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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 7/12/2010  
C(2010) 8336

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 7 December 2010**

**concerning the adoption of a financing decision, work programme and grant award decision for 2011 in the framework of ERDF and Cohesion Fund for the use of administrative and operational technical assistance at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission for the attention of the authorising officer(s) responsible**

## COMMISSION DECISION

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**concerning the adoption of a financing decision, work programme and grant award decision for 2011 in the framework of ERDF and Cohesion Fund for the use of administrative and operational technical assistance at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission [...] for the attention of the authorising officer(s) responsible**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 45 (2) thereof,

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 Communities<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 75 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<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the 'Implementing Rules'), and in particular Article 90 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 45 (1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 defines the technical assistance actions at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission which can be financed by the European Regional and Development Fund (ERDF) or the Cohesion Fund.
- (2) For the ERDF technical assistance is covered on available credits from budgetary line 13 01 04 01 (ERDF) – expenditure on administrative management) and 13 03 20 (ERDF) — operational technical Assistance). For the Cohesion Fund technical assistance is covered on administrative credits on the budgetary lines 13 01 04 03 (Cohesion Fund — expenditure on administrative management) and 13 04 02 (Cohesion Fund).
- (3) 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.
- (4) In accordance with Article 110 of the Financial Regulation an annual work programme must be adopted for grants.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 210, 31.07.2006, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

- (5) 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.
- (6) Under Article 181 of the Implementing Rules, the Commission may, in the area of grants, authorise the use of lump sums to cover one or more different categories of eligible costs, or of flat-rate financing to cover accommodation costs and daily allowances for mission costs.
- (7) 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. A grant without call for proposals may be awarded for the action entitled. Because of the treatment and exchange of confidential and sensitive information during the 20th meeting of the Homologue 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 assure the organisation of the meeting for year n. Therefore a de facto monopoly has been established.
- (8) Under Article 168(1) point (d) of the Implementing Rules, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in the case(s) of bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 49 of the Financial Regulation, as beneficiaries of a grant. According to Article 36 (5) of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1083/2006, a grant may be awarded to the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund for the actions falling under the scope of Article 36.
- (9) This decision is also a financing decision for the expenditure in the context of joint management chargeable to the Union budget.
- (10) In accordance with Article 53d of the Financial Regulation, evidence has been obtained that the international organisations to be entrusted by the Commission with the implementation of Union funds in joint management, apply standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards in their accounting, audit, internal control and procurement procedures.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 103 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, the Coordination Committee of the Funds was consulted and delivered a favourable opinion on the work programme for 2011,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

The annual work programme for the use of administrative and operational technical assistance at the initiative of or on behalf of the Commission for 2011 in the framework of ERDF and

Cohesion Fund, as set out in the Annex, 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 €83.638.000,00 to be financed from the following lines of the General Budget of the European Union for 2011:

1. budget line 13 01 04 01 (Annex I),: EUR 11.600.000,00
2. budget line 13 03 20 (Annex II), EUR 50.000.000,00
3. budget line 13 01 04 03 (Annex III), EUR 4.950.000,00
4. budget line 13 04 02 (Annex IV): EUR 17.088.000,00

These appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2011 after the adoption of the budget for 2011 by the budgetary authority.

#### *Article 3*

The budget implementation of tasks related to the studies mentioned under point 1.4 in Annex I and II may be entrusted to the following international organisation, which applies standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards in its accounting, audit, internal control and procurement procedures: Organisation for economic cooperation and development.

#### *Article 4*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution 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. This may include the increase of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision up to 1.61 %.

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

#### *Article 5*

The Commission authorises grants in the forms of lump sums or flat-rate financing, in accordance with the conditions detailed in the annexed work programme.

#### *Article 6*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly and to bodies identified by Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 as beneficiaries of a grant, in accordance with the conditions detailed in the annexed work programme.

Done at Brussels, [...]

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes Hahn*  
*Member of the Commission*

**Work Programme for 2011**

## ANNEX I

### BUDGET LINE:

13 03 20- ERDF Operational Technical Assistance budget line

#### **1.1. Introduction**

This work programme contains implementing measures for the year 2011. On the basis of the objectives given in the article 45 of Council regulation 1083/2006, the budget breakdown and main actions are as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct centralised management) (1.2): EUR 29.989.000,00
- for procurement (implemented under direct centralised management) (1.3): 14.804.000,00
- for actions implemented under joint management through an agreement with an international organisation (1.4): EUR 770.000,00
- for other actions (1.5): EUR 4.437.000,00

#### **1.2. Grants**

Grants shall be covered by a written agreement.

##### *1.2.1. JASPERS*

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

This grant is a continuation of funding from Commission to EIB to finance part of the JASPERS technical assistance facility with the purpose of ensuring continued support to the 12 eligible Member States for the preparation of major projects which will be supported by EU funds.

Continued output of expert reports for the Member States concerned, for capacity building purposes and as input to applications to DG REGIO for support for major projects.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIB. Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2008, the EIB is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is, therefore justified. The Commission is funding the costs of staff in the JASPERS unit within EIB (58 experts plus 14 support staff), in the form of a flat rate per month: EUR 26,142 per expert and EUR 14,667 for support staff. Mission costs will also be eligible on an actual cost basis, subject to a ceiling per expert per year. Other costs, such as external consultancy, translation, external audit and the costs of some events throughout the year will also be eligible on actual cost basis. Maximum possible co-financing rate 85%

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 20.594.000,00<sup>4</sup>

### 1.2.2. JESSICA

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

The JESSICA Action for 2011 will comprise completion of JESSICA evaluation studies previously undertaken and launching new evaluation studies in interested Member States or EU regions; preparation of horizontal studies and contributing to the work of the JESSICA Networking Platform by sharing knowledge and experience with other stakeholders. Other appropriate actions to be agreed between the Commission and the EIB in the contribution agreement for 2011 could also be envisaged, in particular those aimed at raising awareness of the initiative and its added value as well as exchanging good practice regarding the implementation of JESSICA. The purpose of this action is to identify appropriate implementation conditions and gaps between supply and demand for the JESSICA instrument in Member States and regions. It is expected to assist Member States and regions in planning and preparing the framework for the implementation of JESSICA; raise awareness of the initiative and to contribute to development/exchange of good practice.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIB. Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006, the EIB is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is therefore justified. Expenses for professional staff will be reimbursed at the following rates per month: EUR 16,250 for salary and salary related costs for professional staff; EUR 6,250 for salary and salary related costs for support staff; EUR 14,250 for other direct and indirect costs for professional staff; EUR 9,250 for other direct and indirect costs for support staff. Travel and subsistence costs, as well as the costs of external consultants will be also eligible on an actual cost basis. Max co-financing rate: 85%.

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 3.500.000,00

### 1.2.3. JEREMIE

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

JEREMIE action contributes to the work of the JEREMIE Networking Platform by sharing knowledge and experience with other stakeholders. Other appropriate actions to be agreed between the Commission and the EIF in the contribution agreement for 2011 could also be envisaged - in particular those aimed at raising awareness of the initiative and its added value as well as exchanging good practices regarding the implementation of JEREMIE. The objective is to assist Member States in implementing JEREMIE and assist the Commission in promoting JEREMIE and good practice through the JEREMIE Networking Platform. Expected results would be better implementation of JEREMIE by more Member States or regions, for improved access to finance for SMEs

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

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<sup>4</sup> JASPERS is financed on both ERDF and CF operational budget lines (13 0320: 70% ; 13 0402: 30%); the total budget allocation for this action is therefore EUR 29.420.000,00

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIF. Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006, the EIF is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is therefore justified. Expenses for the EIF staff will be reimbursed at the following maximum rates per month: EUR 14,720 for salary and salary related costs for professional staff: EUR 6,745 for salary and salary related costs for support staff: EUR 11,224 for other direct and indirect costs for professional staff: EUR 7,925 for other direct and indirect costs for support staff. Travel and subsistence costs, as well as the costs of external consultants will be also eligible on an actual cost basis.. Max. co-financing rate: 85%.

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 500.000,00

#### 1.2.4. JASMINE

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

The action in 2011 is the continuation of the action started in 2008 and is necessary to develop the micro-credit element of the JEREMIE initiative in Member States and regions. It is aimed at rolling out the services that the JASMINE facility will provide to selected micro-credit providers/micro-finance institutions/MFIs to help them improve the quality of their operations. The aim is to improve the provision of micro-credit in Member States and regions. Develop the provision of technical assistance (TA) to non-bank micro-credit providers/MFIs. TA will include, amongst other activities, assessment, training and rating of selected micro-credit providers/MFIs, as well as development of a general "business development package" for micro-credit providers/MFIs.

Expected results:

- 1) Provide technical assistance services (assessment/ diagnosis, rating and/or training) to selected 25 micro-credit providers/MFIs active in the EU through at least two specialised rating agencies of the European Union;
- 2) Design a "business development package" for micro-credit providers/MFIs;
- 3) Select additional 15 micro-credit providers/MFIs who might benefit from services and products provided by the JASMINE facility.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIF. Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006, the EIF is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is therefore justified. Expenses for the EIF staff will be reimbursed at the following maximum rates per month: EUR 14,720 for salary and salary related costs for professional staff: EUR 6,745 for salary and salary related costs for support staff: EUR 11,224 for other direct and indirect costs for professional staff: EUR 7,925 for other direct and indirect costs for support staff. Travel and subsistence costs, as well as the costs of external consultants will be also eligible on an actual cost basis.. Max. co-financing rate: 85%.

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 2.420.000,00

### 1.2.5. *Homologue Group Meeting*

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

The 20th annual meeting of the European financial controllers (Homologues group meeting) will be hosted by the Maltese Audit Authority. This is an annual conference gathering of representatives of Member States and the Commission to discuss issues related to controls of the management of the Structural Funds. The objectives of this meeting are sharing and dissemination of best practices amongst Member States. It is expected better cooperation between Member States and the EC.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant

This action will be implemented through a direct grant. The beneficiary designated on an annual basis by common agreement of the Homologue group participants. Maximum co-financing rate: 80%

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 175.000,00

### 1.2.6. *Title of the Action: European Public-Private Partnership Expertise Centre (EPEC)*

Overall objective and purpose of the action

This grant will co-finance the activities of the EPEC facility within the EIB which is intended to build capacity in relation to public private partnerships.

The output of EPEC will be in the form of expert reports for the members of EPEC (Commission and Member States) and capacity building activities such as training events.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIB. The action will be jointly funded with TENEA. This Financing Decision will cover the budgetary needs for EPEC for 2011 and 2012. Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2008, the EIB is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is, therefore, justified. The Commission is funding the costs of staff in the EPEC unit within EIB in the form of a flat rate per month of not more than EUR 38,000. Other costs, such as external consultancy and external audit will also be eligible on actual cost basis. The maximum possible co-financing rate to the whole Commission's support to the project will be 50%, 2/3 of it will be financed by DG REGIO.<sup>5</sup>

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 2.800.000,00

## 1.3. **Procurement**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2011 amounts to EUR 14.804.000,00.

<sup>5</sup> This action is financed on both ERDF and CF operational budget lines (13 0320: 70% ; 13 0402: 30%); the total budget allocation for this action is therefore EUR 4.000.000,00

## Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged

A number of activities will be implemented through service contracts (direct contracts, specific contracts or order forms under FWC).

These types of activities consist of the following measures:

*-Evaluations:*

indicative number of direct contracts: 9.

Budget allocation:

EUR 2.400.000,00

*-Studies:*

indicative number of direct contracts: 16

Budget allocation:

EUR 2.915.000,00

*-Audit:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 10

indicative number of direct contracts: 1

Budget allocation: EUR 910.000,00

*-Communication and publication:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 55

indicative number of direct contracts: 5

Budget allocation: EUR 4.980.000,00

*-IT:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 1

Budget allocation: EUR 343.000,00

*-Meetings and conferences:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 10

Budget allocation: EUR 1.735.000,00

*-Technical and other administrative assistance:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 4

Budget allocation: EUR 1.521.000,00

The indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures is 1st January 2011.

