annex, in accordance with the conditions set out therein.

Done at Brussels, 14.12.2017

For the Commission

Corina Crețu

Member of the Commission