

EN

ANNEX

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

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the budget remarks this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2022 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2,
- b) for prizes (implemented under direct management): point 3: not applicable,
- c) for procurement (implemented under direct management): point 4,
- d) for actions implemented under indirect management: point 5: not applicable,
- e) for contributions to trust funds: point 6: not applicable,
- f) for financial instruments: point 7: not applicable,
- g) for contributions to blending facilities: point 8: not applicable,
- h) for other actions or expenditure: point 9: AMI-list experts.

Legal basis

Under Article 58(2)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, appropriations for pilot projects of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness, may be implemented without a basic act.

Budget line

05.200100.P052101

Objectives pursued

European border regions have been particularly affected by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and more specifically by the measures taken by most Member States to close border crossing points. These closures have had many negative effects on life in cross-border regions: lack of medical staff in old people’s facilities and hospitals as staff were prevented from reaching their places of employment, loss of business for many cross-border trading companies, pupils unable to attend school, families split for months, etc.

It is important to learn the lessons from the COVID-19 crisis for border regions and find ways to ensure that daily life cannot be so severely negatively affected in potential future crises. We must therefore work on the resilience of EU border regions, in line with Article 174 TFEU, requiring that Union actions aimed at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least-favoured

regions, should pay particular attention to certain categories of regions, including a specific reference to cross-border regions.

Expected results

The Pilot Project is expected to deliver four results:

1. A report on the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in border regions, in two distinct parts: (a) an update of the existing report “The effects of COVID-19 induced border closures on cross-border regions - An empirical report covering the period March to June 2020” and (b) a socio-economic analysis of the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in borders areas.
2. A web-based IT tool (infrastructure and updating methodology) to display cross-border public services, including their operational aspects. The focus will be on critical public services in case of crisis (health care, civil protection, disaster management).
3. An action plan to ease and systematise solidarity and crisis management across neighbouring regions by identifying opportunities and gaps in existing European, national and regional legislation in the field of crisis management.
4. A report setting out how cross border regions can improve cross border spatial planning using the process of co-development in order to strengthen their resilience for future crises. The report will include case studies.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 1 000 000.

2.1. Resilience and crisis management in cross-border regions

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Call for proposals among border regions and cross-border structures (e.g. EGTCs¹) across the European Union.

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

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, successful applicants will be awarded grants to design and partly implement joint cross-border crisis management plans.

Implementation

The grant will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

¹ European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

3. Prizes

Not applicable

4. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme is EUR 840 500.

4.1. Development of an IT infrastructure to host and update information on cross-border public services and crisis management in cross-border regions

General description of the contract

To develop a web-based IT tool to showcase cross-border public services, including their operational aspects. The focus will be on critical public services in case of crisis (health care, civil protection, disaster management). The contract should cover both the infrastructure of the web-based tool (IT) and a method to ensure it is updated and maintained on a regular basis (technical assistance)

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

4.2. Closing event: “More resilient cross-border regions for the future”

General description of the contract

A paneuropean event will be organised to bring together the key actors involved in the implementation of this pilot project: border regions, cross-border structures, crisis management bodies, national and regional authorities involved in cross-border cooperation and EU institutions.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

4.3. Travel and Accommodation costs for participation in co-design peer reviews

General description of the contract

In partnership with the OECD, activities will be organised to boost the potential of border regions through co-development, spatial planning and multi-level governance. Pilot regions will be selected to implement this innovative way of working. Peer reviews will be organised to stimulate exchanges between cross-border regions. Funds will be made available to cover travel and accommodation costs of peer review participants.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

5. *Actions implemented in indirect management*

Not applicable

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*

9.1. *Experts contracts – AMI list*

Amount

EUR 50 000

Description

<p>This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-list².</p> <p>In order to measure the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 crisis on border regions and the related measures taken by Member States, expert support for analysis and assessment will be foreseen.</p>

² Call for expressions of interest 2022/S 065-167519 for external experts to support the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds.