



Brussels, 12.4.2018  
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ANNEX 1

**ANNEX**

*to the*

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**on the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and on the financing of the implementation of the pilot project "Measuring what matters to EU citizens: social progress in European regions"**

## ANNEX

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Budget Line: 13 03 77 24

#### 1.2 Legal Basis

Under Article 54(2)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, appropriations for pilot projects in the fields of application of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions, may be implemented without a basic act.

#### 1.3 Policy Context

Measuring social development is a key element in the process of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Designing and developing new indicators and measures are necessary in order to identify priorities, monitor progress and evaluate development.

In 2016 the European Commission has published the EU Regional Social Progress Index, EU-SPI, as a proposal to empirically measure social progress. This index builds on the global Social Progress Index, developed to measure social progress at the national level, worldwide. The Regional EU-SPI aims at providing consistent, comparable and actionable measures of social and environmental issues for all regions in the 28 Member States. It covers three dimensions of social progress:

- a) Basic human needs (nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, medical care, safety),
- b) The foundations of well-being (access to basic knowledge, information and communication, health, wellness and environmental quality),
- c) Opportunity (personal rights, freedom & choice, tolerance & inclusion, access to advanced education).

The deliberate exclusion of economic indicators means that the index measures social progress directly, rather than using economic proxies. It can be used to assist regions in identifying their peers, from whom they can learn, as well as prioritise issues they want to address in their Cohesion Policy Programmes. It serves as a board to the EC to assess whether EU funds address the right issues and to make a contribution to the 'GDP and beyond' debate.

#### 1.4 General objective of the pilot project

The EU-SPI facilitates benchmarking across EU regions, thus helping policymakers and stakeholders in assessing the strong and weak points of a region. It provides interactive web tools that will enable regions to compare their performance with their peer regions. In this context, this multi-region pilot project is launched so as to encourage regions to empirically test how this index could be used to improve policy-making, in particular those supported by Cohesion Policy.

This pilot project would act as a guide to other regions and promote the use of the EU-SPI index. Recommendations on how to improve the next editions of the index - foreseen by the end of 2019 - will be gathered.

## **2 ACTIONS/ TYPE OF FINANCIAL INTERVENTION**

The pilot project will involve at least five EU Regions across different Member States and geographical areas. Lagging regions from Central and Southern Europe are particularly encouraged to participate to this project.

The intention is to create a consortium of interested regions which will test the use of the EU-SPI index, integrate it in their respective policy planning and share best practices; which would encourage the dialogue among regions, and identify where resources should be focused within current and future cohesion policy programmes. As a result, the service provider shall perform the below tasks:

- a. Select a consortium of regions by involving a number of EU regions
- b. Disseminate information and facilitate dialogue among regions
- c. Discuss best practices by sharing insights into why some EU regions performed better than others, as measured by the indicators and components included in the EU-SPI.
- d. Identifying where resources could be focused within current and future cohesion policy programmes and advise policymakers
- e. Inform the EU-SPI developers on how to improve the next editions of the index.

### **Total budget**

EUR 900 000

### **Indicative calendar for procedures**

The procurement procedure will be launched after the adoption of the financing decision.

The publication of the call for tenders is foreseen for Q2 2018. One service contract is expected to be signed by September 2018.