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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2018 in the framework of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund for the use of technical assistance, serving as financing decision

ANNEX

1. LEGAL BASIS - POLICY CONTEXT AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018

Article 58 of 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 and the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.

As regards the specificity of year 2018 two main strands are intended for financing within the technical assistance budget at the initiative of the Commission while at the same time maintaining activities to assist MS in the implementation of the programmes. Therefore, actions will be targeted at assisting the Commission in a) the preparation of the legislative proposals and b) their promotion in order to speed-up the negotiations while stimulating the active participation of the MS in this process. In the framework of the latter objective as well as to mark the 30th anniversary of cohesion policy, actions are designed incorporating support to inform, explain and promote the proposals while putting in use all available communication tools and adequate budget.

2. BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) — Operational technical assistance

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF) — Operational technical assistance

3. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives given in Article 58 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2018 as follows:

- for **grants** (implemented under direct management) (3.1): **EUR 54 720 865**,
as follows:
 - EUR 38 961 606 financed on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;*
 - EUR 15 759 259 financed on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;*
 - for **prizes** (implemented under direct management) (3.2) N/A
 - for **procurement** (implemented under direct management) (3.3): **EUR 41 750 000**,
as follows:
 - EUR 33 201 473 financed on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;*
 - EUR 8 548 527 financed on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;*
 - for actions implemented under indirect management mode (3.4): N/A
 - for **Financial instruments** (3.5): N/A
 - for **other actions** (3.6): **EUR 1 834 900**,
as follows:
 - EUR 1 834 900 financed on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;*
- TOTAL: EUR 98 305 765**,
as follows:
 - EUR 73 997 979 financed on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;*
 - EUR 24 307 786 financed on CF budget line 13 04 61 01.*

3.1. Grants

3.1.1 JASPERS 2018 – Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
 13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

JASPERS provides independent advice to beneficiary countries in order to prepare high quality major projects, which will be co-financed by EU funds.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

JASPERS focuses its support mainly during the preparation phase of projects: from identification to submission of the request for EU grant assistance. This support typically covers cost-benefit analysis, engineering, financial, environmental and procurement issues, review of documentation (such as feasibility studies or grant applications) and advice on compliance with EU regulations. In some cases, advice can be provided up to the start of the construction phase. JASPERS operates to a large extent from the EIB external offices of Bucharest, Vienna, Warsaw and Sofia.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (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 multiannual basis.

JASPERS will be implemented throughout the 2014-2020 programming period (in continuation of JASPERS action in the 2007-2013 programming period). On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to the EIB.

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 DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 36 000 000 of which EUR 25 200 000 will be financed under the 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 10 800 000 will be financed under the 13 04 61 01 budget line.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	3Q 2018	36,000,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with on Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

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

3.1.2 Homologues Group Meeting 2018

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The “Homologues Group” meeting is intended to enhance the dialogue and improve the co-ordination of audit work. It offers the Commission services and their national counterparts the opportunity to openly discuss issues on audit and control and to exchange opinions and best practices. 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 Commission.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

27th Annual Meeting of the European financial controllers "Homologues Group". It is the annual gathering of representatives of Member States and the Commission, so as to discuss issues relating to controls of the management of the Structural Funds.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1)(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.

According to Article 128(3) CPR, the Commission, the audit authorities and any coordination body (the Homologues Group) shall meet on a regular basis and, as a general rule, at least once a year to examine the annual control report, the audit opinion and the audit strategy, and to exchange views on issues relating to improvement of the management and control.

Because of the treatment and exchange of confidential and sensitive information during the 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 2018 the designated body is the Audit of EU Funds Directorate of the Ministry of Finance in Bulgaria. Therefore a *de facto* monopoly has been established. The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Finance in Bulgaria 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 amount to EUR 250 000 of which EUR 175 000 will be financed under the 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 75 000 will be financed under the 13 04 61 01 budget line.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	2Q 2018	250,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

3.1.3 Economic Magazine – Real Economy

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

DG ECFIN is coordinating the Real Economy magazine by Euronews, in the framework of the partnership agreement signed by DG CNECT and the European TV channel. Several DGs, among them REGIO, have been invited to provide contents to this magazine. Its objective is communicate the results of the Cohesion Policy across stakeholders and citizens, while also raise awareness of its positive contribution to the development of regions and increasing the quality of life of Europeans, including actions related to smart specialisation

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

DG REGIO will participate alongside other DGs in providing contents to this economic magazine, with the aim of explaining to EU citizens how regional policy has a real impact in their lives, supporting the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to a body on account of its technical competence, duly substantiated in the award decision.

Euronews is a body pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of information, broadcasting simultaneously in 13 different languages out of which 8 EU official languages. Therefore, a direct grant will be awarded to Euronews in the sense of Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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

Implementation

The grant will amount to EUR 100 000 of which EUR 70 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 30 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

This Action will be implemented by DG ECFIN following a co-delegation given by DG REGIO.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	2Q 2018	100,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95%

3.1.4 Study on the development and implementation of framework for monitoring and evaluation of Smart Specialisation

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The overall objective of the grant is to strengthen the Smart Specialisation strategies by carrying a study, which would support the development of a framework for monitoring and evaluation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

Linked to the Communication, adopted as of 18 July 2017, and to the European Parliament Resolution PA_TA-PROV(2016)0320, it is expected to work on improvements of the research and innovation system at regional and local levels. Development of a system of a "monitoring/evaluation/knowledge management" for Smart Specialisation will be helpful in this regard. This is the second stage of the project.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to World Bank.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the World Bank shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to 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 grant awarded without a call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	2Q 2018	300,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3.1.5 Regional enterprise survey in 11 EU MS

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Cohesion policy supports SMEs and helps them to innovate and grow. Improving the business environment could increase start-up rates and growth rates of firms. This survey identifies the obstacles to growth.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

This action will finance a regional survey of enterprise in 11 EU Member States to assess what is holding them back. It measures topics including access to finance, corruption, infrastructure, crime, and competition and performance measures.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to World Bank.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by World Bank shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 4 530 865 of which: EUR 3 171 606 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 1 359 259 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	1Q 2018	4,530,865.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3.1.6 Producing break-free Labour Force Survey (LFS) Time Series

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The overall objective of the grant is to ensure production of break-free time series for the labour force survey. As the methodology of the labour force survey will change with the implementation of the new IESS (Integrated European Social Statistics) regulation and the employment/unemployment definitions will be amended to be in line with the latest ICLS (International Conference of Labour Statisticians) resolution, the national statistical institutes need to invest to produce a break-free time series of data and indicators.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 (1)(d) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012 and Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009

This action will finance the development work to produce break-free time series as the labour force survey will encounter a substantial number of changes in the different Member States.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

To be eligible, grant applications must be submitted by National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009. The National Statistical Institutes and the other national authorities included in the list referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may receive grants without a call for proposals, in accordance with Article 190(1)(d) of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies.

The award criteria are based on

- (a) the relevance of the application in relation to the objectives of the invitation and the priorities of the annual work programme; and
- (b) the quality of the proposal including an evaluation in terms of coherence, relevance and proportionality of the estimated budget in relation with the proposed action.

Implementation

The grant will amount to EUR 1 050 000 of which EUR 735 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 315 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

This Action will be implemented by ESTAT following a cross-subdelegation.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	1Q 2018	1,050,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

3.1.7 Improved regionalisation and timeliness of SILC (2018-2019)

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

These grants will ensure a better regional coverage of SILC indicators such as the 'at risk of poverty' or social exclusion rate.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 (1)(d) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012 and Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009

Grants will be provided to MS 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

To be eligible, grant applications must be submitted by National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009. The National Statistical Institutes and the other national authorities included in the list referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article may receive grants without a call for proposals, in accordance with Article 190(1)(d) of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies.

