

EN
ANNEX

Work programme for 2020 for the financing of the implementation of the pilot project on "Promoting city partnerships on a global scale for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations with particular emphasis on cooperation on issues and policies relating to the circular economy as well as on issues of air quality, energy transition and the integration of migrants and refugees"

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the budget remarks, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2020 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2: N/A
- 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: N/A

Legal basis

Under Article 58(2)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, appropriations for pilot projects of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness, may be implemented without a basic act.

Budget line

13 03 77 27

Objectives pursued

The objectives pursued under the pilot project, to be implemented by the European Commission, will be:

- to support EU strategic interest in cooperating with cities on a global scale on key EU sustainable urban development priorities;
- supporting and empowering EU cities to engage in broader cooperation with cities worldwide and get additional networking and cooperation opportunities;
- pool international responses and experience for the benefit of EU cities on the challenges faced by cities worldwide, on the four themes covered (circular economy, air quality, energy transition, integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees) challenges that have a strong territorial dimension and that require action at local level (including from the angle of urban-rural linkages);

- share the benefit of the EU's experience of how regional and urban development policies underpin the process of economic and political integration with main partners outside the EU, regional organisations and world regions and
- ensure synergies with existing EU-funded programs and initiatives active in energy transition, circular economy, air quality and integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees.

Expected results

This pilot project will test international experience and examine good practice regarding four sustainable urban development themes, which are crucial for the quality of life in cities inside and outside the European Union: circular economy, energy transition, air quality and integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees. These are areas in which cities across the world have experience to offer to EU cities and where there is a need to test new practices based on international experience, which in turn can point the way for future EU urban development programmes under cohesion policy.

The pilot project will support cooperation between EU and non-EU cities on several themes, complementing existing programmes funded by EU external actions, which have been flagged as top priority by the new Commission, as for instance the European Green Deal and promoting the European way of life.

The pilot project will complement other initiatives, such as the international urban and regional cooperation ('IURC') programme, by covering countries and themes beyond the scope of the IURC providing a further avenue of targeted thematic exchanges/experience sharing among cities. The pilot project will also promote a global approach of pooling new practices from international experience outside of the EU. This can act as demonstration for future EU urban development programmes.

2. Grants

N/A

3. Prizes

N/A

4. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme is EUR 1 500 000.

4.1. Programmes exchanges (study visits and seminars, networking)

General description of the contracts envisaged (study/technical assistance/evaluation/survey/IT/communication services/etc.)

A number of *programme exchanges* could be organised by service suppliers, namely for representatives from cities and countries having expressed keen interest in the near past to engage with the EU in this kind of cooperation. Priority will be given to non-EU cities showing a high potential to transfer good practices and experience to EU cities, as for instance cities from North America or Latin America on the theme of integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees or cities from Asia (for example from the Republic of Korea,

Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Hong Kong or Thailand) or South Africa on the interrelated themes of circular economy, energy transition and air quality.

For the four themes (circular economy, air quality, energy transition and the integration and inclusion of migrants and refugees), *thematic networks or platforms* at a global scale for knowledge exchange and transfer of good practices among cities will be established with the support of service suppliers in order to enable cities to work together to develop pragmatic solutions to major urban challenges in the mentioned themes, including actions addressing disability inclusiveness and accessibility for persons with disabilities in cities.

They will facilitate the sharing of information and transfer of lessons learned on sustainable and integrated urban practices and policies in order to contribute to a learning process based on concrete examples and good practices. A *database on good practices and an on-line platform* to facilitate the exchange of information will support the exchanges. At least 14 EU cities and 14 cities from non-EU countries in total will participate in the networks.

On EU side, priority would be given inter alia to the local authorities and stakeholders that were involved in the Partnerships of the Urban Agenda for the EU on air quality, energy transition, circular economy and inclusion of migrants and refugees, as well as to urban areas selected under the same themes through the Urban Innovative Actions initiative and other recent EU-funded projects on these issues.

Other exchanges, including *expert visits* from third countries to Europe or to other third countries or from European regional and urban policy experts to third countries, could take place depending on specific interests.

A number of *events and seminars* could be supported, to be held in main partner countries or in EU. For example:

- India: Contribution to the EU-India Urbanisation Forum (in the framework of the EU-India Smart and Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership) by providing contents and identifying and supporting speakers' participation in the Forum.
- Seminars and communication events on regional and urban policy cooperation in the framework of the annual European Week of Regions and Cities, with countries having a dialogue on regional and urban policy or cooperation on regional and/or urban development policy.

The pilot project will be implemented through the use of specific contracts under framework contracts, direct contracts or cost reimbursements. The actions supported will include the organisation of events, information activities, study visits, networking, technical assistance and studies.

Implementation

The action 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*

N/A