

Action Fiche for ENPI South and East

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Pilot Project : Preparing staff for EU-ENP related jobs CRIS NUMBER : 2009/021-864		
Total cost	EU Contribution of €2 million		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach – <i>centralised direct management</i>		
DAC-code	15110	Sector	Public sector policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE

In its Communication on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in 2008¹, the European Commission noted that despite a critical year for implementation of the ENP due to conflicts and the global financial and economic crisis, the European Union managed to further and substantially strengthen its ties with its neighbours. Moreover, the European Union launched two new political initiatives, one with its Southern Partners, namely the "Union for the Mediterranean"² and the "Eastern Partnership"³ with its Eastern Partners. These major political initiatives further reinforce the ENP.

A deepening of relations through the European Neighbourhood Policy can only be achieved if partner countries are adequately empowered to avail of the new opportunities open to them under these two new initiatives and in particular, the regional components of the ENP and related EU Policies. In addition, sustained efforts are required to continue to ensure that support offered to the ENP partner countries meet their expectations.

To support this idea, the European Parliament claimed through an amendment to the 2009 budget that this new policy environment made it relevant to prepare future hosts of EU-ENP correspondents within national Ministries and public administration agencies of ENP partner countries. An amount of € 2 million is therefore earmarked to train relevant civil service and public administration personnel for EU-ENP related jobs in the partner countries to which ENP is offered.

¹ COM(2009) 188: 'Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2008'.

² COM(2008) 319: 'Barcelona Process: the Union for the Mediterranean'.

³ COM (2008) 823: 'Eastern Partnership'.

According to the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Union, a pilot project may be implemented without a basic act as long as the actions which it is intended to finance fall within the competence of the Union

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The general objective of the pilot project is to enhance the professional skills and ENP-specific knowledge of relevant staff from within the civil service and public administrations of ENP partner countries in order to enable them to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as other relevant EU policies. It should help to improve the effectiveness of the policies and the relationships between the EU and the neighbourhood countries.

Synergy and coordination will be ensured with other programmes acting on the same geographical region and target groups.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

A pool of EU-ENP correspondents within the respective public administrations of ENP partner countries fully familiar with and adequately trained on the substance and spirit of the ENP as well as the policy objectives of the EU in this regard, alongside enhanced knowledge of the role and functions of EU institutions and the *acquis communautaire*.

In terms of activities, the idea is to propose tailor-made training on ENP policy, its regional aspects and specificities in the South, East and at Inter-Regional level as well as critical issues of policy importance (e.g. climate change, energy and transport interconnections, improving contacts between people, etc.). In addition, the training should provide intensive grounding in the operation, role and functions of EU institutions as well as insights into major areas of internal EU policies and how they impact upon the European Union's external relations (i.e. external dimension of internal EU policies). Training should be delivered in modules over a short period of time but will be repeated and spread over the duration of the pilot project in order to maximise the number of potential trainees in each ENP partner country. It is estimated that 500 to 600 persons could be trained and that an average of 9 to 10 training modules of one week could be organized. These figures are, however, purely indicative at this stage. Whenever possible, technology enhanced learning, including e-learning modules, shall be envisaged as they enable reaching to larger target groups.

3.3. Stakeholders

Staff and civil servants within Ministries and public administration agencies of ENP partner countries, willing to develop an expertise in European Affairs with a specific focus on the European Neighbourhood Policy and accompanying institutional frameworks, regional themes and topics.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Direct centralised management.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

It is envisaged that the pilot project is implemented through a service contract awarded following the launch of a call for tender.

The contract implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Since the project requires a specific expertise in EU & ENP policies, the future contractor will necessarily have to be a Higher Education Institution which is specialised in European Affairs.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The overall budget of the pilot project is €2 million.

Tentative calendar for the launch of the call for tender: 2nd quarter 2010. The duration of the contract will be 3 years.

4.4. Performance monitoring

Objectively verifiable indicators (qualitative and quantitative) will have to be part of the methodologies included in the technical proposals for the programme.

Besides the regular follow up by EU's Headquarters, monitoring missions (contracted by the European Commission) will ensure an external follow-up. The European Commission and the project coordinator will pay particular attention to the recommendations expressed by external experts.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

Expenditure incurred will have to be certified, as part of the obligations of the contracted parties in the framework of the implementation of this project. Mid term and final evaluations of the results achieved will be entrusted to independent consultants, as well as external audits (which will be carried out if necessary). These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources than the project budget, since no commitment will be possible once the validity of this Decision has expired ("N+1" rule will apply).

4.6. Communication and visibility

Special attention will be given to communication aspects.

Relevant communication tools will be developed in order to keep stakeholders regularly informed and to ensure the visibility of the programme.

Visibility and communication actions in the Partner Countries will be carried out in collaboration with the Delegations, in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions.