



DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Annual work programme for the operational technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the Framework of the European Social Fund and in the Framework of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived for 2017**

[Commission Decision C (2016)7763 of 2 December 2016]

## SUMMARY

### **DG EMPL's 2017 annual work programme for the operational technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the Framework of the European Social Fund and in the Framework of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, serving as financing decision**

This draft Implementing Decision constitutes DG EMPL's 2017 annual work programme for the operational technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in the Framework of the European Social Fund and in the Framework of the European Aid to the Most Deprived Fund. It determines the essential details of the actions which will involve expenditure from the 2017 budget, and its purpose is to allow the selection procedures to be launched so that individual decisions on the award of grants and contracts could be taken from the beginning of 2017.

This draft Implementing Decision covers the budget lines managed by DG EMPL in Direct Management mode under the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Aid to the Most Deprived Fund (FEAD).

This draft Implementing Decision relates to the following budget lines:

- 04.0263 01: European Social Fund, Operational Technical Assistance
- 04 06 02 00: European Aid to the Most Deprived Fund, Technical Assistance

The appropriations available under these budget lines will be used for:

- Calls for Proposals in EMPL's field of activities;
- Awarding direct grants (including to bodies with a *de jure* monopoly, such as the Member States holding the Presidency of the Union for the co-financing of conferences in DG EMPL's fields of activity);
- Public procurement; and
- Subdelegation to other DGs for actions of common benefit.

The Annex to the draft Implementing Decision sets out, for each budget line concerned, the details of the various actions scheduled by DG EMPL for 2017.

## ANNEX I

Programme for the operational technical assistance in the framework of the European Social Fund

Work Programme for 2017

### **1.1. Introduction**

On the basis of the objectives given in Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 of 17 December 2013, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2017 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): **EUR 2.700.000**
- for prizes (implemented under direct management) (1.3.): N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.4): **EUR 12.293.500**
- for actions implemented under indirect management (1.5): N/A
- for Financial instruments (1.6): N/A
- for other actions (1.7): N/A

## **BUDGET LINE**

**Operational Technical Assistance: 04.026301**

## **LEGAL BASIS**

The appropriations under this item are intended to finance actions under Article 58 of Regulation (EC) No 1303/2013 of 17 December 2013.

	<b>Amount</b>
<b>1.2 Grants</b>	
1.2.1 – 1.2.2	<b>EUR 2.700.000</b>
<b>1.4 Procurements</b>	
1.4.1 – 1.4.2 – 1.4.3 – 1.4.4 – 1.4.5	<b>EUR 12.293.500</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 14.993.500</b>

### **1.2 Grants**

#### **1.2.1 ESF Presidency conference (2017\_04.026301\_27)**

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Supporting ESF implementation - The ESF Presidency conferences are meant to support ESF stakeholders on specific challenges of ESF implementation.

Description of the activities to be funded

Thematic topics supporting the implementation of the EU Presidencies priorities and as well as the Commission Work Programme and Priorities will be discussed in 2017 between the Commission and the Member State holding the Council presidency The Member State is in charge of the organisation of the Conference. DG EMPL will support 1 presidency event in the frame of the 2017 Presidencies.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

The Grant is to be awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Art. 190.1 (c) Rules of Application of the Financial Regulation (RAP). The Member State holding the Council Presidency is the beneficiary of the grant. The form, topic and expected results are established by the Presidency in agreement with the Commission.

These events, which are highly political in nature and which need representation at the highest level both from national Authorities and European representatives, are to be organised exclusively by the

Member State holding the Presidency. Given the unique role of the Presidency in the framework of EU activities, the Member State responsible for the organisation of the event is considered as a de jure monopoly.

The potential beneficiary shall be invited to submit an application which shall be evaluated according to the following award criteria:

- 1) The extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives and the priorities for the year and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value.
- 2) The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, its likely value for money and a sound cost-effectiveness ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 90%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Date of the signature	Amount
2017 Q2 or Q4	EUR 300.000

### 1.2.2 Call for Proposals on a pilot Joint Action Plan (2017\_04.026301\_49)

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The Objective of the action is to strengthen national and regional capacity to prepare, design and implement Joint Action Plan (JAP) in the member States by sharing experience and disseminating information derived from the implementation of a pilot JAP<sup>1</sup>. A JAP is an innovative model for delivering European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds that represents a significant departure from the traditional model of implementing ESI funds. This is because payment is strictly on the basis of results achieved. However, as JAPs are optional and represent such a radical departure from the principal of payment on the basis of real costs, Member States have proven reluctant to engage with the Commission in the process of developing a JAP. The objective of this action is to implement a pilot JAP in partnership between the COM and partner bodies in Member States under direct management rules. The preparation, design and implementation of a pilot JAP is necessary for the Commission in order to first gather experience and then share it with other Member States so as to provide them with the capacity to also prepare, design and implement Joint Action Plans. This will, in addition, result in the strengthening of the capacity of the successful applicants regarding the preparation, design and implementation of a full JAP under the Common Provisions Regulation. It will also allow the achievement of the objective of strengthening the capacity of other national and regional bodies through the sharing of experience and dissemination of information between Member States on the lessons learned from the pilot JAP. This strengthened capacity will in turn

<sup>1</sup> A pilot JAP is to be understood as an operation implemented between the Commission and partner bodies under the rules of direct management, based broadly on the rules for implementation of a JAP as set out in Articles 104 – 109 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

lead to greater interest in planning, developing and implementing a JAPs under national or regional ESI fund Operational Programmes. Finally, the lessons learned from this action will help to inform the Commission's proposal on the post 2020 ESI funds as regards the potential and desirability of Joint Action Plans.

#### Description of the activities to be funded

A Joint Action Plan (JAP) is an innovative new delivery mechanism for European Social and Investment (ESI) funds, and provided for in regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (CPR). As this new tool has not yet been used in Member States, the proposed action is to launch the first pilot JAP in direct management, using the Commission's Technical Assistance. The JAP is an operation the scope of which is managed in relation to the outputs and results to be achieved. It comprises a project or group of projects, not consisting of the provision of infrastructure, carried out under the responsibility of the beneficiary. The foreseen outputs and results of a JAP should be clearly stated in the proposal, which should also contain :

- an analysis of the development needs and objectives justifying it,
- the general and specific objectives of the JAP,
- the indicators used to monitor outputs and results,
- information on the target groups and geographical coverage
- the expected implementation period and
- details on how the planning, development and implementation of the pilot JAP will be evaluated, including how to inform and share experience with other Member States.

The budget envisaged should reflect the targets, results and outputs set out. The scope of proposals will normally depend on the need identified but should be targeted and confined to actions supporting the Country Specific recommendation of that Member State relevant to the ESF in the area of Thematic Objectives 8, 9 and 10 of the ESI Funds. In addition to this, proposals which also support the priority areas of tackling Long Term Unemployment, Youth Unemployment, Migrants and the Skills Agenda are particularly welcome.

#### Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

##### Eligibility criteria

Applicants (Lead and co-applicants) must be legal entities properly established and registered in one of the EU Member States;

Lead applicants must be national, regional or local public bodies, including public universities or educational institutions. Lead applicants may apply alone or in consortia with co-applicants.

Co-applicants must be non-profit organisations; private universities or educational institutions, research centres; social enterprises or social partner organisations at European , national or regional level (in application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met).

##### Selection Criteria

Financial capacity:

Applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period

of the action and to help finance it as necessary.

The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies

Operational capacity:

Applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action.

#### Award Criteria

- Relevance to objectives and priorities of the call
- Quality of the framework and methodology
- Dissemination of results, communication and visibility
- Cost efficiency

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 90%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Signature date	Amount
2017 Q1	EUR 2.400.000

### **1.3 Prizes N/A**

### **1.4 Procurement**

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2017 amounts to EUR 12.293.500.

The actions under procurement will notably include a new framework contract for ARACHNE for a maximum duration of 4 years. Arachne is a risk scoring tool developed by the European Commission, represented by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and the Directorate General for Regional Policy and Urban Development (hereinafter: Commission services) in close cooperation with member states. The Commission services aim at supporting managing authorities responsible for the European Structural and Investment Fund (hereinafter: ESIF) for their management verifications in providing the Arachne Risk Scoring Tool to detect effectively and efficiently most risky projects, contracts, contractors and beneficiaries.

Arachne is an integrated IT tool for data mining and data enrichment.

The purpose of the new framework contract for ARACHNE will be the procurement of services (licences, maintenance and support).

#### **1.4.1 Audit**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 1.700.000

Type of Contracts:

Direct Contract: 1 (Q2 2017)

Specific contracts: based on an existing framework contract: 20 (Q1 2017)

Indicative number of contracts: 21

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

#### **1.4.2 Studies and statistics reports**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: Euros 4.800.000

Type of Contracts:

Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract: 3 (Q2 and Q3 2017)

Direct Contract: 1 (Q3 2017)

Contract renewal: 2 (Q2 2017)

Indicative number of contracts: 6 contracts implemented directly by DG EMPL.

One action for EUR 700.000 will be subdelegated to JRC and another one for EUR 350.000 to DG REGIO. The rest will be implemented directly by DG EMPL.

#### **1.4.3 Conferences, meetings, network of experts and working groups**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 1.850.000

Type of Contracts:

Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract (Q1 to Q4 2017)

Indicative number of contracts: 32

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

#### **1.4.4 Development and maintenance of IT tools**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 1.943.500

Type of Contracts:

Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract:11 (Q2 and Q3 2017)

Direct Contract: 1 (Q3 2017)

Indicative number of contracts: 12

Implementation: Out of the overall amount, EUR 33.316 will be subdelegated to DG DIGIT, based on a Memorandum of Understanding. The rest will be implemented directly by DG EMPL.

#### **1.4.5 Technical Assistance**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 2.000.000

Type of Contract:

Specific contract based on an existing framework contract: 2(Q3 2017)

Indicative number of contracts: 1 contract implemented directly by DG EMPL.

**1.5 Indirect Management N/A**

**1.6 Financial Instruments N/A**

**1.7 Other Actions N/A**

## ANNEX II

Programme for the operational technical assistance in the framework of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) - Work Programme for 2017

### 1.2. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2017 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): N/A
- for prizes (implemented under direct management (1.3.) N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.4): EUR **1.440.000**
- for actions implemented under indirect management [(1.5): N/A
- for Financial instruments (1.6): N/A
- for other actions (1.7): N/A

### BUDGET LINE

04.060200 – Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) – Technical assistance

### LEGAL BASIS

The appropriations under this item are intended to finance actions covered by Article 27(1) of Regulation (EU) 223/2014.

Indicative budget breakdown:

	Amount
<b><u>04.0602 – Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) – Technical assistance</u></b>	
Procurement: 1.4.1 to 1.4.4	<b>1.440.000</b>
<b>Total 04.0602</b>	<b>1.440.000</b>

## 1.2 Grants – N/A

## 1.3 Prices – N/A

## 1.4 Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2017 amounts to

- 04.060200: EUR **1.440.000**

Summary description of the actions under procurement

### - Conferences, meetings, network of experts and working groups

Based on the FEAD regulation, these activities aim at providing guidance, facilitating the exchange of experience between Member States and at preparing the secondary legislation in relation to the implementation of FEAD. For those purposes, working groups of national officials and specialist bodies, and meetings with stakeholders will be organised. The guidance provided by the experts is meant to improve the implementation of FEAD. In addition, the representatives at EU level of the FEAD partner organisations will be consulted on the support from the Fund, in line with Art.10 of the FEAD Regulation.

The objective of the evaluation expert network is to steer and capitalise on the evaluation work on the FEAD operations by providing methodological guidance, exchanging good evaluation practices and promoting and facilitating the use of evaluation results in policy design and implementation. The related meetings and seminars with FEAD evaluation experts (EU, MS policy makers and Experts from the National authorities) are planned to be organised twice a year.

### - FEAD Platform

The platform for exchange of experience is established in line with article 10 of the FEAD Regulation and aims at ensuring the exchange of experience, mutual learning, capacity building and networking between the FEAD stakeholders at national, regional and EU level. It is also a tool for dissemination of relevant outcomes from the support provided to the most deprived. A service contract for structuring the network, organising network events, managing online platforms and disseminating good practice was awarded in 2015 and is planned to be renewed in 2017.

### - Studies

In the framework of the FEAD Annual Implementation Reports (AIR) of the previous year submitted by the member states, DG EMPL will need technical support to analyse the content of the reports and recommendation on whether it can accept them and present them to the Council and Parliament. Another study will have for purpose to examine the level of "gold plating" by the Member States in the implementation of FEAD programmes.

Gold plating refers to the introduction of requirements at national levels, which go beyond the requirements of the FEAD Regulation.

- Communication and publication

The allocation is foreseen for reprints of existing FEAD communication products (brochure, map) on demand from multipliers (managing authorities, EC Representations etc). This will be done with the support of the Office for publications.

#### **1.4.1 Conferences, meetings, network of experts and working groups**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 360.000

Indicative number of contracts: 8 (Q2 2017)

Type of Contracts: Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

#### **1.4.2 FEAD Platform**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 610.000

Indicative number of contracts:

Contract renewal: 2 (Q1 to Q3 2017)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

#### **1.4.3 Studies**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 450.000

Indicative number of contracts: 2 (Q2 to Q4 2017)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

#### **1.4.4 Communication and publication**

Type of procurement: Service

Indicative amount: EUR 20.000

Indicative number of contracts: 2 Specific contracts based on an existing framework contract (Q2 to Q4 2017)

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL

**1.5 Indirect management – N/A**

**1.6 Financial instruments – N/A**

**1.7 Other actions – N/A**

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