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C(2023) 6001 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

**amending Commission Decision C(2022) 4916 on the financing of the pilot project
“Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)” and the adoption of the
work programme for 2022**

ANNEX

Amendment to the work programme for 2022 for the implementation of the pilot project “Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)”

The Annex to Commission Decision C(2022) 4916 is amended as follows:

In Section **1. Introduction**, point h) is replaced by the following:

“h) for other actions or expenditure: point 9: AMI-list experts and service-level agreement with the JRC”

Section **2.1 Resilience and crisis management in cross-border regions** is replaced by the following:

“2.1 Resilience and crisis management in cross-border regions

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) are the two bodies targeted by the direct award.

The implementation of the action requires specific knowledge of, and direct contact with border regions across the European Union’s territory.

The two associations are co-signatories of the “European Cross-Border Citizens’ Alliance”, an initiative which aims to improve the life of European citizens living in the EU’s border regions. The Committee of the Regions is amongst the other signatories of this Alliance. This will ensure the specialised knowledge and set of skills that are required to perform the action.

AEBR is the only organisation in Europe with a direct mandate for pan-European representation of border regions. AEBR was founded in 1971 by the first border regions which had started cross-border cooperation in Europe after the Second World War, strengthening the integration of citizens across national boundaries. Today it counts some 100 members from the European Union and its neighbouring countries. AEBR’s mission and work are regulated by the Statute and inspired by the European Charter for Border and Cross-Border Regions.

MOT is an association established in 1997 bringing together several entities with a territorial scope on border regions. It has solid experience and competence in the production of knowledge and sharing of experiences of cross-border territories.

The activities to be performed under this grant require a very specific capacity of managing sub-grants and the related competitive application process by which border regions would receive sub-grants to implement pilots deriving from theoretical knowledge built in other actions of the project. AEBR has proven experience in implementing similar actions for which those specific capacities were required, such as the REGIO initiatives “Interreg Volunteer Youth” and the “B-solutions”.

The action also requires very specific capacity of technical assessment of cross-border institutional cooperation. MOT has proven experience in that area, evidenced namely by its analysis on “the impact of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19”.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation

Gaps in existing European, national and regional legislation in the field of crisis management will have been identified under the 2021 budget allocated to the pilot project. On the basis of that assessment, the co-beneficiaries will organise the selection of border regions which will receive support to design and partly implement joint cross-border crisis management plans. They will also manage the implementation of this support to the border regions.

The grant should address interregional cross-border public health crisis management plans, supporting the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 (Article 5(3d)) and the national authorities responsible for the crisis management plans should be consulted and informed. This will contribute to alignment of national preparedness plans with the EU preparedness plan and is expected to improve cross border collaboration in the bordering regions.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

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In Section **4. Procurement**:

- the first sentence is replaced by the following:

“The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme is EUR 340 500.”

- point 4.1 is deleted.

Under Section **9. Other actions or expenditure**, point 9.2 is added:

“9.2 Service-level agreement with the JRC

Amount

EUR 500 000

Description

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) will be asked to develop a platform (and underlying database) on cross-border interactions. This directly puts in practice the requirement of the EP project to create a platform on existing cross-border public services. Collaboration should be built with the national focal points responsible for the national crisis coordination, part of the EU Early warning and response system (EWRS) crisis management functionalities, under Regulation (EU) 2022/2371, Articles 18-20 and 21. The work to be done by the JRC under this action requires very specific skills and competences, namely for the management of geographical, quantitative and qualitative data. The JRC, via its Territorial Development unit, has solid experience of pan-European territorial analysis, including in relation to cross-border territories.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

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