### **1.4. Joint Management-Actions implemented in joint management through an agreement with an international organisation**

#### *1.4.1. Title of the Action: Improving national and regional institutional capacity building*

Budget

EUR 350.000,00

Implementing entity

This action will be implemented through a contribution agreement with OECD. Only the OECD can offer the policy dialogue needed to provide legitimacy and credibility to the analysis and the policy recommendations. Joint-management applies because the project is jointly elaborated with the OECD: DG REGIO will participate in the meetings to decide how to elaborate and develop this project. We will decide how to set up the structure and priorities of the work and the specific output. DG REGIO will contribute to the drafting and editing of

the different reports.

#### Overall objective and purpose of the action

The OECD will analyse how national and regional institutional capacity can be improved. This project will build on the EC study on quality of government. It will analyse which policies improve national and regional institutional capacities. This study will provide policy recommendations and case studies of countries and regions that have improved their institutional capacity. In addition, it will provide advise on how targets for institutional improvements can be set and measured

*1.4.2. Title of the Action: Governance and conditionalities in times of budgetary constraints: implications for EU cohesion policy*

#### Budget

EUR 350.000,00

#### Implementing entity

This action will be implemented through a contribution agreement with OECD. Only the OECD can offer the policy dialogue needed to provide legitimacy and credibility to the analysis and the policy recommendations. Joint-management applies because the project is jointly elaborated with the OECD: DG REGIO will participate in the meetings to decide how to elaborate and develop this project. We will decide how to set up the structure and priorities of the work and the specific output. DG REGIO will contribute to the drafting and editing of the different reports.

#### Overall objective and purpose of the action

This study will assess how regional policies are organised with a focus on conditionality, governance and policy coordination in the context of significant budgetary constraints. This study will cover EU cohesion policy and regional policies in member countries of the OECD. The objective of the study is to provide an overview of the main kind of policy conditionalities which exist in different OECD countries and to assess to what extent they could be implemented in cohesion policy in the context of significant budgetary constraints. This study will provide input for the discussion on the future of Cohesion Policy, the draft regulations and the following debate. It should provide clear policy recommendation on how to improve conditionality, policy coordination and better governance mechanisms in the context of significant budgetary constraints.

*1.4.3. Cross-border regional innovation policies*

#### Budget

EUR 70.000,00

#### Implementing entity

This action will be implemented through a contribution agreement with OECD. Only the OECD can offer the policy dialogue needed to provide legitimacy and credibility to the analysis and the policy recommendations. Joint-management applies because the project is jointly elaborated with the OECD: DG REGIO will participate in the meetings to decide how to elaborate and develop this project. We will decide how to set up the structure and priorities of the work and the specific output. DG REGIO will contribute to the drafting and editing of the different reports.

Overall objective and purpose of the action

This study will analyse cross border innovation in a sample of cross border areas, each of which will also have to provide co-financing for this study. The goal of the study is to provide policy recommendations how to promote cross border innovation and to have a better understanding of the possible benefits. The study will address three key questions: (1) How to define relevant functional regions for innovation? (2) How to design effective cross-border regional innovation policies? (3) How to assess the success of cross-border regional innovation policies?

## **1.5. Other**

*1.5.1. Title of the Action: Regional competitiveness indicator- Administrative agreement with JRC*

Budget

EUR 70.000,00

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action aims to update the regional competitiveness index taking into account other indicators developed elsewhere such as Huggins' "knowledge indicator" or DG ENTR's regional innovation performance indicator. It will be implemented through an administrative agreement with JRC (ISPRA)

*1.5.2. Title of the Action: Urban Audit- sub-delegation to EUROSTAT*

Budget

EUR 400.000,00

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action will be the contribution from DG REGIO to the third large scale Urban Audit data collection. EUROSTAT will implement this action through a contribution to National Audit Coordinators for data collection 2011.

*1.5.3. Title of the Action: Contribution to acquisition of geo-referenced data- Sub-delegation to EUROSTAT*

Budget

EUR 140.000,00

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action is DG REGIO's contribution to the common acquisition programme of Commission services regarding geo-referenced data. The objective is to get improved analytical capacity on the production of geo-referenced statistics, especially in the field of transport. The availability of better and more up-to-date geographic reference data will contribute to improved analytical results.

#### *1.5.4. Title of the Action: Review of regional expenditure – Sub-delegation to EUROSTAT*

#### Budget

EUR 140.000,00

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

Review of regional expenditure. The aim is that Member States start collecting and communicating data on public expenditure at regional level.

#### *1.5.5. Title of the Action: Smart Specialisation Platform-Administrative arrangement with IPTS*

#### Budget

EUR 2.450.000,00

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

Member States and regions are asked to develop smart specialisation strategies. This requires the creation of strategic intelligence. The Platform will bring together expertise from research centres, regional authorities, businesses and Commission services. It will develop tool boxes, design the principles of assessment and propose tools to measure outcomes. It will create a critical mass of developers and implementers of smart strategies and establish systems of peer review. Member States and regions will have increased their capacity to develop smart specialisation strategies. These will be crucial for the alignment of Regional Policy with Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union - flagship initiative and for the preparation of post-2013 programmes of the ERDF.

#### *1.5.6. Meetings with Experts*

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action aims at covering expert related costs (reimbursement of travel expenses as well as providing daily and accommodation allowance) for experts participating in meetings and conferences with the Commission. It will also cover expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts, implemented under article 179 bis FR.

#### Budget

EUR 1.237.000,00

## **ANNEX II**

BUDGET LINE:

13 04 02- Cohesion Fund (CF) Operational Technical Assistance budget line

### **1.1 Introduction**

This work programme contains implementing measures for the year 2011. On the basis of the objectives given in the article 45 of Council regulation 1083/2006, the budget breakdown and main actions are as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct centralised management) (1.2): EUR 10.101.000,00
- for procurement (implemented under direct centralised management) (1.3): EUR 5.271.000,00
- for actions implemented under joint management through an agreement with an international organisation (1.4): EUR 330.000,00
- for other actions (1.5): EUR 1.386.000,00

### **1.2 Grants**

Grants shall be covered by a written agreement

#### *1.2.1 JASPERS*

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

This grant is a continuation of funding from Commission to EIB to finance part of the JASPERS technical assistance facility with the purpose of ensuring continued support to the 12 eligible Member States for the preparation of major projects which will be supported by EU funds.

Continued output of expert reports for the Member States concerned, for capacity building purposes and as input to applications to DG REGIO for support for major projects.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIB Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2008, the EIB is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is, therefore justified. The Commission is funding the costs of staff in the JASPERS unit within EIB (58 experts plus 14 support staff), in the form of a flat rate per month: €26,142 per expert and €14,667 for support staff. Mission costs will also be eligible on an actual cost basis, subject to a ceiling per expert per year. Other costs, such as external consultancy, translation, external audit and the costs of some events throughout the year will also be eligible on actual cost basis. Maximum possible co-financing rate 85%

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 8.826.000,00<sup>6</sup>

### 1.2.2 Title of the Action: European Public-Private Partnership Expertise Centre (EPEC)

Overall objective and purpose of the action

This grant will co-finance the activities of the EPEC facility within the EIB which is intended to build capacity in relation to public private partnerships.

The output of EPEC will be in the form of expert reports for the members of EPEC (Commission and Member States) and capacity building activities such as training events.

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant to EIB. The action will be jointly funded with TENEA. This Financing Decision will cover the budgetary needs for EPEC for 2011 and 2012. Having regard to Article 36 and 45 of Council Regulation 1083/2006 of 11 July 2008, the EIB is identified as recipient of a grant and a direct award is, therefore, justified. The Commission is funding the costs of staff in the EPEC unit within EIB in the form of a flat rate per month of not more than €38,000. Other costs, such as external consultancy and external audit will also be eligible on actual cost basis. The maximum possible co-financing rate to the whole Commission's support to the project will be 50%, 2/3 of it will be financed by DG REGIO.<sup>7</sup>

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 1.200.000,00

### 1.2.3 Homologue Group Meeting

Priorities of the year, objectives to be fulfilled and expected results

The 20th annual meeting of the European financial controllers (Homologues group meeting) will be hosted by the Maltese Audit Authority. This is an annual conference gathering of representatives of Member States and the Commission to discuss issues related to controls of the management of the Structural Funds. The objectives of this meeting are sharing and dissemination of best practices amongst Member States. It is expected better cooperation between Member States and the EC

Implementation-maximum possible rate of co-financing-Form of the grant (flat rates)

This action will be implemented through a direct grant. The beneficiary designated on an annual basis by common agreement of the Homologue group participants. Maximum co-financing rate: 80%

Indicative amount of the direct award:

EUR 75.000,00

<sup>6</sup> JASPERS is financed on both ERDF and CF operational budget lines (13 0320: 70% ; 13 0402: 30%); the total budget allocation for this action is therefore EUR 29.420.000,00

<sup>7</sup> This action is financed on both ERDF and CF operational budget lines (13 0320: 70% ; 13 0402: 30%); the total budget allocation for this action is therefore EUR 4.000.000,00

### 1.3 Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2011 amounts to EUR 5.271.000,00.

Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged

A number of activities will be implemented through service contracts (direct contracts, specific contracts or order forms under FWC).

These types of activities consist of the following measures:

*-Evaluations:*

indicative number of direct contracts: 4

Budget allocation: EUR 900.000,00

*-Studies:*

indicative number of direct contracts: 9

Budget allocation: EUR 435.000,00

*-Audit:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 10

indicative number of direct contracts: 1

Budget allocation: EUR 390.000,00

*-Communication and publication:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 55

indicative number of direct contracts: 5

Budget allocation: EUR 1.890.000,00

*-IT:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 1

Budget allocation: EUR 147.000,00

*-Technical and other administrative assistance*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC: 4

Budget allocation: EUR 1.509.000,00

The indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures is 1st January 2011.

### 1.4 Joint Management-Actions implemented in joint management through an agreement with an international organisation

*1.4.1 Title of the Action: Improving national and regional institutional capacity building*

Budget

EUR 150.000,00

Implementing entity

This action will be implemented through a contribution agreement with OECD. Only the OECD can offer the policy dialogue needed to provide legitimacy and credibility to the analysis and the policy recommendations.

Joint-management applies because the project is jointly elaborated with the OECD: DG REGIO will participate in the meetings to decide how to elaborate and develop this project. We will decide how to set up the structure and priorities of the work and the specific output.

DG REGIO will contribute to the drafting and editing of the different reports.

#### Overall objective and purpose of the action

The OECD will analyse how national and regional institutional capacity can be improved. This project will build on the EC study on quality of government. It will analyse which policies improve national and regional institutional capacities. This study will provide policy recommendations and case studies of countries and regions that have improved their institutional capacity. In addition, it will provide advise on how targets for institutional improvements can be set and measured

#### *1.4.2 Title of the Action: Governance and conditionalities in times of budgetary constraints: implications for EU cohesion policy*

#### Budget

EUR 150.000,00

#### Implementing entity

This action will be implemented through a contribution agreement with OECD. Only the OECD can offer the policy dialogue needed to provide legitimacy and credibility to the analysis and the policy recommendations.

Joint-management applies because the project is jointly elaborated with the OECD: DG REGIO will participate in the meetings to decide how to elaborate and develop this project. We will decide how to set up the structure and priorities of the work and the specific output. DG REGIO will contribute to the drafting and editing of the different reports.

