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ANNEX

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*to the*

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**on the support measure financing the Facility for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) and Interreg NEXT programmes on EU external borders with the neighbouring partner countries for 2022**

## ANNEX

### **Work programme for 2022 for the support measure financing the Facility for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) and Interreg NEXT programmes on EU external borders with the neighbouring partner countries**

#### ***1. Introduction***

On the basis of the objectives given in Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, this work programme contains the action to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2022 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2: not applicable,
- 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: not applicable

#### Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, and in particular Article 24(2) thereof

#### Budget line(s)

14 02 01 12 - Neighbourhood — Territorial and cross-border cooperation and supporting measures

#### Objectives pursued

The European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Cross-border cooperation (CBC) and Interreg-NEXT (acronym for: “Neighbourhood External”) programmes extend the principles of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) among Member States within the EU, better known as Interreg, to territorial cooperation between Member States and the partner countries and territories in the Neighbourhood area. They cover both cross-border cooperation (CBC) on land borders and sea crossing as well as transnational cooperation programmes covering sea basins.

Cross-border and transnational (sea-basin) cooperation along EU's external land and sea borders is a unique form of cooperation between EU MS and neighbouring countries. It provides the framework and opportunities for enhanced people-to-people contacts, cooperation and exchanges essentially at regional and local level, and involves a broad range of actors (local authorities, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), universities and other stakeholders).

The participation of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus in ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT programmes is suspended, following Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine and Belarus' complicity in this aggression, which grossly violates international law and international humanitarian law as well as the core principles of the UN Charter, and undermines European and global security and stability.

The Facility will seek to provide technical support to the implementation and management of the Interreg-NEXT programmes 2021-2027, as well as to assist in the further implementation and closure of the ENI-CBC programmes 2014-2020. In particular, ad-hoc support is envisaged following the implications of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in the ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT programmes.

#### Expected results

- The European Commission and the ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT programmes' stakeholders will receive assistance to solve programming and implementation-related issues, including those relative to the suspension of cooperation with Russia and Belarus;
- Studies and/or tools of general nature requested by the Commission or ENI-CBC/Interreg-NEXT stakeholders will be carried out;
- Active networking among programme stakeholders will be established enabling them to share information, good management practices and to improve procedures;
- Level of awareness of ETC opportunities in the beneficiary regions will be increased;
- Visibility of the ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT instruments will be strengthened;
- Coordination of ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT instruments with other sources of funding will be increased;
- Partners capacity in the eligible partner countries to identify and prepare good quality projects will be increased;
- Partners capacity in the eligible partner countries to manage local/regional development projects will be increased;
- Number of good quality projects prepared and approved for implementation will be increased;
- ENI-CBC/Interreg-NEXT programmes' stakeholders will be able to share experiences and best practices with their counterparts in other ENI-CBC/Interreg-NEXT programmes and with players involved in ETC, including the programmes and EU macro-regional strategies.

#### **2. Grants**

Not applicable

#### **3. Prizes**

Not applicable

#### **4. Procurement**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2022 is EUR 7 792 299, to be financed from budget line 14.020112.

##### **4.1. Technical Support to the Implementation and Management of ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT programmes**

General description of the contract

The technical assistance contract will contribute:

- to enable participating countries to manage, implement and close the ENI-CBC programmes and prepare, manage and implement the new generation of programmes, called Interreg-NEXT, in the most efficient way and to ensure effective cooperation between the Member States and the partner countries;
- to support the Commission with the effective management and implementation of ENI-CBC/Interreg-NEXT programmes;
- to provide support to joint secretariats (JS)/branch offices in order to improve the project development and management capacity of organisations eligible to participate in the ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT programmes – such as local and regional authorities, CSOs and other relevant players. These activities should benefit eligible partner countries.
- to stimulate coordination not only among ENI-CBC/Interreg-NEXT programmes but also between ENI-CBC/Interreg-NEXT programmes and other similar instruments. This would allow for exchanges of best practices among both programmes and projects, as well as increase the ENI-CBC and Interreg-NEXT visibility.

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**

Not applicable