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ANNEX

WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019 IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND COHESION FUND FOR THE USE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

1. 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 2019 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,
- 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 and administrative agreements.

a) Legal basis

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 1083/2006¹, and in particular Article 58 thereof.

Budget lines

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

Objectives pursued

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320

Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission will support the preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical assistance, evaluation, audit and control measures necessary for implementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

As regards the specificity of year 2019 attention was given to the preparation of the implementation of the post-2020 period, in particular support to the administrative capacity in the post-2020 period and the challenges of post-2020 programmes' negotiations; to the need for country specific actions in order to assist MS with the implementation of the current programming period and to the enhanced communication on what cohesion policy delivers for citizens linked also with additional requirements for MS on communication in the post-2020 proposals.

Expected results

Technical assistance will result in

- Active contribution to deliver Commission priorities (Jobs, Growth and Investment, Digital Single Market, Energy Union, etc.)
- Development of Cohesion Policy and establishment of close links to other EU policies
- Demonstration and dissemination the EU added value of Cohesion Policy
- Territorial cohesion in Europe
- Sound management of the Funds
- Improvement of the performance of the internal processes

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 58 980 000 of which EUR 44 205 000 will be financed on ERDF operational budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 14 775 000 will be financed on CF operational budget line 13 04 61 01.

2.1. Development of 12 "Smart Regions" episodes

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to Euronews, based on the Framework Convention between the European Commission (represented by DG CONNECT) and Euronews.

Following the adoption of the draft European Budget for 2021-2027, DG REGIO is working on the narrative of the programmes for the new funding period, which will largely focus on smart growth. It is in this context that the branding proposed by Euronews under the series 'Smart Regions' can prove particularly effective, all the more as Euronews is already familiar with cohesion policy - thanks in particular to recent cooperation. In addition, 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, only Euronews can offer the language coverage and the expertise we need to reach out to a large number of EU/Non-EU regions, where our partners mostly prefer using their local language instead of English.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific grant directly awarded under a framework partnership

The grant will finance the production and dissemination of monographies 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.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.2. Outreach creative dialogues at local and regional level

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grants will be awarded to Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs) via an invitation to submit proposals under the Framework Partnership Agreements signed between the European Commission (represented by DG COMM) and the structures hosting EDICs.

The EDICs network supports DG COMM in its mandate to outreach towards citizens. EDICs contribute to communicating about the European Union (EU) through engagement with the public at local and regional level. This makes the EDIC network an ideal partner for DG REGIO to implement communication activities on cohesion policy targeted towards the general public at local and regional level.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific grants directly awarded under framework partnerships

The grants will provide financial support for regional or local activities organised by the EDICs to increase the general public's awareness of the Commission's activities in the context of cohesion policy.

The projects selected should contribute to an increase in the number of people who are aware of and understand the positive impact and role of the cohesion policy in their region.

Implementation

The grants will be implemented by DG COMM via a co-delegation type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments.

2.3. Sub-national doing business reports

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical

competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

This action will collect regional ease of doing business indicators following the World Bank methodology and will produce sub-national doing business reports for 8 Member States with more than 4 million inhabitants.

The World Bank has developed the methodology. It has the required contacts, the technical competence and legitimacy to collect this data. No other organisation can achieve the same results as efficiently and effectively.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.4. Public administration diagnostics

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

This action will develop diagnostics of the characteristics and productivity of public administration in five Member States.

The World Bank has developed the methodology. It has the contacts, the technical competence and legitimacy to do this work with a selection of EU Member States. No other organisation can achieve the same results as efficiently and effectively.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.5. Access to services and migration

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the OECD.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

This action will finance a number of OECD reports on access to services and migration.

These reports will help to diagnose the problems and show the policies developed by different regions in the areas.

The OECD has a unique network of contacts with their member countries which allows them to collect and validate the data for this work in a way that no other organisation can.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.6. City statistics

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (d) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 58, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 to support the further developments and improvements of city statistics.

The grants will support the production of more indicators at the city level. The city level indicators will support the Urban Agenda for the EU, the city level programmes and the cohesion report.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented by DG ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments.

2.7. Poverty data

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (d) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 58, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 to support the further developments and improvements of SILC, in the context of its redesign, its timeliness and its regional coverage.

One of the goals of the EU and of Cohesion Policy is to reduce poverty. Better data will allow us to better target and evaluate the impact of our policy. This grant will support the production of more and better poverty data.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented by DG ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments.

2.8. Business demography

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (d) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 58, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 to support the further developments and improvements of regional business demography indicators.

This grant will support the production of regional business demography. This data will allow DG REGIO to assess and monitor regional business dynamics.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.9. Regional corruption survey

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to Transparency International.

Transparency International EU is unique in their experience with the multiple waves of their Corruption Perception survey in the EU and with national chapters in virtually all EU Member States. It is this combination of expertise, national network with long experience in this specific topic and a politically neutral position that makes them the only suitable organisation for this grant.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

This action will finance a report on the experience and perception of corruption at the regional level in all EU Member States. This task requires a high level of expertise and a network of national experts that have been following policies related to transparency and corruption reduction.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.10. Labour Force Survey (LFS) Time Series

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (d) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 58, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) 223/2009 to implement a pilot survey to estimate the breaks linked to the redesign of the EU-Labour Force Survey (LFS).

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.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG ESTAT via a co-delegation type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments.

2.11. Homologues Group Meeting 2019

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the Croatian Agency for the Audit of European Union Programmes Implementation System.

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. Therefore a de facto monopoly has been established.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (c) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation

This grant will finance the 28th 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.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.12. EuroAccess database

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to EuroVienna.

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is implemented through the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) identified in the Strategy. The PAC of Priority Area (PA) 10 (PAC10 - "To step up institutional capacity and cooperation" of the EUSDR) was entrusted by the Commission to implement the EuroAccess Database. The "EuroVienna EU-management & -consulting GmbH" as affiliated entity to the PAC10 (the City of Vienna) was entrusted with the overall management and implementation of the action.

As from 1 January 2017, the Danube Strategy Point (DSP) should have continued the update of the Database. However, it has been decided to discontinue the DSP as of September 2017. To ensure continuation, a grant to finance the Database was awarded to EuroVienna in the end of 2017. Given the possible economies of scale (overlap of several regions), it is decided to extend the database to other macro-regions (EUSALP, EUSAIR, EUSBSR).

Furthermore, EuroVienna as part of Priority Area 10 of EUSDR is being conferred to the horizontal functions under the title "institutional capacity and cooperation" and as such holds a de facto monopoly position in the implementation of the EUSDR. On top of that, PA 10 of EUSDR deals with relationships between EUSDR and other macro regional strategies.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (c) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies with a

de jure or de facto monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation

EUROACCESS Danube Region Online Search Tool for EU-Funding is an online information and search tool on EU-funding available in the Danube Region to be used as support for the implementation of the Action Plan of the EUSDR. By facilitating the search and identification of funding sources for project applicants from a macro-regional perspective, it allows for better implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region as well as other macro regional strategies, such as Alpine, Adriatic-Ionian and Baltic.

The tool implies:

- The regular screening of open calls in 127 programmes. This means a constant monitoring for new calls for which EuroVienna relies mainly on the managing authorities. For this purpose, EuroVienna regularly contacts the managing authorities of the 127 programmes to keep the database up to date. Depending on the funding, up to 250 calls are published yearly per programme.
- The update of the existing data and listing new open calls.
- The systematic issuing of a tailor-made newsletter. Users state which topics and/or countries they are interested in and they receive information on new open calls accordingly.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.13. EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) Annual Forum

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the Region of Lombardia.

The Region of Lombardia will take over the Rotating Presidency of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region officially in January 2019, as was decided by the EUSALP General Assembly.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (c) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation

The grant will contribute to the organisation of the EUSALP Annual Forum in 2019.

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 EUSALP key implementers meet the stakeholders of the region and representatives of the civil society at large.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.14. Study on environmental topics in the Danube Region and policy coordination with DG ENV/NEAR

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR).

The ICPDR received from its contracting parties a clear political mandate and the technical capacities for implementing the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the EU Floods Directive (EFD) in the Danube River Basin. Concerning the EUSDR, PA 4 (Water Quality), PA 5 (Environmental Risks) and PA 6 (Preserve Diversity), 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 actor in the implementation of the EUSDR.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The grant will finance a study on environmental and ecological thematic in the framework of the Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS). DG REGIO will work closely with DGs NEAR and ENV to coordinate policy and the objectives of the study.

The main objectives of the grant are: close cooperation between ICPDR, Romania and Serbia to maintain water quality and to preserve bio-diversity in the Danube River, to increase administrative capacity of Romanian and Serbian authorities in close cooperation with other Danube countries and implementation of follow-up measures of previous phases of the project.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.15. Interreg Volunteers Youth

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR).

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.

The actions proposed by this project 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 thus AEBR is the only civil society body capable of conducting the actions of the project in the intended shape and scope.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The Interreg Volunteer Youth initiative (IVY) is a part of the broader European Solidarity Corps Initiative launched by the European Commission. This initiative offers the possibility to young Europeans aged 18-30 to serve as volunteers in Interreg programmes and projects. The aim is to promote concrete achievements of Interreg programmes and projects.

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

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.16. Pilot action on frontloading administrative capacity building - Phase 2: Implementation of roadmaps

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the OECD.

The OECD is carrying out Phase 1 of the Pilot action which will result in development of roadmaps for frontloading administrative capacity building in close cooperation with the five pilot managing authorities. Due to OECD's unique knowledge about the challenges and problems that each managing authority has identified in Phase 1 and which will be addressed in the roadmaps, OECD is in the best place to support implementation of some key actions of the roadmaps.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

This is a follow-up action to Phase 1 of the Pilot action on frontloading administrative capacity building that aimed to support 5 pilot managing authorities to develop roadmaps for

administrative capacity building. Phase 2 will support the pilot managing authorities to implement certain key actions of the roadmaps. Experiences and lessons learned from Phases 1 and 2 will feed into development of practical guidance for MS on administrative capacity building for the next programming period.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.17. Amendment of the Integrity Pact project

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to Transparency International (TI).

Since its inception in the early 1990s, TI with more than 100 national chapters worldwide and its International Secretariat in Berlin has become the leading civil society organisation fighting corruption with significant expertise and experience in designing applied research tools, conducting evidence-based policy and advocacy initiatives, and coordinating complex multi-country projects. The Integrity Pact (IP) is a tool developed by TI and TI has acquired substantial experience in implementing Integrity Pacts. Only the TI Secretariat's reputation, knowledge, quality control and administrative capacity to coordinate and manage multi-country pilot project coupled with the country specific knowledge of TI National Chapters can ensure successful implementation of this complex project.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The grant will finance the implementation and monitoring of several IPs in to be selected EU Member States. It will also explore and promote the use of an IP as a civil society control mechanism for safeguarding EU funds against fraud and corruption, and as a tool to increase transparency and accountability.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.18. Capacity building for ESI Funds authorities, in preparation for post-2020, in the area of open data and enabling conditions for public procurement (PP) (pilots in selected MS)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation as the EBRD has acquired considerable technical and practical

experience in implementing open data practical solutions by applying Open Contracting Data Standard (open source TED - compliant global transparency standard) in the area of public procurement. This experience has been tested in many projects in the EU Eastern Neighbourhood countries and has been recognised as best practice. The proposed action will allow the selected Member States to benefit from the specific and technical competence of the EBRD and knowledge which covers many diverse countries, including the countries who are frontrunners in implementing best solutions in area of open data for public procurement in the world.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The action will provide tailored operational and technical support to respective authorities in a few MS (pilots in selected MS) to comply with post-2020 requirements for ESI Funds in the area of open data and enabling conditions for PP. This will include assistance to put in place effective PP monitoring mechanisms by using the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) - open source TED - compliant global transparency standard; arrangements to make the data and indicators as well as the result of the analysis available to the public through user friendly open data.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.19. Strategic procurement pilot projects: phase 2

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the OECD.

The grant will be awarded to the OECD under EC's Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA). This is a follow-up action to Phase 1 of the project "Promotion of the strategic use of procurement to pursue Cohesion policy objectives" implemented by the OECD. The OECD possesses specific technical competences and experience in supporting countries and institutions in the implementation of strategic public procurement. The OECD has conducted a number of comparative analyses of good practices in public procurement in various areas including centralised procurement structures, e-procurement and the effective delivery of large infrastructure projects. It adopted the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Public Procurement early in 2015, which helps countries in supporting proper allocation of public resources by using public procurement as a strategic tool, providing greater efficiency of the processes which will in turn offer increased savings and mitigating risks

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical

competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

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

This will help drawing further lessons on how to implement strategic procurement and what support Member States need, to create a more solid knowledge base and best practices/tools to share with other Member States.

Primary target group: ESI Funds 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 ESI Funds management and control system.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.20. Analysis of potential new types of governance at Functional Urban Areas level in Romania

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

The action will be based on the World Bank's analyses on the urban sector in Romania, therefore, the World Bank has the technical expertise and competence to implement this project. The project requires a high degree of specialisation on the urban sector in Romania, along with in-depth knowledge on Functional Urban Areas. No other International Financial Institution has this degree of expertise.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The grant will finance the development of proposals for new models of urban interventions, including the appropriate territorial definition and forms of governance. These proposals will be tested in pilot exercises in a couple of selected urban areas in Romania, with a view to serve as a model for a more full scale roll out. Taking as a starting point the World Bank's report on magnet cities, the action is a pilot project in order to explore the possibilities of the new forms of governance and the associated investment needs at functional urban areas level. The action will be part of the preparation for post-2020 with specific focus on the implementation of integrated territorial investments.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.21. JASPERS 2019 (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

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 (EIF) 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.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (g) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to the EIB or the EIF for actions of technical assistance

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

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.22. Follow-up of Catching up Regions III – implementation of a scalable financial instrument for energy efficiency, territorial instruments for small and medium-sized cities and communication activities

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

The initiative was launched three years ago with the World Bank. The project methodology was built up in close cooperation between the World Bank, the Ministry of Investment and Development in Poland and the Commission. The measures intended to be implemented in 2019 are a continuation of the activities started in the previous phases. Therefore, the World Bank has the technical expertise and competence to implement this project in the most efficient and effective way.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical

competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The action is a continuation of the co-operation with Polish authorities and the World Bank to address structural bottlenecks to development identified in the previous phase of the Catching up Regions Initiative (CRI). It will include three follow-up components:

- Further work on establishing scalable financial instruments for investments in single family buildings. This action gathers international expertise to assist the Polish government to develop further and implement a nation-wide programme for replacement of boilers and thermo-modernisation starting this year. In case of strong demand, the programme may be designed with the engagement of ESI Funds - EFSI funds.
- Further implementation of innovative territorial instruments in the areas of public transport and healthcare and effective transposition of findings into the post 2020 programmes in Poland
- Production of a short promotional movie about the results of the Catching-up Regions Initiative

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.23. Catching-up regions (CuR) Initiative Slovakia - 1) Roll out and 2) Phase 2

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

The project methodology was built up in close cooperation between the World Bank, the Slovak regions and the Commission. The measures intended to be implemented in 2019 are a continuation of the activities started in the previous phase. Therefore, the World Bank has the technical expertise and competence to implement this project in the most efficient and effective way.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

Concerning the Roll-out, the grant will finance actions 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 at a low level of economic development. This project was already successfully undertaken by two regions in Poland (Swietokrzyskie and Podkarpackie) in 2016 and has proven to be very efficient tool to tackle the bottlenecks of the potential growth of the regions, which gave way to further roll out of the initiative to other regions and countries.

Concerning phase 2: since January 2018, phase 1 of the CuR Initiative is under development in the Presov self-governing region in Slovakia. This is one of the least developed regions in

Slovak Republic and the initiative is focused on providing 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. For the time being, the pilot phase in Slovakia, Presov region, is in progress and showing some promising developments. Further continuation of the projects and involvement of other least developed regions of Slovakia could help to keep the momentum and to multiply the positive effects obtained in the first phase.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

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

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

The action will build on the exercise undertaken by the World Bank as part of the EU supported “Return on Investment” project with a view to making available instruments and techniques to a broader range of Member States. The World Bank has world leading technical expertise and experience in this area and, as an international organisation, is able to deal with both public and private actors in order to collect sensitive data. It is this combination of a need for expertise, long experience in this specific topic and ability to define conditions for data access that makes the World Bank the only partner that can obtain the best results in the most efficient and effective way.

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The aim of this action is the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework which transparently records successes and failures to implement regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation in MS regions and to allow prompt detection of problems in design and execution of projects as a management tool.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.25. Study on the embedding and development of Global Value Chains in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe (CESEE)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

The development of policies towards Global Value Chains is a politically sensitive area. The World Bank has developed analytical approaches and policy instruments that are well respected within the economic development community. It is this combination of a need for expertise, long experience in this specific topic and a politically neutral position that makes the World Bank the only partner that can obtain the best results in the most efficient and effective way..

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

Participation in global value chains (GVCs), in the context of the international fragmentation of production, can lead to increased job creation and economic growth. CESEE countries still face challenges in aligning GVCs with their national development strategies. The action should help CESEE member states maximise their participation in GVCs with the objective to generate growth by moving to higher-value-added tasks and by embedding more technology and know-how in all their agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors. Integrated solutions tailored to country needs will be developed.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.26. Technology Adoption Survey

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the World Bank.

