



Brussels, 11.2.2022  
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ANNEX

**ANNEX**

*to the*

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**on the financing of the use of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2022**

ANNEX

**Work programme for 2022 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 35 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1060 (“CPR”) and Articles 58(2) and 92b(3) of Regulation (EU) No 2013/1303, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2022 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2,
- b) for prizes (implemented under direct management): point 3,
- 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: AMI-list experts and administrative agreements.

Legal bases

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and in particular Article 35 thereof.

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 1083/2006, and in particular Article 58 thereof.

Budget lines

05 02 02 00 - ERDF - Operational technical assistance  
05 03 02 00 – Cohesion Fund - Operational technical assistance  
05 02 05 02-NGEU - ERDF - Operational technical assistance - Financing under REACT- EU

Objectives pursued

At the initiative of the Commission, technical assistance may support preparatory, monitoring, control, audit, evaluation, communication including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union, visibility and all administrative and technical assistance actions necessary for the implementation of the CPR and, where appropriate with third countries.

## 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 of the EU added value of Cohesion policy
- Territorial cohesion in Europe
- Sound management of the Funds
- Improvement of the performance of the internal processes

## Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

In accordance with Article 5(1)(b) of the CPR 2021-2027, the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund shall support the policy objective ‘a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility’.

Member States should contribute an important part of the Union contribution of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund allocation to expenditure related to the achievement of the climate objectives set for the EU budget and contribute to mainstream biodiversity action in the Union policies.

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

## 2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants in 2022 is estimated at EUR 11 050 000 of which EUR 8 572 500 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05.020200; EUR 1 255 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05.020502-NGEU and EUR 1 222 500 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05.030200.

### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

The activities under this chapter will contribute significantly to these objectives and will help meet the relevant climate concerns.

### ***2.1. Contribution to Media Pluralism: call for partnerships with media***

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Beneficiaries will be media organisations/ news agencies, non-profit organisations, universities and educational institutions, research centres and think-tanks, associations of European interest, private entities and public authorities (national, regional and local), with the exception of the authorities in charge of the implementation of Cohesion policy.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Call for proposals for funding information measures promoting Cohesion policy and media pluralism, in the language of citizens.

The main aim is to provide support for the production and dissemination of information and content linked to EU Cohesion policy.

Deliverables could include TV and radio reportages, analysis, news items, events in various formats, and more; all promoting EU cohesion policy while respecting complete editorial independence of the actors involved.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***2.2. Contribution to Media Pluralism: EU and cohesion policy course for journalism schools***

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Grants will be awarded to accredited journalism schools from EU Member States.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The grant will support the educational institutions to ensure that a network of journalism schools is set up. This network will be dedicated to advancing EU and Cohesion policy studies in journalism and will function and continue for a medium to long period of time.

By investing in the education of future journalists from across multiple disciplines and Member States, REGIO will contribute to a more cohesive Union, provide training opportunities for a better prepared workforce in the media sector, as well as increase visibility of EU funds and thus their uptake.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### **2.3. Eurostat Regional public investment**

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 <sup>(1)</sup>.

The grants will be 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 of the Financial Regulation, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries.

Description of the activities

The grants will finance the collection and publication of data on regional public investment and the development of a robust methodology that other MS can replicate.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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

### **2.4. Eurostat Geospatial data collections**

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 <sup>(1)</sup> .

The grants will be 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 of the Financial Regulation, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries.

Description of the activities

The grants will finance the collection and harmonisation of geospatial datasets for key issues linked to cohesion policy (transport, health, education...).

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (Text with relevance for the EEA and for Switzerland) [OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164].

## Implementation

The action will be implemented by DG ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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

### ***2.5. Population and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators by Degree of Urbanisation***

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Universities and research institutes

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

This action will support the production of population and Sustainable Development Goals indicators by Degree of Urbanisation. It will also assist countries applying this methodology for the first time.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

### ***2.6. 30<sup>th</sup> Homologues Meeting***

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Because of the treatment and exchange of confidential and sensitive information during the meeting of the Homologues 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.

The host country for the 30th Homologues Group Meeting should be confirmed at the 29th Homologues Group meeting. This 29th Homologues Group meeting was originally scheduled for 2020 but was postponed already twice due to COVID-19 until further notice.

The grant will be 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.

Description of the activities

This grant will finance the 30th Annual Meeting of the European financial controllers and auditors "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 ERDF and Cohesion Fund, such as 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.

#### Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***2.7. Annual Macroregional Strategies Fora for EUSAIR***

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the Directorate for European Integration, Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian (BiH) Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (1st June 2022 – 31st May 2023).

The grant will be 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.

#### Description of the activities

The main purpose of this action is to contribute to the implementation of the EUSAIR main goals and hence the objectives of the European Union in the region. The EUSAIR Forum represents and provides opportunities for all EUSAIR countries and their stakeholders to meet and discuss on related topics, to network, good practices exchange and project concepts, ideas and learn from each other. In this context the event follows the EUSAIR Action Plan and contributes to its implementation. EUSAIR Forum will involve broader target groups and stakeholders such as public authorities and administrations at national/regional/local level, pillar related business sector and business support organizations, research, academia, NGOs/interest groups, regional organisations, etc

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly in DG REGIO

### ***2.8. Introduction and strengthening of Integrity Pacts for Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) in Romania***

#### 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.

The grant will be 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.

#### Description of the activities

The grant will fund the wider introduction of the Integrity Pacts (IPs) into ITI mechanisms in Romania (eg. ITI Danube Delta, ITI Jiu Valley, etc.) in order to monitor the implementation of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) by supervising procurement and project selection processes hence reducing the potential risks of irregularities and corruption.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***2.9. Promoting youth participation during the European Year of Youth***

#### Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Public or private organisations, associations.

Final beneficiaries of the grant are young people and organisations that reach young people, such as civil society organisations, local administrations, local communities, schools, or any other public or private non-profit organisation.

#### Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Organisation of the selection, financing and monitoring of projects for empowering young people to engage in the development of local projects. These projects should focus inter alia on:

- decarbonisation of the economy and society,
- protecting the environment
- promoting a sustainable way of living,
- promoting a sustainable use of resources
- other themes linked to EU and cohesion policy priorities.

The funding will be distributed between two strands targeting the following two groups of regions:

Strand 1: regions in decline/in transition

Strand 2: the EU outermost regions defined in article 349 TFEU

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

### 3. Prizes

The global budgetary envelope reserved for contests in 2022 is estimated at EUR 500 000 to be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05.020200.

#### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

The activities under this chapter will contribute significantly to these objectives and will help meet the relevant climate concerns.

#### **3.1. Prizes to support the New European Bauhaus**

##### Description

The New European Bauhaus is an initiative launched by President von der Leyen in her address on the State of the Union on 16 September 2020. The initiative has the ambition to make the Green Deal a cultural, human-centred and positive, tangible experience and accelerate a sustainable greening of the built environment. More specifically, its objective is to articulate, in an innovative way, three key dimensions:

- sustainability (including circularity),
- aesthetics (and other dimensions of the quality of experience beyond functionality),
- inclusion (including accessibility and affordability).

The 2022 prizes will bring together those excellent examples and new ideas that could inspire the project and contribute to the shaping of the concept.

The prizes will recognise and celebrate existing achievements and support the younger generation to further develop emerging concepts and ideas. They will give visibility to examples and concepts that illustrate how the triangle of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion has already been translated in our territories, our communities and in our practices, or that pave the way to the future in our universities or in young professionals' portfolios.

##### Type of participants targeted by the contest

Natural persons, private and public organisations with inspirational examples or ideas/concepts for the New European Bauhaus that represent the concretisation of the triangle of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion (accessibility, affordability).

The applications shall demonstrate how the core values of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion may be combined in relation to the specific category (exemplary character), the innovative dimension, results achieved, citizens' engagement and involvement, potential for transferability to different contexts, based on clear documentation and communication of methodology and principles.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### **4. Procurement**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2022 is estimated at EUR 65 270 938 of which EUR 53 957 912 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05.020200; EUR 4 579 588 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05.020502-NGEU and EUR 6 733 438 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05.030200.

#### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

The activities under this chapter will contribute significantly to these objectives and will help meet the relevant climate concerns.

#### **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)

These procurement contracts, following several open and negotiated procedures, may support preparatory, monitoring, control, audit, evaluation, communication including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union, visibility and all administrative and technical assistance actions necessary for the implementation of the CPR and, where appropriate, with third countries, at the initiative of the Commission.

Development and procurement of IT solutions will be subjected to the endorsement of the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board following the IT governance process established in the European Commission.

## Implementation

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to *Audit* will be co-delegated to DG EMPL via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 the ARACHNE project that is developing, testing and implementing a risk scoring tool.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to *Communication and Publications* will be co-delegated to the Publications Office via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 publications and printing services; another part will be co-delegated to DG COMM via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 a third part will be delegated to DG CNECT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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, as a contribution to the Kohesio project.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to *IT* will be co-delegated to DIGIT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 corporate IT services and for some services not covered by corporate baseline services; another part will be co-delegated to DG BUDG via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 ABAC DBD links; another part will be co-delegated to DG EMPL via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 IT audit tool MAPAR.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to *Meetings and conferences* will be co-delegated to DG SCIC via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 organisation of conferences; another part will be co-delegated to RTD via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 organisation of the Bauhaus festival.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to *Statistics and Data Collection* will be co-delegated to DG ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 road network data and regional boundaries data.

Part of the procurement budget dedicated to *Technical and other administrative assistance to Member States* will be co-delegated to DG AGRI via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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, for the development of a Rural Revitalisation Platform and for support to the Rural Pact; another part will be co-delegated to NEAR via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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 participation in the TAIEX-REGIO Peer 2 Peer scheme.

The procurement budget dedicated to *translations* will be co-delegated to DG DGT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11/3/2021 amending Decision C(2020)29 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.

## **5. Actions implemented in indirect management**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions to be implemented under indirect management in 2022 is estimated at EUR 59 200 000 of which EUR 28 800 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05.020200; EUR 23 800 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05.020502-NGEU and EUR 6 600 000 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05.030200.

### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

The activities under this chapter will contribute significantly to these objectives and will help meet the relevant climate concerns.

### **5.1. Co-operation with the World Bank**

#### Implementing entity

The World Bank Group works in every major area of development. They provide a wide array of expertise and technical assistance, and help countries to share and apply innovative knowledge and solutions to the challenges they face.

Agreements with the World Bank will be signed and implemented under indirect management, based on existing work and results from earlier contracts with the Bank and its required contacts, technical competence and legitimacy to implement these projects.

With 189 member countries, staff from over 170 countries, and offices in over 130 locations, the World Bank Group is a unique global partner that can achieve results in the intended areas of technical assistance (see below) more efficiently and effectively than any other organisation.

## Description

- Report on subnational disparities

This action will produce a report on how income differences between cities, towns and rural areas change as a country develops and how policy can facilitate this process.

- Support to accelerate digital and green transition under REACT

This action will support the set-up of a technical assistance facility with the World Bank to provide rapid support to Member States in areas where there is scope to improve or scale up existing capacity. The work will focus on adapting and/or scaling up existing schemes, greening/digitalising support to SMEs and accelerating expenditure in areas, which have been slowed during the crisis.

- Analysis of the insolvency framework and support to distressed companies in some MS

This action will support the set-up of a technical assistance facility with the World Bank to analyse business indebtedness and identify its underlying reasons in order to propose financial and non-financial instruments to support distressed firms and honest failed entrepreneurs.

- Catching-up region initiative (CuRI) in Slovakia

This action identifies constraints to growth in the three least developed regions of the country and provides hands-on technical assistance for unlocking their development potential. It provides a tailor-made support for the investments related to Cohesion Policy funds.

- The green transition in less developed regions

This action will develop analytical tools and policy recommendations with regard to opportunities of the green transition in less developed regions.

- Business environment study

This action will measure the quality of the business environment in EU regions. It will aim to produce quantitative indicators of the business of environment at the regional or urban level.

- Analytical support for Policy Objectives (WB, OECD, JRC)

This action will provide support in thematic fields where specific expertise is required to support the programme preparation, implementation, performance audits, review existing strategies and plans, pilot actions, etc. focusing primarily on priorities and actions bringing the greatest added value in relation to smart and sustainable growth and connectivity.

### ***5.2. Cooperation with the OECD***

#### Implementing entity

Agreements with the OECD are based on the technical competence and high degree of specialisation present in the Organisation. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD works on establishing international norms and finding evidence-based solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and global standard-setting. No other organisation can implement the actions in a more efficient and effective way.

## Description

- Study on depopulation

This study will analyse the risk and consequences of depopulation. It will propose a policy framework to manage a shrinking and ageing population, as well as a database on demographic changes in OECD countries.

- Support to the development of national administrative capacity building (ACB) roadmap in Bulgaria (BG)

The action will provide support to the BG authorities to develop a national level ACB roadmap making use of the lessons learned and experience gained under the pilot action "Strengthening administrative capacities of managing authorities for effective use of EU Regional Policy Investment Funds for/in the post 2020 programming period. OECD will assist/work with the BG authorities to launch and manage the process of data collection, analysis and draft national level capacity building strategy/roadmap including monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and global value chains (GVC)

This action will measure regional FDI and assess their impact. It will describe the role of GVC. The focus is to understand how FDI and GVC can help less developed regions.

- Innovative implementation of the partnership principle

Building on the experiences of the two pilot actions supporting 5 managing authorities and 15 civil society organisations for engaging citizens in the implementation of cohesion policy, this action will promote a truly participatory process in Member States and regions and meaningful implementation of the partnership principle. Support will be provided to innovative initiatives bringing local actors, communities, civil society and citizens together and strengthening their role in the implementation of the investments supported under the cohesion policy.

- Analytical support for Policy Objectives (WB, OECD, JRC)

This action will provide support in thematic fields where specific expertise is required to support the programme preparation, implementation, performance audits, review existing strategies and plans, pilot actions, etc. focusing primarily on priorities and actions bringing the greatest added value in relation to smart and sustainable growth and connectivity.

### ***5.3. Cooperation with EIB – JASPERS 2023***

#### Implementing entity

In the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, JASPERS will be implemented by the EIB and will pursue the following strategic objective: assisting in the quality and timely delivery of projects in the Cohesion Policy.

#### Description

JASPERS will provide targeted, advisory support to Managing Authorities and project beneficiaries during the whole life cycle of projects starting from identification, selection, development and approval of projects financed by the Funds, as well as for the financial

closing of projects and their subsequent implementation and completion.

#### **5.4. Cooperation with EIB – FI-COMPASS**

Implementing entity

This action will be implemented by the EIB FI-COMPASS team, an independent team within EIB advisory services that has acquired the necessary expertise during the 2014-2020 programming period.

Description

FI-COMPASS is the EC-EIB platform for advisory services addressing TA needs for financial instruments under shared management by means of a broad range of assistance, i.e. advisory services applicable to all Member States and types of financial instruments, mainly to managing authorities. Such activities typically include providing practical know-how and learning tools on financial instruments (studies, case studies, factsheets, e-learning modules, face-to-face training seminars, networking events) and disseminating good practices among Member States, incl. training seminars and targeted events responding to managing authorities' needs. FI-COMPASS deliverables are publically available on WWW.FI-COMPASS.EU, which is the knowledge hub for shared management financial instruments. The action will be co-financed by DGs REGIO, EMPL, AGRI, MARE and HOME.

#### **5.5. Cooperation with UN Habitat**

Implementing entity

UN-Habitat does research on urbanisation, supports capacity-building, sets standards, proposes norms and principles, shares good practice, monitors global progress and supports formulation of policies related to sustainable cities and human settlements. They collaborate with governments, intergovernmental agencies, UN agencies, civil society organisations, foundations, academic institutions and the private sector to achieve sustainable results in addressing the challenges of urbanisation. As a result, they are the best-placed agency to support countries to apply the degree of urbanisation and produce indicators using this classification.

Description

- URBAN 2030 (part 2)

This action will support the organisation of several workshops on sustainable development goal (SDG) indicators. It will also aim to improve the SDG indicator methodology and data collection and will increase the awareness and visibility of the REGIO and JRC work on SDG indicators.

#### **5.6. Cooperation with an international organisation**

Implementing entity

In case the action is not or only partly implemented through a grant under point 2.10, the action will be implemented by an International Organisation that best fulfils the requirements for the implementation of this action, as defined by Article 156 of the Financial Regulation.

## Description

- Promoting youth participation during the European Year of Youth

Organisation of the selection, financing and monitoring of projects for empowering young people to engage in the development of local projects. These projects should focus inter alia on:

- decarbonisation of the economy and society,
- protecting the environment
- promoting a sustainable way of living,
- promoting a sustainable use of resources
- other themes linked to EU and cohesion policy priorities.

The target group of this action will be young people and organisations that reach young people, such as civil society organisations, local administrations, local communities, schools, or any other public or private non-profit organisation. The funding will be distributed between two strands targeting the following two groups of regions:

- Strand 1: regions in decline/in transition
- Strand 2: the EU outermost regions defined in article 349 TFEU

### **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

### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

The activities under this chapter will contribute significantly to these objectives and will help meet the relevant climate concerns.

#### **9.1. Expert contracts – AMI list**

##### Amount

The amount in 2022 is estimated at EUR 1 800 000 of which EUR 1 224 500 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05.020200; EUR 385 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05.020502-NGEU and EUR 190 500 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05.030200.

##### Description

This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-list <sup>(2)</sup>.

Experts will mainly give advice on the joint preparation of new programming period programmes with the Member States.

#### **9.2. Administrative agreements with the JRC**

##### Amount

The amount in 2022 is estimated at EUR 5 050 000 of which EUR 3 867 500 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05.020200; EUR 500 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05.020502-NGEU and EUR 682 500 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05.030200.

##### Description

- Analytical support for Policy Objectives (WB, OECD, JRC)

This action will provide support in thematic fields where specific expertise is required to support the programme preparation, implementation, performance audits, review existing strategies and plans, pilot actions, etc. focusing primarily on priorities and actions bringing the greatest added value in relation to smart and sustainable growth and connectivity.

<sup>2</sup> Call for expressions of interest 2018/S 066-146033 for external experts to support the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

- Regional databases and Rural observatory

This action will update and maintain the ARDECO database, the other regional and city data collections and will improve the data visualisations. On top of that, it will also contribute to the Joint Rural Observatory.

- Gender, city survey and discontent

This action will provide support for updating the regional gender monitor, the analysis of the next city survey and further analysis of the geography of discontent.

- Measuring European and global urbanisation

This action will support the production of global time series and projection of population and built-up areas. It will also improve the assessment of built-up areas in Europe.

- The tool kit on EU funding opportunities for rural areas

This action will develop a toolkit aimed at centralising information in one document, providing inspirational solutions and examples to trigger revitalisation, complemented by stakeholder engagement and outreach.