COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.9.2019

amending Implementing Decision C(2018) 8730 on the financing of the use of technical assistance in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2019
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,


Whereas:

(1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 8730, the work programme for 2019 in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund ("ERDF") and the Cohesion Fund for the use of technical assistance was adopted.

(2) Following the mid-term assessment of the work programme for 2019, new actions should be introduced, in particular grants to be awarded through a call for proposals for funding information measures relating to Cohesion Policy and a grant to the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers awarded without a call for proposals. Four additional administrative agreements related to statistics and data collection, studies and technical and other administrative assistance to Member States and other/third countries should be concluded with the Joint Research Center.

(3) Following the mid-term assessment of the work programme for 2019, the scope or the implementation mode, or both, for several actions should be amended. For the action "Development of 12 "Smart Regions" episodes" the scope of the grant should be broadened to 24 episodes; the scope of the action "Homologues Group Meeting" should be broadened to cover also the preparation of the 2020 meeting; the "Technology Adoption Survey" should be cancelled due to different priorities of the Directorate-General; the implementation mode of the action "Providing support for environmental and energy transitions for regions and cities" should be changed from

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"procurement" to "to be implemented in indirect management" by the World Bank and the scope of "managing environmental and energy transitions for regions and cities" should be changed into "designing productivity policies for regions and cities" which is closer aligned with the objectives of the Directorate-General.

(4) The global financial envelope designated for the grants, procurement procedures and the expert contracts under the call for expressions of interest published under 2018-OJ S 066-146033 of 5 April 2018 should be revised.

(5) Pursuant to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.

(6) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.

(7) Implementing Decision C(2018) 8730 should therefore be amended accordingly.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Implementing Decision C(2018) 8730 is amended as follows:

(1) The first paragraph of Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme for the year 2019 is set at EUR 102 576 650, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

(a) budget line 13 03 65 01 (ERDF): EUR 77 968 531;
(b) budget line 13 04 61 01 (Cohesion Fund): EUR 24 608 119;"

(2) A new article 5 is added:

“Article 5: Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5 of that Annex.”

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3 Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.
(3) The Annex to Implementing Decision C(2018) 8730 is amended as set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 10.9.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission