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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 9.7.2020**

**on the annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Moldova for 2020**

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## on the annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Moldova for 2020

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 for 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 Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of Republic of Moldova, it is necessary to adopt a annual 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) The Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to the Republic of Moldova for the period 2017-2020<sup>4</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: economic development and market opportunities, strengthening institutions and good governance including in the area of rule of law and security, mobility and people-to-people contacts, including support to the continuous fulfilment of the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan benchmarks and to education, training and research. It will also fall under the complementary support for capacity development and institution building and in the area of strategic communication by strengthening independent media.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>5</sup> are to provide support to the health response to

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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> C(2017)6091.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

the COVID-crisis, to address the economic and social consequences of COVID-19 and to improve the quality of life in selected local communities of the Republic of Moldova, thus contributing to their longer-term resilience and to support the Republic of Moldova in the implementation of the reforms linked to the EU-Moldova Association Agreement/DCFTA and Association Agenda.

- (5) The action entitled EU4Moldova: Local Communities' will improve the quality of public services, enhance social, economic, and technical infrastructure and access to associated services, enhance business and job opportunities, strengthen Community-Led Local Development, and provide equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, age, ability, or nationality. In line with the EU response to the Covid-19 crisis, it will also contribute to the long-term socio-economic resilience of the local communities.
- (6) The action entitled "EU4Moldova: Facility to support the health response to the COVID-crisis and Association Agreement related Reforms" will first aim at strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Moldova to respond to COVID-19 public health emergency; secondly it will support the Republic of Moldova in the implementation of the reforms linked to the EU-Moldova Association Agreement/DCFTA and Association Agenda through strengthening supervision, corporate governance and risk management in the financial sector. The action also aims to support the justice reform process, and to support the capacity and independence of local community-based media.
- (7) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (9) 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.

- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) The actions provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The programme*

The annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Moldova for 2020 as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- (a) Annex I: “EU4Moldova: Local Communities”;
- (b) Annex II: “EU4Moldova: Facility to support the health response to the COVID-crisis and Association Agreement related Reforms”.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2020 is set at EUR 25 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 22 04 02 01: EUR 4 000 000
- (b) budget line 22.04.02.02: EUR 21 000 000

The appropriations provided for in the first 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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.3.1 of Annex 1 and point 5.3.2 of Annex 2.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases<sup>6</sup> or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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.

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<sup>6</sup> These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.

*Article 5*  
*Grants*

Launching a call for proposals under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 5.3.1 of Annex 2.

Done at Brussels, 9.7.2020

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