#### Overall objective and purpose of the action

This study will assess how regional policies are organised with a focus on conditionality, governance and policy coordination in the context of significant budgetary constraints. This study will cover EU cohesion policy and regional policies in member countries of the OECD. The objective of the study is to provide an overview of the main kind of policy conditionalities which exist in different OECD countries and to assess to what extent they could be implemented in cohesion policy in the context of significant budgetary constraints. This study will provide input for the discussion on the future of Cohesion Policy, the draft regulations and the following debate. It should provide clear policy recommendation on how to improve conditionality, policy coordination and better governance mechanisms in the context of significant budgetary constraints.

#### *1.4.3 Cross-border regional innovation policies*

#### Budget

EUR 30.000,00

#### Implementing entity

This action will be implemented through a contribution agreement with OECD. Only the OECD can offer the policy dialogue needed to provide legitimacy and credibility to the analysis and the policy recommendations. Joint-management applies because the project is jointly elaborated with the OECD: DG REGIO will participate in the meetings to decide how to elaborate and develop this project. We will decide how to set up the structure and priorities of the work and the specific output. DG REGIO will contribute to the drafting and editing of the different reports.

Overall objective and purpose of the action

This study will analyse cross border innovation in a sample of cross border areas, each of which will also have to provide co-financing for this study. The goal of the study is to provide policy recommendations how to promote cross border innovation and to have a better understanding of the possible benefits. The study will address three key questions: (1) How to define relevant functional regions for innovation? (2) How to design effective cross-border regional innovation policies? (3) How to assess the success of cross-border regional innovation policies?

## **1.5 Other**

*1.5.1 Title of the Action: Regional competitiveness indicator- Administrative agreement with JRC*

Budget

EUR 30.000,00

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action aims to update the regional competitiveness index taking into account other indicators developed elsewhere such as Huggins' "knowledge indicator" or DG ENTR's regional innovation performance indicator. It will be implemented through an administrative agreement with JRC (ISPRA)

*1.5.2 Title of the Action: Contribution to acquisition of geo-referenced data- sub-delegation to EUROSTAT*

Budget

EUR 60.000,00

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action will be the contribution from DG REGIO to the third large scale Urban Audit data collection. EUROSTAT will implement this action through a contribution to National Audit Coordinators for data collection 2011.

*1.5.3 Title of the Action: Review of regional expenditure – Sub-delegation to EUROSTAT*

Budget

EUR 60.000,00

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action is DG REGIO's contribution to the common acquisition programme of Commission services regarding geo-referenced data. The objective is to get improved analytical capacity on the production of geo-referenced statistics, especially in the field of transport. The availability of better and more up-to-date geographic reference data will contribute to improved analytical results.

#### *1.5.4 Title of the Action: Smart Specialisation Platform-Administrative arrangement with IPTS*

#### Budget

EUR 1.050.000,00

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

Member States and regions are asked to develop smart specialisation strategies. This requires the creation of strategic intelligence. The Platform will bring together expertise from research centres, regional authorities, businesses and Commission services. It will develop tool boxes, design the principles of assessment and propose tools to measure outcomes. It will create a critical mass of developers and implementers of smart strategies and establish systems of peer review. Member States and regions will have increased their capacity to develop smart specialisation strategies. These will be crucial for the alignment of Regional Policy with Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union - flagship initiative and for the preparation of post-2013 programmes of the ERDF.

#### *1.5.5 Meetings with Experts*

#### Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action aims at covering expert related costs for experts (reimbursement of travel expenses as well as providing daily and accommodation allowance) participating in meetings and conferences with the Commission. It will also cover expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts, implemented under article 179 bis FR.

#### Budget

EUR 186.000,00

## **ANNEX III**

BUDGET LINE :

13 01 04 01- ERDF Administrative Technical Assistance budget line

### **1.1 Introduction**

This work programme contains implementing measures for the year 2011. On the basis of the objectives given in the article 45 of Council regulation 1083/2006, the budget breakdown and main actions are as follows:

- for procurement (implemented under direct centralised management) (1.2):

EUR 7.542.500

- for other actions (1.3): EUR 4.057.500.

