



Brussels, 13.10.2023
C(2023) 6777 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 13.10.2023

on the financing of the pilot project “An innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe - restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź” and the adoption of the work programme for 2023

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on the financing of the pilot project “An innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe - restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź” and the adoption of the work programme for 2023

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Articles 58(2), point (a), and 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the pilot project “An innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe - restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź”, as defined in the Definitive adoption (EU, Euratom) 2023/278 of the European Union’s general budget for the financial year 2023², an annual financial decision should be adopted, which should constitute the annual work programme for 2023.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) The work programme should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication ‘The European Green Deal’³ and the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁴.
- (4) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195, first subparagraph, point (f), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (5) Under Article 58(2), point (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, provided the actions which they are intended to finance fall within the competence of the Union. This pilot project aims to restore the Lamus River in the City of Łódź, which entails to disconnect it

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 23.2.2023, p. 1370.

³ COM(2019) 640 final, 11.12.2019.

⁴ OJ L 433I , 22.12.2020, p. 28.

from the sewage system and integrate it in a public space, while using rainwater and snowmelt from nearby properties and roofs to supply it. In addition, it is planned to irrigate the greenery in the parks and to direct rainwater to the valley of the Jasień River in order to fill the retention pond with it. Furthermore, the project will include elements of rainwater treatment (e.g. with the use of a sequential sedimentation and biofiltration system) and monitoring of the level of soil moisture and groundwater level (through specialised soil moisture sensors). The pilot project will use prototypes of PARO bollards, which are an innovative solution in the field of water micro-retention. The chosen approach is experimental in nature and the planned activities aim at providing an innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe.

- (6) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (7) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the pilot project “An innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe - restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź” for 2023, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2023 is set at EUR 3 500 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line PP 05 23 01 of the general budget of the Union.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 195, first subparagraph, point (f), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 13.10.2023

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission