1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the budget remarks, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2018 as follows:

a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2,
b) for prizes (implemented under direct management): point 3: N/A,
c) for procurement (implemented under direct management): point 4: N/A,
d) for actions implemented under indirect management: point 5: N/A,
e) for contributions to trust funds: point 6: N/A,
f) for financial instruments: point 7: N/A,
g) for contributions to blending facilities: point 8: N/A,
h) for other actions or expenditure: point 9: AMI-list experts.

Legal basis

Under Article 58(2)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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.

Budget line

13 03 77 21

Objectives pursued

The general objective of this pilot project is to organise and develop:

- effective multi-level governance in pursuit of the objectives laid down in the EUSAIR;
- capacity building among EUSAIR key implementers as a pre-requisite for effective implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan;
- generation, preparation and implementation of initiatives and projects with a genuine macro-regional value;
- awareness-raising initiatives, cultural events, training programmes and/or seminars for citizens and especially for young people in the region, with the aim of creating ownership with regard to EUSAIR, of emphasising shared regional identity and of promoting partnership and networking across the region. These programmes should stress civic education, transnational entrepreneurship, opportunities for cultural
expected relations, and help promote effective integration of candidate and potential candidate countries for Union membership.

Expected results

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was adopted by the Commission on 17 June 2014 (1) and endorsed by the General Affairs Council on 29 September 2014 (2) and by the European Council on 23-24 October 2014 (3)

The EUSAIR is aimed at helping the eight participating countries (four EU Member States: Croatia, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, and four candidate/potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia) to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of blue economy, transport and energy networks, environment and sustainable tourism for the benefit of the 70 million citizens living in the macro-region.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 1 170 000.

2.1. Support to candidate/potential candidate countries participating in the EUSAIR

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the designated national authorities of the candidate/potential candidate countries participating in EUSAIR.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of the third option of point (c) of Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, i.e. awarded to bodies designated by Member States where those Member States, in agreement with third countries, are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation

In order to effectively implement the EUSAIR Action Plan, designated national administrations in the four candidate/potential candidate countries need technical support for building capacity.

Building on the 2017 Pilot project (Commission Decision (C(2017) 8441 of 14 December 2017, Action 2.2), this action will complement and extend the support provided to candidate/potential candidate countries by allowing them to allocate one full-time expert in the respective domains (two in case of Serbia: transport and energy), to work full time along with the designated Pillar Coordinator(s) for a period of up to five years.

In particular, technical support is needed by the EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators designated by the respective countries to implement the EUSAIR Pillars together with the fellow

administrations of the EU Member States participating in the EUSAIR:
- Albania, for the implementation of EUSAIR Pillar 4 "Sustainable Tourism" together with Croatia;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the implementation of Pillar 3 "Environmental Quality" together with Slovenia;
- Montenegro, for the implementation of Pillar 1 "Blue Growth" together with Greece;
- Serbia, for the implementation of Pillar 2 "Connecting the Region" (transport and energy networks) together with Italy.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.2. Support to candidate/potential candidate countries holding the EUSAIR Presidency in 2018-2019 (Montenegro) and in 2019-2020 (Serbia)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to support the designated national authorities of the countries holding the EUSAIR Presidency in 2018-2019 (Montenegro) and 2019-2020 (Serbia), as agreed among all participating Member States and third countries.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of the third option of point (c) of Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, i.e. awarded to bodies designated by Member States where those Member States, in agreement with third countries, are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation.

The grants will contribute to the organisation of the EUSAIR Annual Fora in May 2019 in Montenegro and in May 2020 in Serbia, and to the organisation of other events closely related to the EUSAIR Presidency.

The objective of this support is to ensure strategic coordination of the Strategy and to facilitate its implementation, notably by supporting the Annual Forum which is the yearly main event where the EUSAIR key implementers meet the stakeholders of the region and representatives of the civil society at large.

These grants will finance part of the costs for the organisation of the Annual Forum, with the condition that the remaining part of the costs are financed by the beneficiary country with its own resources (non EU funds).

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.
2.3. **Generation and preparation of macro-regional projects**

**Type of applicants targeted by the direct award**

| The Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC) of Slovenia, in its role of Lead Partner of the EUSAIR Facility Point (a strategic project of the ADRION Transnational Programme which provides support to EUSAIR key implementers), will provide support to EUSAIR key implementers (mainly the Thematic Steering Groups (TSGs)). |

**Description of the activities to be funded by the grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of the third option of point (c) of Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, i.e. awarded to bodies designated by Member States where those Member States, in agreement with third countries, are in a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly situation**

| The key implementers of the EUSAIR are the four Thematic Steering Groups (TSGs). They require technical support for the identification, generation and development of macro-regional projects, primarily cross-pillar ones. The aim of the assistance is to help TSGs in the process of developing projects: from project idea to project concept and eventually to bankable project, ready for applying for financing. This support would be provided in the form of technical assistance (expert support) to TSGs, on their demand. |

**Implementation**

| This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. |

3. **Prizes**

N/A

4. **Procurement**

N/A

5. **Actions implemented in indirect management**

N/A

6. **Trust funds**

N/A

7. **Financial instruments implemented in direct or indirect management**

N/A

8. **Contribution to blending facilities**

N/A
9. Other actions or expenditure

9.1. Support the implementation of the EUSAIR

Amount

| EUR 130 000 |

Description

Experts will be contracted to support the Commission with the implementation of the EUSAIR. The expertise will be related to the pillars and/or cross-cutting issues of the EUSAIR. Furthermore, expertise might also be required in the field of the governance, communication and publicity of the Strategy.

These experts will be contracted through the REGIO/AMI list.