

ANNEX II

Work programme for 2024 in the framework of the Just Transition Fund for the use of technical assistance

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 ('CPR'), this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2024 as follows:

- a) for procurement (implemented under direct management): point 2,
- b) for actions implemented under indirect management: point 3,
- c) for other actions or expenditure: point 4: AMI-list experts.

Legal base

Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 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, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and in particular Articles 7(2) and 35 thereof.

Budget lines

09 03 02 00-Just Transition Fund (JTF)-Operational technical assistance
09 03 02 00-NGEU-Just Transition Fund (JTF)-Operational technical assistance (NGEU)

Objectives pursued

At the initiative of the Commission, 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 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

Efforts will be made to ensure synergies and complementarities between technical assistance and technical support under the Technical Support Instrument.

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

In accordance with Article 5(1) of the CPR, the JTF shall contribute to the specific objective ‘enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union 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 targets for energy and climate defined 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 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 climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

2. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2024 is estimated at EUR 15 495 507 of which EUR 2 148 109 will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09.030200 and EUR 13 347 398 will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09.030200-NGEU.

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

As the actions of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission, in accordance with the 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 climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

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

2.1. 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 will cover:

- Communication and Publication
- Informatics (IT)

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 CPR and, where appropriate, with third countries, at the initiative of the Commission.

Implementation

Part of the procurement budget will be co-delegated via a co-delegation Type II, according to Commission Decision C(2023) 8600 final of 15 December 2023 amending Commission Decision C(2022) 9304 final on the internal rules for the implementation of the Commission section of the general budget of the European Union:

- *IT*

To DG DIGIT to contribute to the corporate IT financing.

- *Communication and Publication*

To DG COMM to contribute to the corporate communication financing.

The rest of the procurement budget will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

3. Actions implemented in indirect management

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions to be implemented under indirect management in 2024 is estimated at EUR 2 000 000 to be supported from JTF operational budget line 09.030200.

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3.1. Cooperation with the EIB – JASPERS 2024

Implementing entity

In the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, JASPERS will be implemented by the 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 ESI Funds projects; as well as for the financial closing of projects and their subsequent implementation and completion.

4. Other actions or expenditure

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

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

4.1. Expert contracts – AMI list

Amount

The estimated amount of EUR 75 000 will be supported from JTF operational budget line 09.030200.

Description

This action covers expenses for technical assistance provided by experts through simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-list¹.

The action will support DG REGIO in reviewing the JTF methodology and selection criteria within the cohesion policy programmes in Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovenia.

¹ Call for expressions of interest 2022/S 065-167519-01/04/2022 for external experts to support the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds.