



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.6.2011
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 20.6.2011

concerning the adoption of a financing decision, work programme and grant award decision for 2011 for the implementation of the Preparatory action titled "The definition of governance model for the European Union Danube Region-better and effective coordination" to be financed under budget line 13 03 29 and the Pilot project "Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region" to be financed under budget line 13 03 30

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹ (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 49(6)(a) and (b) and Article 75(2) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as the 'Implementing Rules')², and in particular Article 90 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 49(6)(b) of the Financial Regulation, appropriations for preparatory actions in the fields of application of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the Euratom Treaty and of Title VI of the TEU, designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions may be implemented without a basis act provided the actions which they are intended to finance fall within the powers of the European Union.
- (2) In the budget of the European Union for 2011, the budgetary authority has allocated EUR 1 500 000 to the Preparatory action "The definition of governance model for the European Union Danube Region-better and effective coordination" under budget line 13 03 29.
- (3) In accordance with Article 49(6)(a) of the Financial Regulation, appropriations for pilot schemes of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

its usefulness may be implemented without a basic act provided the actions which they are intended to finance fall within the powers of the European Union.

- (4) In the budget of the European Union for 2011, the budgetary authority has allocated EUR 2 000 000 to the Pilot project "Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region", under budget line 13 03 30.
- (5) In accordance with Article 75 of the Financial Regulation and Article 90(1) of the Implementing Rules, the commitment of expenditure from the budget of the European Union shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (6) In accordance with Article 110 of the Financial Regulation an annual work programme must be adopted for grants.
- (7) The 2011 work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 90(2) and (3) of the Implementing Rules, the present decision constitutes a financing decision for the expenditure provided for in the work programme for grants and procurement.
- (8) Under Article 168(1)(c) of the Implementing Rules, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in the case(s) of bodies with a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly, duly substantiated in the award decision. In the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs), hold a *de facto* monopoly position in the Strategy, because they have been designated as responsible for the implementation of the Danube strategy endorsed by the Council of the European Union. Within the Preparatory Action "The definition of governance model for the Danube region" a grant will be awarded to the PACs with the objective to facilitate a stable, effective, inclusive and innovative governance system for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. Within the Pilot project "Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region" a grant will be awarded to the PACs with the objective to develop a regional identity, and to establish economic and social cooperation in a practical way to encourage reconciliation and excellence in the Danube Region.
- (9) This financing decision may also cover the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Articles 83 of the Financial Regulation and 106(5) of the Implementing Rules.
- (10) For the application of this decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 90(4) of the Implementing Rules,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2011 annual work programme for the implementation of the Preparatory action entitled "The definition of governance model for the Danube region" and the Pilot project entitled "Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region", as set out in the Annex 1 and 2 respectively, is hereby adopted. It constitutes a financing decision in the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the Programme is set at EUR 3.500.000 to be financed from the following lines of the General Budget of the European Union for 2011

1. budget line 13 03 29 (Annex I),: EUR 1 500 000;
2. budget line 13 03 30 (Annex II), EUR 2 000 000.

These appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs), identified in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, bodies with a *de facto* monopoly situation on the basis of an agreement among all the countries involved in the strategy, which includes the designation of the PACs, and which has been validated by the Council of the European Union, in accordance with the conditions detailed in the annexed work programme.

Article 4

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions covered by the work programme not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution per budget line authorised by this Decision are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and of proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 20.6.2011

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX
2011 WORK PROGRAMME

1. PREPARATORY ACTION "THE DEFINITION OF A GOVERNANCE MODEL FOR THE DANUBE REGION"

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. Budget line

13 03 29

1.1.2. Basic Act

Preparatory action within the meaning of Article 49(6)b of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the General budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

1.1.3. Policy context

The Commission has prepared an EU Strategy for the Danube Region. This Strategy proposes a cooperation framework and an Action Plan for the 14 countries of the Danube Region (8 EU Member States and 6 non EU Member States). The implementation of the Strategy will be done by the countries themselves. The Commission will act as a facilitator.

1.1.4. General objectives of the preparatory action

The resources allocated to this preparatory action – EUR 1 500 000 - will be used to work on a governance model. The objective is to facilitate a governance system for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region which is stable, effective, inclusive and innovative.

1.2. Actions/ Type of financial intervention

1.2.1. Assistance to the Priority Area Coordinators-Grants

The Strategy will be implemented through eleven thematic Priority Areas, each of which will be coordinated by two Danube countries or regions. Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) will be supported in activities that could include the following, for example:

- Improve the capacity of the PACs, including their work to communicate the Strategy's aims and its achievements;
- Support cooperation and the exchange of experience through the organisation of thematic meetings and steering groups;
- Establish a Danube Investment Framework to assist project owners in developing project proposals, and facilitate the coordination between different funding sources. The establishment of a Danube Investment Framework could

be implemented in particular by the PAC of Priority Area 10 'Institutional Capacity'.

The assistance will be implemented jointly through grants to the PACs, which hold a *de facto* monopoly position in the Strategy work. The PACs are national or regional public bodies. Each Priority Area is coordinated by 2 public institutions from the Danube Region (EU Member States and third countries). Their appointment is based on an agreement by all countries involved in the Strategy. 5% co-financing will be provided by the PACs. The volume of the grants may vary according to the work plans of the PACs, depending on which of the activities mentioned above they wish to emphasise.

Legal and budgetary commitments of actions will be made in 2011, even if some of the actions will take place later. Grants shall be covered by a written agreement.

The PACs, which are direct grants beneficiaries holding a *de facto* monopoly, are public bodies representing countries of the Danube Region. Each Priority Area is coordinated by 2 countries (generally ministries).

Maximum indicative budget: EUR 1 250 000

1.2.2. Organisation of events-Public procurement

In 2012, the Commission will organise one or more events, including a stakeholder conference, to review the implementation of the Strategy, to provide a platform for exchange across thematic Priority Areas, and to communicate the Strategy to a wider public.

The organisation of events (conferences, workshops, etc.) in 2011 and 2012 could be managed by DG Regional Policy. The possibility of implementation within existing framework contracts will be examined.

Legal and budgetary commitments of actions will be made in 2011, even if some of the actions will take place later.

Maximum indicative budget: EUR 250 000.

1.3. Total budget

EUR 1 500 000

1.4. Indicative calendar for procedures

To ensure timely implementation of the Strategy, assistance to Priority Area Coordinators will start in 2011.

The preparation for the organisation of events in 2012 will also start in the second semester 2011. Events themselves are largely foreseen for 2012, as the implementation of the Strategy gains momentum.

2. PILOT PROJECT: TOWARDS A COMMON REGIONAL IDENTITY, RECONCILIATION OF NATIONS AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION INCLUDING A PAN-EUROPEAN EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENCE PLATFORM IN THE DANUBE MACRO-REGION

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. Budget line

13 03 30

2.1.2. Basic Act

Pilot project within the meaning of Article 49(6)a of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the General budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

2.1.3. Policy context

The Commission has prepared an EU Strategy for the Danube Region. This Strategy proposes a cooperation framework and an Action Plan for the 14 countries of the Danube Region (8 EU Member States and 6 non EU Member States). The implementation of the Strategy will be done by the countries themselves. The Commission will act as a facilitator.

2.1.4. General objectives of the pilot project

The resources allocated to this pilot project – EUR 2 000 000 - will be used to work on the development of a regional identity, and the establishment of economic and social cooperation in a practical way to encourage reconciliation and excellence in the Danube Region.

2.2. Actions/ Type of financial intervention

The Strategy will be implemented through eleven thematic Priority Areas, each of which will be coordinated by two Danube countries or regions. PACs will be supported in activities that could include the following, for example:

- Encourage a bottom up approach to implementation, through the involvement of civil society, regional stakeholders and citizens in the implementation phase with the aim to promote people's mutual understanding;
- Base the Strategy's implementation on the latest, cutting edge knowledge by involving regional and international experts;
- -Implement one (or possibly more) flagship project(s) able to demonstrate the added value of the Strategy through economic cooperation (these projects to provide innovative solutions to overall societal challenges, such as climate change, are based on an integrated approach and latest research, e.g. the development of a prototype of new ships or the establishment of a Danube Region Innovation Fund). The development of a prototype of new ships could be implemented in particular by the PACs of Priority Area 1 'To improve mobility and intermodality'. The establishment of a Danube Region innovation

fund could be coordinated with DG Research and Innovation, which has the experience in coordinating research funds in the Region. DG Research and Innovation are project leader of this action in the Action Plan of the Strategy.

The assistance will be implemented jointly through grants to the PACs, which hold a *de facto* monopoly position in the Strategy work. The PACs are national or regional public bodies. Each Priority Area is coordinated by 2 public institutions from the Danube Region (EU Member States and third countries). Their appointment is based on an agreement by all countries involved in the Strategy. 5% co-financing will be provided by the PACs. The volume of the grants may vary according to the work plans of the PACs, depending on which of the activities mentioned above they wish to emphasise.

It is foreseen that legal and budgetary commitments of actions will be made in 2011, even if some of the actions will take place later.

The PACs, which are direct grants beneficiaries holding a *de facto* monopoly, are public bodies representing countries of the Danube Region. Each Priority Area is coordinated by 2 countries (generally ministries).

Maximum indicative budget: EUR 2 000 000

2.3. Total budget

EUR 2 000 000

2.4. Indicative calendar for procedures

To ensure timely implementation of the Strategy, assistance to PACs will start in 2011 and therefore the grant agreements have to be signed by the end of 2011.

The preparation for the organisation of events in 2012 will also start in 2011. Events themselves are largely foreseen for 2012, as the implementation of the Strategy gains momentum.