

ANNEX 9

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2014 – Part I in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for the Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2014-2015**1. IDENTIFICATION**

Title/Number	Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2014-2015 CRIS number: ENI/2014/037-440		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 13.5 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 13 million Budget line: 21.03.03.03		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project Approach Direct management – procurement of services and supplies Direct management – grants – call for proposals		
DAC-code	43010	Sector	Multi-sector

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT**2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives**

The Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2014-2015 is a flexible “facility” giving the European Commission the possibility to decide to finance small-scale measures that are in keeping with the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities.

2.2. Context and scope

Based on the “Common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action” (CIR)¹, in particular Article 3 on “Support measures”, the Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2014-2015 provides funding to cover expenditure for the implementation of the ENI and for the achievement of its objectives², including *inter alia* administrative support associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for such implementation, as well as expenditure at European Union delegations on the administrative support needed to manage operations financed under the Instrument.

The Union financing may also cover:

¹ Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

² See Article 2 of the ENI Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

- a) studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, exchanges of lessons learned and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the management of the actions;
- b) research activities and studies on relevant cooperation-related issues and the dissemination thereof;
- c) expenditures related to the provision of information and communication actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union.

The global allocation will also support activities linked to the priorities outlined in the two Joint Communications of the European Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean"³ and "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood"⁴.

The Regional Indicative Programme (2014-2017)⁵ for the Southern Neighbourhood under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) recognises the global allocation as one of its key tools to prepare and ensure follow-up of the regional cooperation agenda.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of this global allocation is to ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument which is capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The global allocation will be used as a framework for financing activities in the following fields:

(1) Support for project cycle management

This component includes activities linked to:

- a) identification and formulation of bilateral and regional projects which may result in funding from ENI (e.g. sectoral/thematic studies, country or region studies, studies on cross-cutting issues or specific cooperation areas, preparatory activities, etc.);
- b) small projects and other small-scale activities to back up major bilateral, regional, ENI-wide and cross-border cooperation projects during their implementation;

³ COM(2011)200 of 8 March 2011.

⁴ COM(2011)303 of 25 May 2011.

⁵ C(2014) 5242 of 30 July 2014.

- c) audit, evaluation and impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule or is no longer available.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 10 million**.

(2) Studies and information activities

This component supports activities in the following areas:

- a) information: publications, communication and awareness-raising activities to promote the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and enhance in particular the visibility of EU's activities in the Southern Neighbourhood countries.
- b) studies: inter alia studies on relevant issues, data collection and processing and the dissemination thereof.

This component will have an indicative budget of **EUR 2 million**, to be split among EU Delegations and Headquarters based on their annual programme of activities.

(3) Organisation of meetings and training activities

- a) This component covers the organisation of different kinds of meetings in the framework of the ENP South region, including ministerial conferences conducted in cooperation with the EU presidency, thematic workshops and working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.
- b) This component covers different kinds of training activities organised in the framework of the ENP South region, including training seminars for Arab League's executives and other joint activities in the priority sectors of cooperation between the EU and the League of Arab States (LAS) following the Declaration of the EU-LAS Ministerial meeting held in Cairo, in November 2012.

If relevant, countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and LAS⁶ shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

The indicative budget for these components is **EUR 1 million**.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

⁶ Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Montenegro, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2. and 4.3. will be carried out, is 36 months, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements. The European Parliament and the relevant Committee shall be informed of the extension of the operational implementation period within one month of that extension being granted.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

Support to project cycle management, studies and information activities and organisation of meetings and training activities.

- (a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grants is to ensure preparation of actions and projects by giving support to project cycle management, studies and information activities and organisation of meetings and training activities.

- (b) Eligibility conditions

As foreseen in the ENI basic act.

- (c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

- (d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 80%.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100% in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

- (e) Indicative trimester to launch the call

Last trimester 2014 and trimesters 1 and 2 in 2015.

4.3.2. Procurement (direct management)

Support to project cycle management, studies and information activities and organisation of meetings and training activities.

Subject	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Ensure preparation of actions and projects	Supplies, services	100	Last trimester 2014 and trimesters 1 and 2 in 2015.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

The responsible authorising officer may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.1. – Call for proposals (direct management)	2,000	500
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management)	11,000	N.A.
TOTAL	13,000	500

Component	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution
Support for project cycle management	10,000	0
Studies and information activities	2,000	500
Organisation of meetings and training activities	1,000	0
TOTAL	13,000	500

4.6. Performance monitoring

The monitoring of the implementation will be carried out, including periodic assessment of progress and delivery of the project results.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Certification of expenditure will have to be submitted as part of the contracts implementing this Decision. Evaluations of the results achieved by some of the projects financed under this Decision may be conducted by external experts entrusted by the Commission, along with external audits on the initiative of the Commission, if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources because the “N+1” rule applies after the contracting-out period for this Decision.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

Communication and visibility will be assured by each of the subsequent contracts implementing this facility.