The World Bank has developed a new set of analytical tools in the form of an innovation uptake survey which it is currently piloting in a number of countries. These pilots will form the basis for further roll-out within existing innovation surveys run by National Statistical Institutes. The World Bank is therefore the only partner with the technical competence and high degree of specialisation that can implement the action in the most efficient and effective way.

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The project will collect data to analyse absorptive capacity and barriers to adoption of new technologies at the firm-level as well as inform on key channels of technology adoption in less developed regions.

The diffusion of new technologies across firms and between countries play a key role. Less developed member states can harness innovation and technology adoption to boost economic

development. However, the absorptive capacity needed to use the new technologies raises the bar for the required enabling environment in terms of information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure, connectivity, skills, regulatory framework for the data ecosystem, and intellectual property rights. In the context of the next generation of smart specialisation strategies it is important to identify barriers to technological adoption, particularly in less developed member states.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.27. Strengthening innovation diffusion

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the OECD.

The action will build on the existing grant to the OECD to support peer learning in industrial transition regions and the further development of an internal database on regional productivity. As this knowledge and data is held within the OECD, the Organisation is therefore the only partner with the technical competence and high degree of specialisation that can implement the action in the most efficient and effective way.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The grant will finance actions to gain better understanding of main blocks/barriers of innovation diffusion at the EU level and in consequence, will provide to Managing Authorities a range of tools to identify bottlenecks in innovation diffusion channels related to their smart specialisation strategies.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

2.28. Managing environmental and energy transitions for regions and cities

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the OECD.

The action will build on recent work conducted with the OECD, with EU support on regional development and innovation policies for regions and cities of seminars organised with OECD. In particular, it will seek to mobilise analytical work done within the OECD in the areas of environmental and energy transition to be specifically applied to regions and cities in the EU. As this knowledge and expertise is held within the OECD, the Organisation is therefore the only partner with the technical competence and high degree of specialisation

that can implement the action in the most efficient and effective way.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The grant will finance a study to feed into the development of the Commission's approach to regional environmental and energy transition processes, drawing on lessons from academic literature and other OECD member states. The results will be fed into the preparation of the Cohesion Policy programmes post-2020.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

3. PRIZES

N/A

4. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2019 is EUR 33 969 806 of which EUR 25 785 819 will be financed on ERDF operational budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 8 183 987 will be financed on CF operational budget line 13 04 61 01.

4.1. Service contracts

General description of the contracts envisaged

The procurement budget will be used to implement service contracts (both direct and specific under framework contracts) that will cover:

- Audit
- Communication and Publication
- Evaluation
- Informatics (IT)
- Meetings and Conferences
- Studies, statistics and data collection
- Technical and other administrative assistance to Member States
- Translations (externalised)
- Trainings (externalised)

Implementation

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to Audit will be co-delegated to DG EMPL via a

co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments, to contribute to ARACHNE project that is developing, testing and implementing a risk scoring tool and to perform audits on direct grants.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to Communication and Publications will be co-delegated to OP via a co-delegation Type III, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments; another part will be co-delegated to DG COMM via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments, for contributions to the Corporate Communication and other campaigns.

For IT, an amount will be co-delegated to DIGIT via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments, for the hosting of SFC.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to Statistics and Data Collection will be co-delegated to ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments, for access to GIS-data.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to Technical and other administrative assistance to Member States will be co-delegated to AGRI via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments, for running the Brussels based Facility for Broadband Competence Offices.

The procurement budget dedicated to translation will be co-delegated to DG DGT via a co-delegation Type II, according to Article 3 of Commission decision of 3.8.2018 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments.

The rest of the budget will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

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. Experts contracts – AMI list

Amount

EUR 4 610 600 of which EUR 4 010 840 will be financed from ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 599 760 will be financed from CF budget line 13 04 61 01

Description

This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-list.

Experts will mainly give advice on the implementation of the current programming period, the preparation of post-2020, on the negotiations with the Member States and on interregional partnerships.

9.2. Administrative agreements with the JRC

Amount

EUR 4 500 000 of which EUR 3 600 000 will be financed from ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 900 000 will be financed from CF budget line 13 04 61 01

Description

This action covers the administrative agreements to be concluded with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on topics related to statistics and data collection and studies:

- URBADEV project
- Population and land use modelling
- Analysing global urbanisation
- Regional composite indicators and econometrics
- Support for environmental and energy transitions for regions and cities