



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.6.2012  
C(2012) 4258 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 27.6.2012**

**concerning the adoption of the 2012 work programme for the implementation  
of the Preparatory action entitled "Erasmus for elected local and regional  
representatives" to be financed under budget line 13 03 34,  
serving as a financing decision**

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**concerning the adoption of the 2012 work programme for the implementation of the Preparatory action entitled "Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives" to be financed under budget line 13 03 34, serving as a financing decision**

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 Communities<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 49(6)(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')<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 90 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In the budget of the European Union for 2012, the budgetary authority has allocated EUR 2 000 000 to the Preparatory action "Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives" under budget line 13 03 34.
- (2) The objective pursued by the preparatory action "Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives" is to enhance the learning and experience of elected local and regional representatives and to increase the capacity of local and regional councils in regard to the application of concepts, democratic principles and strategies.
- (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) The 2012 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

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

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

financing decision for the expenditure provided for in the work programme for procurement.

- (5) 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.
- (6) 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 annual work programme for the implementation of the Preparatory action "Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives" for 2012, 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 EUR 700 000 to be financed from the budget line 13 03 34 of the General Budget of the European Union for 2012.

These appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

#### *Article 3*

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 20 %.

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

Done at Brussels, 27.6.2012

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes HAHN*  
*Member of the Commission*

**ANNEX**  
**2012 WORK PROGRAMME**

**1. 13 03 34 – PREPARATORY ACTION "ERASMUS FOR ELECTED LOCAL AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES"**

**1.1. Introduction**

*1.1.1. Budget line*

The budget line is 13 03 34

*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*

Based upon the assumption that mobility and interaction among citizens helps to improve the economic and social cohesion of European territories and regions, the preparatory action aims to directly support European elected regional and local representatives.

Through a set of specific actions divided into three phases, a number of regional and local elected representatives (up to 95 representatives proposed by the Committee of the Regions, Eurocities, CEMR and the Assembly of European Regions<sup>3</sup>) will receive over the course of one year (2012-2013) direct support in the form of training sessions and site visits on various topics linked to Cohesion Policy.<sup>4</sup>

The Commission, in close collaboration with the Committee of the Regions, will be responsible for the organisation and management of the activities.

*1.1.4. General objectives of the preparatory action*

Through the implementation of the preparatory action the European Commission intends to achieve the following objectives:

- to provide help and support to local and regional representatives within the EU with very limited or no experience in multilateral co-operation at EU level,
- to encourage multilateral cooperation between territorial, local and regional institutions on a political level on issues related to EU cohesion policy,
- to stimulate common research and exchange of ideas on the problems they encounter on a regular basis when implementing EU cohesion policy by means of on-the-spot training and the sharing of experience,
- to promote the exchange of best practices.

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<sup>3</sup> Other European regional and local associations may be included for the selection of candidates.

<sup>4</sup> The topics that will be at the basis of the training sessions as well as of the site visits will be decided at a later stage by the Commission in close collaboration with the Committee of the Regions;

The preparatory action is thus a tool to enhance the learning and experience of elected local and regional representatives and to increase the capacity of local and regional councils in regard to the application of concepts, democratic principles and strategies.

## **2. Actions/ Type of financial intervention**

The activities to be carried out, divided into three phases, are the following:

Phase 1: selection of participants and participation in training sessions<sup>5</sup>

During this phase, participants proposed by the Committee of the Regions, Eurocities, CEMR and the Assembly of European Regions (AER) will be selected on the basis of criteria defined by the European Commission. The goal and objectives of the preparatory action will be clearly stated. Selected candidates will then participate in the OPEN DAYS 2012 in Brussels, between 8-11 October, where they will take part in at least five different training sessions. The European Commission will pay for participation in the Open Days (travel, daily allowance and accommodation).

Phase 2: Organisation of five site visits.

Five site visits will be organised between January and March 2013 with a view to allowing participants to learn from successful stories/examples related to regional, territorial or local development (topics to be covered could be: social inclusion, energy efficiency, urban regeneration, community led local development, etc). Each visit will involve up to twenty participants who may be gathered by country/language/interest in the topic covered by the site visits.

Specific meetings may be organised in Brussels in order to plan the study visits with cities or regions involved.

The European Commission will cover the costs related to the organisation of the study visits (indicatively: interpretation, catering, external experts, etc), as well as costs linked to travel and accommodation of participants.

Phase 3: Final seminar in Brussels

A two day seminar will take place in Brussels in the spring of 2013 where all participants will have a chance to meet and exchange views about the lessons learned while getting at the same time further insights on future development of Cohesion Policy<sup>6</sup>. This seminar will be opened to a large number of participants in order to get insight from other actions, notably the one which will take place in 2012-2013 in the framework of the URBACT programme. The European Commission will cover the costs of this seminar.

The European Commission will make use of the on-going framework contracts for the execution of the tasks. In addition, the Commission shall collaborate with the Committee of

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<sup>5</sup> The topics of the training sessions will be defined at a later stage.

<sup>6</sup> The topics and objectives of the final seminar will be finalised at a later stage.

the Regions throughout the duration of the preparatory action in the organisation of the activities foreseen. Direct contracts may also be concluded for the above mentioned services following the relevant procurement procedures. These procedures will cover service contracts (indicative number 5). The timetable for the launch of procedures is the second semester of 2012.

Maximum budget: EUR 700 000.