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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 11.12.2020**

**adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the year 2020 under  
the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the year 2020 under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

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 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action<sup>2</sup> and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the year 2020, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014<sup>4</sup> lays down the objectives and main principles for pre accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (4) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or Multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (5) The Commission adopted a Multi-country indicative strategy paper for 2014 – 2020 on 30 June 2014 which provides indicative allocations for the priorities for multi-country pre-accession assistance.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11).

- (6) In accordance with Article 6(4) of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the Indicative Strategy Paper has been reviewed and amended on 31 May 2018.
- (7) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the year 2020 aims at providing assistance for actions in the horizontal support priority of the multi-country indicative strategy paper, and the good governance and democracy, as well as the rule of law and fundamental rights sectors.
- (8) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (9) The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs as of a date preceding that of submission of a grant application, which is prior to the date of adoption of this Decision, for reasons of extreme urgency in crisis management aid or in other exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies, whereby an early engagement by the Union would be of major importance.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (11) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 [and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed].
- (12) 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.
- (13) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (14) The action programme provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014<sup>6</sup>,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### *The programme*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the year 2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

#### *Article 2*

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<sup>5</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 4293 of 30.06.2014.

<sup>6</sup> The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this programme does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

### *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 69 100 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

EUR 69 100 000 from the budget line 22 02 04 01

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

### *Article 3*

#### *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Annex.

### *Article 4*

#### *Flexibility clause*

The following changes shall not be considered substantial, within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- a) increases<sup>7</sup> or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- c) extensions of the implementation and closure period.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

### *Article 5*

#### *Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

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<sup>7</sup> These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

The eligibility of costs prior to the submission of grant applications and which is prior to the date of adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 11.12.2020

*For the Commission*  
*Olivér VÁRHELYI*  
*Member of the Commission*