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ANNEX

**Work programme for 2021 in the framework of the Just Transition Fund for the use of technical assistance**

**1. Introduction**

On the basis of the objectives given in the future Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Just Transition Fund, and in particular Article 3(2) thereof, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2021 as follows:

- a) for grants, implemented under direct management: point 2,
- b) for prizes, implemented under direct management: point 3: N/A
- c) for procurement, implemented under direct management: point 4,
- d) for actions implemented under indirect management: point 5,
- e) for contributions to trust funds: point 6: N/A
- f) for financial instruments: point 7: N/A
- g) for contributions to blending facilities: point 8: N/A
- h) for other actions or expenditure: point 9: AMI-list experts.

Legal basis

The future Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument, and in particular Article 29 thereof ('the future CPR').

The future Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Just Transition Fund, and in particular Article 3(2) thereof.

The implementation of the work programme is subject to:

- the final adoption and entry into force of the future Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Just Transition Fund by the legislative authority without significant modifications.
- the availability of the appropriations as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2021.

In relation to appropriations attributed as external assigned revenue under Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094, the implementation of this Decision is also subject to the entry into force of Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 and the availability of the corresponding external assigned revenues.

## Budget lines

09 03 02 00 - Just Transition Fund (JTF) – Operational

09 03 02 00-NGEU - Just Transition Fund (JTF) – Operational (Next Generation EU)

## Objectives pursued

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 future CPR and, where appropriate with third countries

## Expected results

The JTF has as its specific objective to contribute to ‘enabling regions and people to address the social, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards a climate-neutral economy’.

In that regard, its aim is to mitigate the adverse effects of the climate transition by supporting the most affected territories and workers concerned. Thus, actions supported by the JTF should directly contribute to alleviate the impact of the transition by financing the diversification and modernisation of the local economy and by mitigating the negative repercussions on employment.

Technical assistance will result in

- Active contribution to deliver Commission priorities (Jobs, Growth and Investment, Digital Single Market, Energy Union, etc.)
- Development of the objectives of the JTF and establishment of close links to other EU policies
- Demonstration and dissemination of the EU added value of the JTF
- Sound management of the Funds
- Improvement of the performance of the internal processes

## Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

In accordance with Article 4(1) of the future CPR, the JTF shall contribute to the single specific objective ‘enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 target for climate and a climate-neutral economy by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement’.

The JTF has been established to provide support to the people, economies, and environment of territories facing serious socio-economic challenges deriving from the transition process towards the Union’s 2030 target for energy and climate set out in Article 2(11) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050.

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

## 2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 2 500 000 which will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09 03 02 00.

### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

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

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

### 2.1. JASPERS 2021 - JTF

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

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

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (g) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to the EIB or the EIF for actions of technical assistance

JASPERS will provide targeted, advisory support to Managing Authorities and project beneficiaries during the whole lifecycle of projects starting from identification, selection, development and approval of ESIF projects, as well as for the financial closing of projects and their subsequent implementation and completion.

JASPERS will offer its assistance in project pipeline preparation as well as preparation of specific projects to be financed by the Just Transition Fund.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

Justification for the exceptional retro-activity of eligible costs, starting 1 January 2021

JASPERS is providing the independent quality review for major projects in accordance with Article 102(1) of 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<sup>1</sup>. In addition, JASPERS is assisting the Commission in the appraisal of the applications for major projects transmitted in

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320

accordance with Article 102(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, and the Member States in general to prepare mature project pipeline.

These services should continue without interruption, despite the delayed entry into force of the legal bases (future CPR) to ensure the preparation and implementation of the Cohesion programmes and the major projects in particular.

For proposals under this action, exceptionally, costs incurred as from 1 January 2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

## **2.2. Promoting youth participation in just transition - TEEN4GREEN**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Civil society organisations, local administrations, local communities, schools, etc.

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

The beneficiary will organise the selection, financing and monitoring of projects for empowering young people from local communities, educational institutions and civil society organisations to engage in the local management of the Just Transition Fund, contributing to good governance and developing local projects favouring decarbonisation of the economy and society and promoting a sustainable way of living, as part of the just transition process.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

## **3. Prizes**

Not applicable

## **4. Procurement**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2021 is EUR 7 070 538 of which EUR 1 142 082 will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09 03 02 00 and EUR 5 928 456 will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09 03 02 00-NGEU.

*Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the future CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the JTF as mentioned above, they will contribute to the establishment of 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 may 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 future CPR and, where appropriate with third countries, at the initiative of the Commission.

Implementation

The procurement budget will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

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

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions to be implemented under indirect management in 2021 is EUR 1 500 000 which will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09 03 02 00-NGEU.

*Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

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

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

## 5.1. JASPERS 2022 - JTF

Implementing entity

In the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, JASPERS will be implemented by 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 ESIF projects, as well as for the financial closing of projects and their subsequent implementation and completion.

JASPERS will offer its assistance in project pipeline preparation as well as preparation of specific projects to be financed by the JTF.

### 6. *Trust funds*

Not applicable

### 7. *Financial instruments implemented in direct or indirect management*

Not applicable

### 8. *Contribution to blending facilities*

Not applicable

### 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 future CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the JTF as mentioned above, they will contribute to the establishment of 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. *Experts contracts – AMI list*

Amount

The amount of EUR 295 000 which will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09 03 02 00

## 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>.

The action will support DG REGIO with the preparation and implementation of programme parts related to the JTF.

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<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.