The Annex to Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 8730 is amended as follows:

1) **Point 2. Grants** is amended as follows:

(a) The introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 60,744,496 of which EUR 45,438,381 will be financed on ERDF operational budget line 13.03.65.01 and EUR 15,306,115 will be financed on CF operational budget line 13.04.61.01" 

(b) In point 2.1 **Development of 12 "Smart Regions" episodes**, the title is replaced by the following:

"Development of 24 "Smart Regions" episodes"

(c) In point 2.11 **Homologues Group Meeting 2019**, the title is replaced by the following:

"Homologues Group Meeting".

(d) In point 2.11, in the table "Type of applicants targeted by the direct award", the first sentence is replaced as the following:

"Grants will be awarded to the Croatian Agency for the Audit of European Union Programmes Implementation System for the organisation of the 2019 meeting and to the Internal Audit Service in Cyprus for the preparation of the 2020 meeting".

(e) In point 2.11 in the table "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 first sentence is replaced by the following:

"This grant will finance the 28th Annual Meeting of the European financial controllers "Homologues Group", as well as the preparation of the 29th meeting".

(f) **Point 2.26. Technology Adoption Survey** is deleted.

(g) The following new points 2.29 and 2.30 are added:

2.29 **Media Call 3.0**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

| Beneficiaries will be media organisations, non-profit organisations, universities, research centres and communication companies. |

Description of the activities to be funded under 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. |

| 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.

Implementation

This Action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO through a call for proposals.

2.30 Grant to Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri) to support the replication of project "Open Cohesion School" in other Member States

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, which is the body in charge of the Italian pilot project and will support the roll-out of the project to Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Portugal and Spain.

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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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 aims to increase awareness of the results and impact of cohesion policy and the EU as a whole among the young population, specifically high school students. "OpenCohesion School" is a unique practice at the EU level involving secondary school students in the monitoring of EU funded projects through the use of open data. The grant will support the replication of the Italian educational project in several Member States following DG REGIO call for expression of interest.

Implementation

The grant will be awarded directly by DG REGIO.

"(2) Point 4. Procurement is amended as follows:

The introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2019 is EUR 33 078 641 of which EUR 25 382 091 will be financed on ERDF operational budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 7 696 550 will be financed on CF operational budget line 13 04 61 01."

(3) Point 5. Actions implemented in indirect management is replaced as follows: "

5.1. Providing support for environmental and energy transitions for regions and cities

Implementing entity

The action will be implemented by the World Bank for an amount of EUR 1 500 000 of which EUR 1 050 000 will be financed from ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 450 000 will be financed from CF budget line 13 04 61 01

Description

The World Bank and the European Commission signed the Framework Agreement dated April 15, 2016. The European Commission and the Bank share a common objective of building competitive and sustainable economies and reducing poverty and social exclusion – goals of the Europe 2020 Agenda which is built on three pillars of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The European
Commission and the Bank concur that direct interaction is beneficial to both institutions and through them to the beneficiary countries. This applies particularly to the provision of analytical, advisory and knowledge services and technical assistance.

The World Bank has a concrete experience in carrying out functional reviews focused on cross-governmental capacity. The action will finance support to programming in regional transition processes in environment and energy through peer learning, reviews and support. The results will feed into the preparations of the Cohesion Policy programmes post-2020.

"(4) Point 9. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE is amended as follows:

(a) In point 9.1 Experts contracts – AMI list, the table "Amount" is replaced by the following:

| Amount | EUR 3 509 250 | of which EUR 3 063 075 will be financed from ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 446 175 will be financed from CF budget line 13 04 61 01 |

(b) In point 9.2 Administrative agreements with the JRC, the table "Amount" is replaced by the following:

| Amount | EUR 3 744 263 | of which EUR 3 034 984 will be financed from ERDF budget line 13 03 65 01 and EUR 709 279 will be financed from CF budget line 13 04 61 01 |

(c) In point 9.2 Administrative agreements with the JRC, the table "Description" is replaced by the following:

This action covers the administrative agreements to be concluded with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on topics related to statistics and data collection, studies and technical and other administrative assistance to MS and other/third countries:
- URBADDEV project
- Population and land use modelling
- Analysing global urbanisation
- Regional composite indicators and econometrics
- Support to smart specialisation in Georgia
- Strategic evaluation of the Bulgarian Centres of Competence and Centres of Excellence, financed by ERDF under OP "Science and Education for Smart Growth", created in the priority areas of the Bulgarian Strategy for Smart Specialisation
- Smart Specialisation Platform – Phase V

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