

EN
ANNEX

Work programme for 2021 for the implementation of the pilot project "Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)"

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 year 2021 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
- 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

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(s)

PP 05 21 01

Objectives pursued

European border regions have been particularly affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and more specifically by the measures taken by most Member States to close border crossing points. These closures have had many negative effects on life in cross-border regions: lack of medical staff in old people's facilities and hospitals as staff were prevented from reaching their places of employment, loss of business for many cross-border trading companies, pupils unable to attend school, families split for months.

It is important to learn the lessons from the COVID-19 crisis for border regions, and find ways to ensure that daily life cannot be so severely negatively affected in potential future crisis. We must therefore work on the resilience of EU border regions.

Expected results

The Pilot Project is expected to deliver four results:

1. A report on the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in border regions, in two distinct parts: (a) an update of the existing report "The effects of COVID-19 induced border closures on cross-border regions - An empirical report covering the period March to June 2020" and (b) a socio-economic analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in borders areas.
2. A web-based IT tool (infrastructure and updating methodology) to display cross-border public services, including their operational aspects. The focus will be on critical public services in case of crisis (health care, civil protection, disaster management).
3. An action plan to ease and systematise solidarity and crisis management across neighbouring regions by identifying opportunities and gaps in existing European, national and regional legislation in the field of crisis management.
4. A report setting out how cross border regions can improve cross border spatial planning using the process of co-development in order to strengthen their resilience for future crises. The report will include case studies.

2. *Grants*

N/A

3. *Prizes*

N/A

4. *Procurement*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme is EUR 600 000.

4.1. Development of an IT infrastructure to host and update information on cross-border public services in cross-border regions

General description of the contracts envisaged

To develop a web-based IT tool to display cross-border public services, including their operational aspects. The focus will be on critical public services in case of crisis (health care, civil protection, disaster management). The contract should cover both the infrastructure of the web-based tool (IT) and a method to ensure it is updated and maintained on a regular basis (technical assistance).

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

4.2. Develop an action plan to systematise solidarity and crisis management in EU cross-border regions

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Action Plan to be developed through a service contract (technical assistance) will assess European, national and regional legislation, agreements and mechanisms in the field of crisis management and response, with a specific focus on border regions. It will identify gaps to be addressed so that cross-border emergency plans can be developed in order to better react in front of future crises and to ensure the free movement of cross-border workers and essential goods, social protection, harmonised communication. The Action Plan will consider the development of new tools such as a "laissez-passer" for frontier workers and inhabitants of cross-border areas that would be mutually recognised by neighbouring regions, possibly using opportunities designed at EU level, such as the digital green pass.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

5. *Actions implemented in indirect management*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions implemented in indirect management under this work programme is EUR 900 000.

5.1. Boost the potential of border regions through co-development, cross-border spatial planning and multi-level governance

Implementing entity

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, pursuant to Article 62(1)(c) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

The OECD is best placed to undertake this task because of the work it already does to support more integrated and functional cross-border areas through improved regional development policy and multi-level governance frameworks and tools. Its Regional Development Policy Committee has produced a number of reviews on cross-border regions and has undertaken thematic work on cross-border cooperation for innovation. Their recent paper on the territorial impact of COVID-19 also focuses on the importance of cross-border cooperation.

Description

Steps expected:

1. Defining a theoretical and practical framework to define cross-border functional areas and the key challenges this notion implies;
2. Selection of several cross-border regions interested in exploring joint spatial planning through co-development;

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Drafting of a report and case studies;4. Presentation of the results at DG REGIO's main communication event "The European Regions' Week" in Autumn 2022. |
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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 expenditure*

9.1. *Experts contracts – AMI list*

Amount

EUR 100 000

Description

<p>This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-list¹.</p>

<p>In order to measure the various impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and the related measures taken by Member States, expert support for analysis and assessment will be foreseen.</p>

¹ Call for expressions of interest 2018/S 066-146033 for external experts to support the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds.