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ANNEX 1

**ANNEX**

*to the*

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**on the financing of the use of technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund and the adoption of the annual work programme for 2023**

## ANNEX 1

### **Work programme for 2023 in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion 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”) and Articles 58(2) and 92b(3) of Regulation (EU) No 2013/1303, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2023 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management): point 2,
- b) for prizes (implemented under direct management): point 3,
- 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 and administrative agreements.

#### Legal bases

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.

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, and in particular Article 58 thereof.

#### Budget lines

05 02 02 00 - ERDF - Operational technical assistance  
05 03 02 00 - Cohesion Fund - Operational technical assistance  
05 02 05 02 - NGEU - ERDF - Operational technical assistance - Financing under REACT- EU

## 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

Technical assistance will result in

- Active contribution to deliver Commission priorities (Jobs, Growth and Investment, Digital Single Market, Energy Union, etc.)
- Development of Cohesion policy and establishment of close links to other EU policies
- Demonstration and dissemination of the EU added value of Cohesion policy
- Territorial cohesion in Europe
- 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)(b) CPR, the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund shall support the policy objective ‘a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility’.

Member States should contribute an important part of the Union contribution of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund allocation to expenditure related to the achievement of the climate objectives set for the EU budget and contribute to mainstream biodiversity action in the Union policies.

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 ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

## **2. Grants**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants in 2023 is estimated at EUR 14 170 000 of which EUR 12 772 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05 02 02 00 and EUR 1 398 000 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05 03 02 00.

## *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 ERDF and the Cohesion Fund 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. Contribution to Media Pluralism: call for partnerships with media***

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Beneficiaries will be media organisations / news agencies, non-profit organisations, universities and educational institutions, research centres and think-tanks, associations of European interest, private entities and public authorities (national, regional and local), with the exception of the authorities in charge of the implementation of Cohesion policy.

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

Call for proposals for funding information measures promoting Cohesion policy and cohesion related investments and reforms and media pluralism at the local level, in the language of citizens.

The main aim is to provide support for the production and dissemination of information and content linked to EU Cohesion policy.

Deliverables could include TV and radio reportages, analysis, news items, events in various formats, and more; all promoting EU cohesion policy while respecting complete editorial independence of the actors involved.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***2.2. Development of 60 “Smart Regions” episodes***

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to Euronews, based on the Framework Convention between the European Commission (represented by DG CNECT) and Euronews.

Euronews is a body pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of information, broadcasting simultaneously in 13 different languages out of which 8 EU official languages. The past has shown that Smart Regions is able to reach a broad audience on TV: according to Euronews’s technical report, in the 15 weeks the programmes aired in Q4 2021, Smart Regions reached 9.8 million individuals (i.e. 18.5% of the total European Affluent audience) and the episodes were seen 132 million times. The frequency figure (how often an individual was exposed to the programme - being the same or different episodes or promos) was 13

times.

The digital performance is also satisfactory: Smart Regions achieved 85 000 unique visitors and 118 000 page views in Q4 2021. 17 000 videos of the programmes were started. EU-27 countries account for close to 61% of the total page views.

Therefore, only Euronews can offer the needed language coverage and the expertise to reach out to a large number of EU/Non-EU regions, where partners mostly prefer using their local language instead of English. The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific grant directly awarded under a framework partnership

The grant will finance the production and dissemination of monographies with the aim of explaining to EU citizens how regional policy has a real impact in their lives, supporting the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***2.3. Eurostat Geospatial data and city statistics***

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Grants will be provided to National Statistical Institutes or other national authorities in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009<sup>1</sup>.

The grants will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (d) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 58 of the Financial Regulation, as beneficiaries or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries.

Description of the activities

The grants will finance the collection, update and harmonisation of geospatial datasets for key issues linked to cohesion policy (transport, health, education...).

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

## Implementation

The action will be implemented by DG ESTAT via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11 March 2021 amending Decision C(2020) 29 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments

### **2.4. 31<sup>st</sup> Homologues Group Meeting**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Because of the treatment and exchange of confidential and sensitive information during the meeting of the Homologues Group between the representatives of the Ministries of Finance of the Member States, the European Court of Auditors and the European Commission, the organisation of this meeting is limited to the national bodies of control and audit. These entities have decided to designate annually (during the meeting of year n-1) the body amongst them that will ensure the organisation of the meeting for year n.

The host country for the 31<sup>st</sup> Homologues Group Meeting should be confirmed at the 30<sup>th</sup> Homologues Group meeting.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (c) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation.

Description of the activities

This grant will finance the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the European financial controllers and auditors “Homologues Group”. It is the annual gathering of representatives of Member States and the Commission, to discuss issues relating to controls of the management of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, such as examining the annual control report, the audit opinion and the audit strategy, and exchanging views on issues relating to improvement of the management and control.

Implementation

This action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### **2.5. Integrity Pacts: support to Managing Authorities**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Beneficiaries will be civil society organisations specialising in anti-corruption and public procurement:

- any non-profit civil society actor in EU countries eligible to receive EU Structural Funds. This excludes politically affiliated organisations, businesses, media organisations and other for profit associations;
- the applicants will have experience with monitoring of public procurement and/or the Integrity Pact, and will have capacity to implement the action: clear understanding of

the expertise and skills required for the successful implementation of the Integrity Pact

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

The grant will fund support to Managing Authorities, Contracting Authorities and civil society organisations: helpdesk and assistance, good practice and exchanges coordination, communication promotion and events, networking and peer support.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***2.6. B-solutions - pilot action to tackle specific border obstacles***

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The grant will be awarded to the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR).

The AEBR is a registered association with the exclusive and direct purpose to promote cross-border cooperation in Europe. AEBR is a civil society body capable of conducting and promoting projects in the intended shape and scope. Its members are European border and cross-border regions in Member States of the EU or the Council of Europe. Since its creation in the early 1970s, AEBR has been establishing and refining a general network of border and cross-border regions, which is not limited to the members of AEBR or the EU with significant expertise and experience.

The AEBR Secretariat's reputation, knowledge, quality control and administrative capacity to coordinate and manage cross-border cooperation pilot projects coupled with the cross-border specific knowledge can ensure successful implementation of this project.

The actions proposed by this project have specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its reputation, independence, accountability, technical competence, its high degree of specialisation and its administrative power. Thus, AEBR is the only civil society body capable of conducting the actions of the project in the intended shape and scope.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of point (f) of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, i.e. awarded for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

#### Description of the activities

This grant will encourage EU cross border regions to develop and share pilot solutions to reduce legal and administrative border obstacles in various areas such as mobility, taxation, employment etc.

B-solutions-initiative helps tackle specific border obstacles by developing pilot solutions focussed on a number of topics selected for their reproductibility character (applications from regional institutions). This will be the next phase of the already successful B-solutions

initiative. In the first phase for B-solutions, 90 obstacles have already been identified and formulated. Different publications summarise those. The second phase will lead to 120 more cases being assessed in 2022 and 2023.

This grant will support the continuation of B-solutions in 2024-2025.

The expansion of the initiative will enable DG REGIO to consolidate evidence of border obstacles, and provide further material to continue the conversation with Member States on the need to work on obstacle resolution, possibly via the European Cross-Border Mechanism (ECBM). It will also allow for more efforts towards implementing the solutions identified for each obstacle.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO.

### ***2.7. Support to energy cross-border communities***

#### Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

The call for proposals will be aimed at private beneficiaries that are engaged in the creation of energy communities.

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

The grant will fund the implementation of cross-border energy communities. This does not include the costs of infrastructure and equipment (e.g. solar panels), but rather technical expertise (e.g. technical studies, legal analysis), and the costs associated with setting up the cooperation (e.g. promotion campaigns for engaging citizens to the community; cost with organisation of events and meetings).

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***3. Prizes***

The global budgetary envelope reserved for contests in 2023 is estimated at EUR 375 000 to be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05 02 02 00.

#### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

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### ***3.1. Prizes to support the New European Bauhaus***

#### Description

The New European Bauhaus is an initiative launched by President von der Leyen in her address on the State of the Union on 16 September 2020. The initiative has the ambition to make the Green Deal a cultural, human-centred and positive, tangible experience and accelerate a sustainable greening of the built environment. More specifically, its objective is to articulate, in an innovative way, three key dimensions:

- sustainability (including circularity),
- aesthetics (and other dimensions of the quality of experience beyond functionality),
- inclusion (including accessibility and affordability).