The award criteria are based on

- a) the relevance of the application in relation to the objectives of the invitation and the priorities of the annual work programme; and
- b) the quality of the proposal including an evaluation in terms of coherence, relevance and proportionality of the estimated budget in relation with the proposed action.

Implementation

The grant will amount to EUR 450 000 of which EUR 315 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 135 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

This Action will be implemented by ESTAT following a cross-subdelegation.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	3Q 2018	450,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

3.1.8 Call for proposals for information measures relating to Cohesion policy

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

In line with DG REGIO's Communication Strategy 2017-2020, these information measures shall aim to raise stakeholders' and citizens' awareness of Cohesion policy objectives and results and to inform them of its contribution to the development of the regions. They should also raise awareness of the win-win impact of Cohesion policy and the potential of Cohesion policy to induce political cohesion in the EU. In addition, these information measures will aim to increase the participation of stakeholders and citizens to debates about Cohesion policy and about setting priorities for the Cohesion policy post-2020. Ultimately they should help enhance citizens' trust in the EU.

Expected results include:

- Increased media coverage on Cohesion policy and in particular at the regional level.
- Concrete outputs (TV and radio broadcast, online coverage, other communication measures) within the measure's duration.
- The establishment of relations with media organizations and other communication actors.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded through a call for proposals

Call for proposals for funding information measures relating to Cohesion Policy, in particular for reporting/ broadcasting about regional policy projects and results.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria – Beneficiaries will be media organisations, but also non-profit organisations, universities, research centres and communication companies.

Selection criteria - Applicants will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed based on thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action. Applicants must have the professional competencies as well as the appropriate qualifications necessary to implement information measures.

Essential award criteria: (-) The relevance of the measure: the ex-ante analysis of the needs and the specific, measurable, attainable and relevant objectives and its innovative character; (-) The effectiveness of the measure: theme, messages and target public, detailed programme, timetable and ex post evaluation methodology; (-) The efficiency of the measure: the cost-effectiveness in terms of the proposed resources; (-) The quality of the project management: the quality of the procedures and of the allocation of tasks in view of implementing the various activities of the proposed measure.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO through a call for proposals. The indicative amount of the call will be EUR 5 000 000 of which: EUR 3 500 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 1 500 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	2Q 2018	5,000,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

80%

3.1.9 Interreg Volunteers Youth Initiative

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Interreg Volunteers (Youth) Initiative started in March 2017, with the aim to bring young people closer to Cohesion Policy by offering them the possibility to volunteer as 'Interreg project partner' (helping on Interreg cross-border projects) or 'Interreg reporter' (publicising on-going or closed Interreg cross-border projects). This will help to tackle the deficit of awareness about Cohesion Policy and Interreg in particular among the young generation. This action is a continuation of the 2017 action in order to deploy more volunteers and to achieve even better results.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

The grant will contribute to setting up a scheme encouraging young people to participate actively, on a voluntary basis, to Interreg projects or on their promotion.

The activities to be funded by this grant have specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its reputation, independence, accountability, technical competence, its high degree of specialisation and its administrative power

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) is a registered association with the exclusive and direct purpose to promote the cross-border cooperation with focus in Europe. AEBR is a civil society body capable of conducting and promoting projects in the intended shape and scope. Its members are European border and cross-border regions in member states of the European Union or the Council of Europe. Since its inception in the early 1970s, AEBR has been establishing and refining a general network of border and cross-border regions, which is not limited to the members of AEBR or the European Union with significant expertise and experience. The AEBR Secretariat's reputation, knowledge, quality control and administrative capacity to coordinate and manage cross-border cooperation pilot projects coupled with the cross-border specific knowledge can ensure successful implementation of this project.

On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to the Association of European Border Regions. The grant

agreement shall contain the rules and procedures for the implementation of the activities in line with the principles of the FR.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the Association of European Border Regions shall be a) relevance with the objectives and priorities of the year, b) added value of the expected outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 1 000 000 to be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	3Q 2018	1,000,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95%

3.1.10 Pilot action to promote strategic procurement

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The overall objective of the pilot action is to encourage the uptake of strategic procurement in actions under Operational Programmes co-financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). The strategic use of public procurement can improve the competitiveness of market economies, as well as help deliver major policy outcomes in response to today's societal and economic challenges, especially when it comes to creating sustainable growth and jobs. Procurement has also an important impact on the EU structural and investment funds (ESI Funds), where almost half of these funds are spent via public contracts. Smart contracting helps to get the best value for money from ESI Funds.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

In order to promote the use of strategic procurement in the context of Cohesion policy, DG REGIO is launching this pilot action to offer practical "hands-on" support to contracting and/or managing authorities in the member states for the strategic procurement initiatives.

Activities to be financed will include:

- Identify procurement initiatives in Member States which would highly benefit from strategic approaches;
- Select a representative sample of procurement initiatives to be co-financed by ESI Funds and help contracting and managing authorities to implement and promote strategic procurement procedures (or specific phase/part of the procedure),
- Summarise the experiences and lessons learned; develop packages of support measures for further professionalisation which can be wider applied in operational programmes; provide recommendations and follow-up actions for further and wider promotion of strategic procurement for actions co-financed by ESI Funds under Operational programmes.

Primary target group: ESIF managing authorities, intermediate bodies and beneficiaries (contracting authorities). In cases, where support is provided to a beneficiary (contracting authority) the relevant managing authorities/intermediate bodies shall also be involved/informed about the process in order to ensure spill over effect on ESIF management and control system.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to OECD.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the OECD 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 amount to EUR 350 000 of which: EUR 245 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 105 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	2Q 2018	350,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with on Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3.1.11 Strengthening firm competitiveness through technology transfer and developing regional smart specialisation processes and strategies across Romania

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The overall objective of the grant is to improve the ability of Romanian regions to absorb European funds for impactful activities along the innovation chain, including for the Lagging Regions activities. Expected results encompass: closing technology transfer gaps in less developed Romanian regions; increasing the speed of technology adoption; a systematic analysis of the state of play of RIS3 development; support to the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process; support to increased coordination/cooperation between national and regional RIS3 governance; tailored technical support; identification and support to human resources and capacity building activities.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

The action includes initiatives to address gaps/weaknesses in the regional tech transfer ecosystem for the NE and NW regions through design and implementation support, initiatives to support all Romanian regions on innovation and smart specialisation activities, global value chain activities and the investigation of an investment platform which bundles various funding streams to focus on technology adoption. In addition, the action will provide support to other Romanian regions to take stock and validate the maturity of their smart specialisation strategies and processes.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to World Bank.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by World Bank shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 2 000 000 of which: EUR 1 400 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 600 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	1Q 2018	2,000,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with on Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3.1.12 Lagging Regions III in Poland

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As part of the Responsible Development Strategy, the Polish government identified in April 2017 more than 250 towns facing the threat of a prolonged economic stagnation and decline. Out of this group, some 122 towns are considered as extremely vulnerable and in urgent need for economic regeneration.

The project will select 4 to 5 vulnerable medium sized cities and projects will be identified to remove bottlenecks for development. These projects will be implemented by Regional or National Operational Programmes.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

The third phase of the Catching-up Regions Initiative (CRI) in Poland aims to provide hands-on support to a limited number of small and medium-sized cities in order to boost their economic growth and enhance their attractiveness for investors, businesses and citizens. Furthermore the initiative envisages some additional technical assistance for assuring the roll-out of the developed pilot projects of phases I and II in Poland's regions.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to World Bank.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by World Bank shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to 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 grant awarded without a call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	2Q 2018	1,500,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with on Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3.1.13 Catching Up Regions Initiative in Slovakia

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

13 04 61 01 - Cohesion Fund (CF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

This grant aims at enhancing the efficiency and prioritisation of investments to be made from the European Structural and Investment Funds already allocated to the Member States and from the national

budget, as well as from other funding sources, in order to obtain an accelerated development in the less developed regions in the Slovak Republic

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

The project aims to promote growth and investment in regions that have either experienced several years of negative GDP growth or that, despite the efforts made, are still experiencing low levels of economic development.

For 2018, it is intended to involve one of the least developed regions in Slovak Republic, in order to benefit of additional support and targeted technical assistance to the competent authorities in implementing their investment strategies/projects in the 2014-2020 programming period with a view to ensure that Cohesion Policy investments achieve their full impact in terms of growth and job creation.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1) (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to World Bank.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by World Bank shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 1 000 000 of which: EUR 700 000 will be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line and EUR 300 000 will be financed under 13 04 61 01 budget line.

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	1Q 2018	1,000,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100% in line with on Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

3.1.14 Designing better innovation policies for regions and cities

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The grant's overall objective is to feed into the development of the Commission's approach to regional innovation policies, drawing on lessons from academic literature and other OECD member states. The results will be fed into current work on smart specialisation and Cohesion Policy post-2020.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

The grant will fund the organisation of 5 seminars with the OECD on the basis of expert papers on a range of issues linked to improving the implementation of innovation policies for regions and cities.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190(1)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to the OECD.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted by the OECD 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 amount to EUR 500 000 to be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	3Q 2018	500,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100%

3.1.15 Study on environmental and ecological thematics in the framework of MRS and policy coordination with DG NEAR/ENV

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The status of migratory fish, such as the sturgeon as the Danube flagship species, is a parameter of the ecological condition and an important indicator of the entire Danube River Basin. Sturgeons and other migratory fish species need to migrate up and down the Danube in order to be able to fulfil their life circle. The Danube as key migration route for sturgeons connects all tributaries for migration. The Iron Gate Hydropower and Navigation System with Iron Gate Dams I & II represent significant migration barriers for fish.

The overall objectives and expected results for the action are:

- Contribution in concrete terms of the implementation of Action Plan of the EUSDR and to its objectives 4) to restore and maintain the quality of waters and to 6) to preserve diversity; due to its strong European added value
- Contribution to the improvement of water quality of the Danube River in a wider sense.
- To kick-start the process of finding solutions to reduce the obstacles caused by the Iron Gates and would trigger funding sources for related follow-up measures; falling right in timing regarding the preparations of the next funding period 2021-2027.
- As a cross-border cooperation project it directly involves one EU-Member State (RO) and one non-EU Member State (RS) making it relevant for implementation of the Enlargement

Negotiations policy. In addition to its cross-border character, this project has basin-wide relevance and thus is also of important contribution to the Eastern Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

- To support two priorities of the EU Presidency of the ICPDR: (1) to ensure better coordination of the EU support mechanisms for the ICPDR contracting parties with particular emphasis given to the non-EU Member States and (2) to promote the integrated approach between water management and other water uses.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

A feasibility study for restoring continuity at the Iron Gates is one suggested project of the Danube Action Plan under PA 4 "Water Quality" and was foreseen to be finalised by 2012. However so far, the realisation of the study could not be implemented. The grant will finance the second phase of the feasibility study including the following steps: the publication of ToR, selection of consortium, input to study and implementation including monitoring activities and follow-up of results.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190 (1) (f) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals, duly substantiated in the award decision.

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) received from its contracting parties a clear political mandate and the technical capacities for implementing WFD and EFD in the Danube River Basin. Concerning the EUSDR, PA 4 (Water Quality) and PA 5 (Environmental Risks), the identification of main issues is to a large extent based on previous work of the ICPDR, primarily from the Danube River Basin Management Plan. The ICPDR plays a crucial role for the work of PA 4, PA 5 and PA 6 and is a main the implementation of the EUSDR.

On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to ICPDR.

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted to the Commission by the ICPDR shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 400 000 to be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	1Q 2018	400,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95%

3.1.16 Technical Support for set-up and implementation of the REGIO Expert Group on monitoring and reporting of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda

BUDGET LINES

13 03 65 01 - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

At EU level, DG REGIO, for the Commission, is leading the implementation of the urban dimension of 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

The grant aims to support REGIO work on the monitoring and reporting of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the New Urban Agenda. It will contribute to ensure coherence between the EU action and the Global action on sustainable urban development, including by facilitating the coordination with Member States.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012

The grant will support REGIO work in harmonising and develop monitoring system and tools and ensure coherence and consistency in the reporting. Work will be developed through the establishment of an Expert Group on the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda and concretised in quantitative and qualitative inputs to the REGIO monitoring and reporting activities on the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Under Article 190 (1) (f) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 grants may be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals, duly substantiated in the award decision. On this basis a direct grant will be awarded to UN Habitat - United Nations programme for human settlements.

In order to successfully fulfil its role domestically and at global level, REGIO would need to work in coordination and count on the support of the UN system. In the framework of inter-related Agendas, the support of UN-Habitat, as a focal point for implementing the New Urban Agenda, would be key support to REGIO work on implementation, monitoring and review of the 3 agendas by simplifying the coordination among the Global, EU and EU Member States levels through a strategic partnership. Therefore, the support of UN Habitat will be key in order to have a coherent and coordinated approach between the EU action and the Global action. This would also contribute to support the European Commission objective to strengthen the role of the European Union as a global actor. Finally, UN Habitat is a key partner in the Urban Agenda of the European Union that is the key delivery mechanism of the New Urban Agenda within as established by both Council conclusions on "Habitat III, the EU and its member states objectives and priorities for the 3rd UN conference on housing and sustainable urban development" and "Urban Agenda for the EU".

The award criteria for the evaluation of the proposal submitted to the Commission by UN Habitat shall be a) relevance with the objectives and the priorities for the year, b) added value of the proposed outputs and c) cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO. The grant will amount to EUR 290 000 to be financed under 13 03 65 01 budget line

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

Reference	Date	Amount
[...]	1Q 2018	290,000.00

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

100%

3.2. Prizes

N/A

3.3. Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2018 amounts to **EUR 41 750 000**.

Audit

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount:	EUR 2 230 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 1 561 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 669 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC
Indicative number of contracts	1 framework contract; 6 Specific Contracts under FWC
Timeframe	1 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	EUR 1 300 000 (<i>EUR 910 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01; EUR 390 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01</i>) will be co-delegated to DG EMPL to contribute to ARACHNE project that is developing, testing and implementing a risk scoring tool. The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG REGIO.

Communication and publication

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 18 130 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 12 856 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 5 274 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC, direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	70 Specific Contracts under FWC, 8 direct contracts
Timeframe	1 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	Out of the overall amount: EUR 400 000 (<i>on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01</i>) will be co-delegated to OP; EUR 5 812 590 (<i>EUR 4 068 813 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01; EUR 1 743 777 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01</i>) will be co-delegated to DG COMM for the Corporate Communication (indicative number of contracts is 3 direct and specific service contracts implementing mainly DG COMM framework

contracts). The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG REGIO.

Evaluation

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 2 800 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 1 960 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 840 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC, direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	6 Specific Contracts under FWC, 8 direct contracts
Timeframe	1 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	Directly by DG REGIO

Informatics

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 1 485 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 1 138 473 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 346 527 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC
Indicative number of contracts	8 Specific Contracts under FWC
Timeframe	2 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	Out of the overall amount: EUR 323 518 (<i>on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01</i>) will be implemented by DIGIT (co-delegation). The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG REGIO.

Meetings and conferences

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 2 110 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 2 092 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 18 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC, direct contract
Indicative number of contracts	20 Specific Contracts under FWC, 3 direct contracts
Timeframe	1 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	Out of the overall amount: EUR 450 000 (<i>on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01</i>) will be co-delegated to DG SCIC. The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG REGIO.

Study, statistics and data collection

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 2 325 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 1 665 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 660 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>

Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC, direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	16 Specific Contracts under FWC, 3 direct contracts
Timeframe	2 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	EUR 250 000 will be delegated to ESTAT. The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG REGIO.

Technical and other administrative assistance

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 12 170 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 11 579 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 591 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC, direct contracts
Indicative number of contracts	25 Specific Contracts under FWC, 5 direct contracts
Timeframe	2 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	Out of the overall amount: EUR 200 000 (<i>on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01</i>) is co-delegated to DIGIT; EUR 300 000 (<i>290 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01; EUR 90 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01</i>) is co-delegated to DG AGRI for Brussel's based Facility Broadband Competence Offices (BCO). The rest of the budget will be managed directly by DG REGIO: this budget includes also the " Pilot projects on strengthening administrative capacity ", aimed at supporting national and/or regional key bodies in charge of the implementation of operational programmes in MS.

Translation (externalised)

Type of procurement	Service
Total Indicative amount	EUR 300 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 210 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 90 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC
Indicative number of contracts	4
Timeframe	2 – 4 Q 2017
Implementation	The budget will be co-delegated to DGT for externalised translations

Trainings (externalised)

Type of procurement	Service
Indicative amount	EUR 200 000 , as follows: <i>EUR 140 000 on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01;</i> <i>EUR 60 000 on CF budget line 13 04 61 01;</i>
Type of Contract	Specific Contracts under FWC
Indicative number of contracts	3
Timeframe	2 – 4 Q 2017

Implementation	Trainings to be held with the involvement of the Managing Authorities
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3.4. Actions implemented in indirect management

N/A

3.5. Financial instruments implemented in direct or indirect management

N/A

3.6. Other Actions or expenditures

3.6.1. Expert Contracts – AMI List

This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts, implemented under Article 204 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

The indicative amount earmarked for this action is **EUR 1 584 900**, to be financed on ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01.

3.6.2. Administrative Agreements with JRC: Technical Support for REGIO work on monitoring and reporting of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda

At EU level, DG REGIO, for the Commission, is leading the implementation of the urban dimension of 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

The action aims to support REGIO work on the monitoring and reporting of the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the New Urban Agenda. It will contribute to ensure coherence between the EU action and the Global action on sustainable urban development, including by facilitating the coordination with Member States.

Concretely, it will support REGIO work in harmonising and developing tools for monitoring and reporting the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda and in particular SDG 11, as required by the Council Conclusions on EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Work will build on the existing collaboration between REGIO and JRC in the field of urban policy, such as: LUISA territorial development model and its adaptation to Africa and other continents, the Territorial Strategies Identification database (URBADEV project), the Urban Data Platform, and the Territorial Dashboard, as well other JRC projects that serve as input for these platforms. The work will focus on the harmonisation of the existing relevant urban indicators in the context of ESIF and the indicators of the 2030 Agenda: relevant links between the Urban Data Platform and SDG indicators have been identified and additional ones should be created. This work will be complemented by the further development of the Urban Data Platform, the Global Human Settlement Layer as well as the Harmonised definition of cities, which is one of the Voluntary commitments that the EU, represented by Commissioner Cretu, did at the 3rd UN conference on housing and sustainable urban development in Quito, Ecuador.

This action will be implemented through an administrative agreement with JRC. The indicative budget of the agreement is EUR 250 000 to be financed under 13 03 65 01 ERDF budget line.

4. REUSE OF DATA

Data (indicators, statistics, etc.) obtained within the actions described in this annex will be published in open formats, in accordance with the provisions of Commission Decision 2011/833/EU on the reuse of Commission documents, in particular via the EU Open Data Portal.