### **1.2 Procurement**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2011 amounts to EUR 7.542.500,00

indicative number and type of contracts envisaged

A number of activities will be implemented through service / supply contracts (direct contracts, specific contracts or order forms under FWC).

These types of activities consist of the following measures:

*Trainings:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 20

indicative number of direct contracts: 5

Budget allocation: EUR 52.500,00

*Meetings and conferences:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 50

Budget allocation: EUR 70.000,00

*IT:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 20

indicative number of direct contracts: 5

Budget allocation: EUR 7.420.000,00

The indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures is 1st January 2011.

### **1.3 Other**

*1.3.1 Missions-Administrative autonomy*

This action will be implemented by sub-delegation to PMO

amount

EUR 422.950,00

*1.3.2 Service level agreement with DGT for Translations (horizontal and operational translations)*

amount

EUR 385.000,00

*1.3.3 Expenses to temporary staff (staff expenditure)*

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Staff expenditure for contract agents, ENDs and interimaire for technical tasks linked to the implementation of ERDF and CF.

Amount

EUR 3.060.000,00

*1.3.4 Invitation letters for meetings and conferences*

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action is intended to cover the following expenditure:  
costs incurred for the experts (travel, daily allowance, accommodation allowance), and the cost of organising meetings and conferences by DG REGIO This action also covers annual meetings with the Member States.

Amount

EUR 185.000,00

*1.3.5 Costs of sub-delegating the tasks of reimbursement of experts to PMO*

Amount

EUR 4.550,00

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action is intended to cover the following expenditure:  
Costs incurred for PMO; from 2011 PMO will make payment transactions for experts under Technical Assistance for DG REGIO in the framework of Service Level Agreement.

## **ANNEX IV**

BUDGET LINE :

13 01 04 03- CF Administrative Technical Assistance budget line

### **1.1 Introduction**

This work programme contains implementing measures for the year 2011. On the basis of the objectives given in the article 45 of Council regulation 1083/2006, the budget breakdown and main actions are as follows:

- for procurement (implemented under direct centralised management) (1.2):

EUR 3.232.500,00

- for other actions (1.3): EUR 1.717.500,00

### **1.2 PROCUREMENT**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2011 amounts to EUR 3.232.500,00.

indicative number and type of contracts envisaged

A number of activities will be implemented through service / supply contracts (direct contracts, specific contracts or order forms under FWC).

These types of activities consist of the following measures:

*-Trainings:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 20

indicative number of direct contracts: 5

Budget allocation: EUR 22.500,00

*-Meetings and conferences:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 50

Budget allocation: EUR 30.000,00

*-IT:*

indicative number of specific contracts/order forms under FWC contract: 20

indicative number of direct contracts: 5

Budget allocation: EUR 3.180.000,00

The indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures is 1st January 2011.

### **1.3 Other**

#### *1.3.1 Missions-Administrative autonomy*

This action will be implemented by sub-delegation to PMO

amount

EUR 180.550,00

1.3.2 *Service level agreement with DGT for Translations (horizontal and operational translations)*

amount

EUR 165.000,00

1.3.3 *Expenses to temporary staff (staff expenditure)*

Description and objective of the implementing measure

Staff expenditure for contract agents, ENDS and interimaies for technical tasks linked to the implementation of ERDF and CF.

Amount

EUR 1.340.000,00

1.3.4 *Invitation letters for meetings and conferences*

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action is intended to cover the following expenditure:  
costs incurred for the experts (travel, daily allowance, accommodation allowance), and the cost of organising meetings and conferences by DG REGIO This action also covers annual meetings with the Member States.

Amount

EUR 30.000,00

1.3.5 *Costs of sub-delegating the tasks of reimbursement of experts to PMO*

Amount

EUR 1.950,00

Description and objective of the implementing measure

This action is intended to cover the following expenditure:  
Costs incurred for PMO; from 2011 PMO will make payment transactions for experts under Technical Assistance for DG REGIO in the framework of Service Level Agreement.