The 2023 prizes will bring together those excellent examples and new ideas that could inspire the project and contribute to the shaping of the concept.

The prizes will recognise and celebrate existing achievements and support the younger generation to further develop emerging concepts and ideas. They will give visibility to examples and concepts that illustrate how the triangle of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion has already been translated in our territories, our communities and in our practices, or that pave the way to the future in our universities or in young professionals' portfolios.

#### Type of participants targeted by the contest

Natural persons, private and public organisations with inspirational examples or ideas/concepts for the New European Bauhaus that represent the concretisation of the triangle of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion (accessibility, affordability).

The applications shall demonstrate how the core values of sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion may be combined in relation to the specific category (exemplary character), the innovative dimension, results achieved, citizens' engagement and involvement, potential for transferability to different contexts, based on clear documentation and communication of methodology and principles.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG REGIO

### ***4. Procurement***

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2023 is estimated at EUR 64 867 253 of which EUR 31 183 266 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05 02 02 00; EUR 26 403 839 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05 02 05 02-NGEU and EUR 7 280 148 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05 03 02 00.

## *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

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

Development and procurement of IT solutions will be subjected to the endorsement of the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board following the IT governance process established in the European Commission.

#### Implementation

Part of the procurement budget will be co-delegated via a co-delegation Type II, according to the Commission Decision of 11 March 2021 amending Decision C(2020) 29 on the Internal Rules on the implementation of the general budget of the European Union (European Commission section) for the attention of the Commission departments:

- *Audit*

To DG EMPL to contribute to the ARACHNE project that is developing, testing and implementing a risk scoring tool.

- *Communication and Publications*

To the Publications Office for publications and printing services;

To DG COMM for contributions to the Corporate Communication;

To DG CNECT as a contribution to the Kohesio project.

- *IT*

To DIGIT for corporate IT services and for some services not covered by corporate baseline services;

To DG BUDG for ABAC DBD links;

To DG EMPL for IT audit tool MAPAR.

- *Meetings and conferences*

To DG SCIC for the organisation of conferences.

- *Statistics and Data Collection*

To DG ESTAT for access to geospatial data;

To DG COMM for the Eurobarometer on Cohesion Policy.

- *Technical and other administrative assistance to Member States*

To DG AGRI for running the Brussels based Facility for Broadband Competence Offices;

To DG ENER for participation in the Energy Community Repository (ECR) and Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH).

- *Translations*

To DGT.

The rest of 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 2023 is estimated at EUR 62 340 000 of which EUR 55 764 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05 02 02 00 and EUR 6 576 000 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05 03 02 00.

### *Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming*

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## ***5.1. Cooperation with the World Bank***

### Implementing entity

The World Bank Group works in every major area of development. They provide a wide array of expertise and technical assistance, and help countries to share and apply innovative knowledge and solutions to the challenges they face.

Agreements with the World Bank will be signed and implemented under indirect management, based on existing work and results from earlier contracts with the Bank and its required contacts, technical competence and legitimacy to implement these projects.

With 189 member countries, staff from over 170 countries, and offices in over 130 locations, the World Bank Group is a unique global partner that can achieve results in the intended areas of technical assistance (see below) more efficiently and effectively than any other organisation.

### Description

- Catching-up region initiative (CuRI) in Slovakia

This action identifies constraints to growth in the three least developed regions of the country and provides hands-on technical assistance for unlocking their development potential. It provides a tailor-made support for the investments related to Cohesion Policy funds.

- Poverty mapping

This action will produce poverty maps for the 11 eastern Member States, with the objective to identify areas with a high concentration of poverty and how this has changed over time.

- Subnational business enabling environment

This action will assess the quality of the business environment in EU regions. It will aim to produce quantitative indicators of the business of environment at the regional or urban level to allow for a better understanding of how to improve business environment in the concerned EU regions.

- Support to capacity building on building renovation

The action will develop a technical assistance facility to support a number of Member States in the area of building renovation. The focus will lie on central and eastern European Member States.

- Integrated approach to social inclusion

The action aims to develop an integrated approach to social inclusion that would lead to quality investments in the area. It is expected to lead to a hands-on support to a set of Member States, as part of piloting, to design, align and implement the delivery frameworks for social inclusion and the funding so as to create an enabling environment for effective and sustainable investments for social inclusion.

## 5.2. Cooperation with the OECD

### Implementing entity

Agreements with the OECD are based on the technical competence and high degree of specialisation present in the Organisation. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD works on establishing international norms and finding evidence-based solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and global standard-setting. No other organisation can implement the actions in a more efficient and effective way.

### Description

- Regional input/output tables

This action will develop and test the methodology to create regional input output tables. These tables will be used for DG REGIO's analysis and economic model RHOMOLO. Better methods and data would help to improve analysis and modelling work.

- Functional areas

This action will generate data and analysis on functional areas in OECD member countries in and outside the EU to follow-up on the long-term vision for rural areas, including a focus on demographic change.

- Pilot action: Support to beneficiaries in cooperation with Managing Authorities

A pilot action on support to beneficiaries to be carried out in to be selected number of Member States with the aim to identify capacity gaps of beneficiaries and their knowledge needs. In collaboration with the managing authorities actions and support tools to address identified challenges will be developed.

- Transatlantic cooperation on industrial regions in transition

Many countries in Europe and in the USA and Canada have experienced or are experiencing a decline of some of their industrial regions. Low economic opportunities, deprived environment and quality of life feed a growing discontent among citizens and put pressure on democracies.

To help support policy development and implementation, this action will work on different workstreams: academic work, exchange of knowledge and experience bringing together regional, state and local actors, facilitate a transatlantic political dialogue. It will cover the organisation of and participation to conferences and study visits, publication of reports, etc.

- Innovative implementation of partnership principle – phase II

This action will build on previous pilots and will continue to promote a truly participatory process in Member States and regions and meaningful implementation of the partnership principle. Support will be provided to more new innovative initiatives bringing local actors, communities, civil society and citizens together and strengthening their role in the implementation of the investments supported under the cohesion policy.

- Strategic public procurement in cohesion policy - Support to Managing Authorities

This action will provide practical support to Managing Authorities in their efforts to take up

and scale up strategic procurement in future projects. It will build on the experience and disseminate learnings of previous pilot projects to support the implementation of strategic procurement in selected projects under cohesion policy and disseminate their learnings, and bring closer to the Managing Authorities the tools and objectives of the Commission in terms of strategic procurement.

### **5.3. Cooperation with EIB – JASPERS 2024**

Implementing entity

In the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 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 projects financed by the Funds, as well as for the financial closing of projects and their subsequent implementation and completion.

### **5.4. Cooperation with EIB – FI-COMPASS**

Implementing entity

This action will be implemented by the EIB FI-COMPASS team, an independent team within the EIB advisory services that has acquired the necessary expertise during the 2014-2020 programming period.

Description

FI-COMPASS is the EC-EIB platform for advisory services addressing TA needs for financial instruments under shared management by means of a broad range of assistance, i.e. advisory services applicable to all Member States and types of financial instruments, mainly to managing authorities. Such activities typically include providing practical know-how and learning tools on financial instruments (studies, case studies, factsheets, e-learning modules, face-to-face training seminars, networking events) and disseminating good practices among Member States, incl. training seminars and targeted events responding to managing authorities' needs. FI-COMPASS deliverables are publically available on [www.FI-COMPASS.eu](http://www.FI-COMPASS.eu), which is the knowledge hub for shared management financial instruments. The action will be co-financed by DGs REGIO, EMPL, AGRI, MARE and HOME.

### **5.5. Cooperation with an international financial institution**

Implementing entity

The actions will be implemented by the International Financial Institution (IFI) that best fulfils the requirements for the implementation of these actions, as defined by Article 156 of the Financial Regulation. These requirements are a.o. experience with financial instruments and EU-wide reach/ network. It will be verified that the entity envisaged to implement this action fulfils the legal requirements and complies with applicable conditions to work under indirect

management mode.

## Description

- Next generation of innovative financial instruments to support the green transition

The action will identify the market gaps and the adequate instruments for the post-2027 programming period in order to support in the most efficient way the green transition in EU regions by attracting private investments. The action will be mainly dedicated to the needs of public authorities at national or regional/ local level. As an example, green municipal bonds have the potential to significantly contribute to the greening of our societies, however, understanding existing barriers and the best role for cohesion policy is needed to sufficiently exploit this potential.

Taking into account that implementation of this action needs a wide EU regional coverage and technical expertise working with multiple EU countries as well as specific competence of developing and implementing financial instruments such as green bonds, IFI are best fitted for the implementation of the task. One particular IFI will be selected based on the level of practical experience and knowledge of the related fields, concrete experience with establishing green bonds in EU regions.

- Effect of Financial Instruments (FI) on SMEs competitiveness and the eco-system

The scope of the action is to support the implementation of FI in the Member States and to prepare evidence for the use of FI in post-2027 period in order to boost revenue-generating or costs-saving investments to improve SMEs competitiveness.

The selected IFI will have the necessary expertise in the field and should have access to EU-wide statistical data.

- Green financing readiness

This action will identify the financing needs in Member States to support the green transition, the availability of resources and the capacity issues of the public administration, including their financial capacity to support green investments. It will also identify the involvement/interest of the private sector to invest in this area at national and regional level.

This action will support the reflection of the Commission for post-2027 regarding the overall financing system and the public finance issues to support the green transition. It will also help less developed regions make the right investments to benefit from the green transition.

The action will develop analytical tools and policy recommendations with regard to opportunities of the green transition mainly in less developed regions.

The selected IFI will have the necessary expertise in the field and should have access to EU-wide statistical data.

### ***5.6. Cooperation with an international organisation***

#### Implementing entity

The actions will be implemented by the International Organisation that best fulfils the requirements for the implementation of these actions, as defined by Article 156 of the Financial Regulation. These requirements are a.o. experience with Cohesion Policy thematic fields and EU-wide reach/ network. It will be verified that the entity envisaged to implement this action fulfils the legal requirements and complies with applicable conditions to work under indirect

management mode.

## Description

- Sectoral transition strategies: analytical support for Policy Objectives

This action will provide support in thematic fields where specific expertise is required to support the programme preparation, implementation, performance audits, review existing strategies and plans, pilot actions, etc. focusing primarily on priorities and actions bringing the greatest added value in relation to smart and sustainable growth and connectivity.

## **6. Trust funds**

N/A

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

N/A

## **8. Contribution to blending facilities**

N/A

## **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 CPR, are designed to support the implementation of the Funds, in combination with the objectives of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund as mentioned above, they will contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming.

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### **9.1. Expert contracts – AMI list**

Amount

The amount in 2023 is estimated at EUR 1 869 000 of which EUR 1 197 650 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05 02 02 00; EUR 436 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line REACT-EU 05 02 05 02-NGEU and EUR 235 350 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05 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>.

Experts will mainly give advice on the implementation of programmes in the Member States

<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.



and on the assessment of selected Cohesion Policy related topics, such as Simplified Cost Options, administrative capacity building, etc.

## ***9.2. Administrative agreements with the JRC***

### Amount

The amount in 2023 is estimated at EUR 3 250 000 of which EUR 2 875 000 will be supported from ERDF operational budget line 05 02 02 00 and EUR 375 000 will be supported from Cohesion Fund operational budget line 05 03 02 00.

### Description

- Regional analysis and projections

This action will finance the analysis and projections for the cohesion reports and other reports that have a regional dimension to provide a better understanding of regional trends and futures.

- Demographic analysis

This action will produce new demographic analysis on a pan-European scale, covering a variety of topics.

- S3 CORE support for enabling conditions

The action builds on the activities under six consecutive administrative agreements with the JRC on the support to national and regional authorities for the implementation of smart specialisation strategies through the S3 Platform, focusing on the core elements of the S3 enabling condition such as governance, monitoring and evaluation and entrepreneurial discovery process.

- STRATDEV - Monitoring integrated urban and territorial development strategies

The aim of STRATDEV is to further develop and disseminate knowledge and methodological support on the urban and territorial dimension of the Cohesion Policy. Particularly, it is meant to provide more in detail on the place-based, integrated and strategic approach to urban and territorial development, supported in the 2021-2027 programming period.

A further aim of STRATDEV is to support capacity building activities by providing contents to be disseminated among policy-makers and stakeholders for the design and update of territorial strategies and for scaling-up of successful solutions, including tailor-made support for specific contexts.