

Action Fiche

1. ARTICLE IDENTIFICATION

Title	ENPSI II - Technical assistance		
Total cost	€5,666,535.22 maximum (EC Contribution)		
Aid Method	Project approach – Centralised Management		
DAC-code	15140	Sector	Public administration

2. DESCRIPTION

2.1. Objectives

The main objective of this programme is to support the Ministry of Finance, other ministries, the Office of the President and other autonomous Palestinian bodies as authorised by the Commission in order to increase their capacity and improve their management, transparency and accountability.

2.2. Expected results and main activities

The action will provide urgent technical assistance in response to the conclusions of the GAERC of 23 July and the letter of 20 June of the Palestinian Prime Minister. PM Fayyad requested more specifically the continuation and expansion of some key technical assistance projects (internal audit and financial control, management of customs – ASYCUDA-; tax revenues – PATACS). Further technical assistance support is also considered, inter alia, in the areas of Finance, Health, Trade, Judiciary, and for the Central Election Commission. Funds will also be necessary to provide support new actions within the framework of the Quartet Representative, such as studies, technical assistance etc.

Funds under this action will also be allocated for equipment and audit.

2.3. Stakeholders

The stakeholders for the programme are the Office of the President, any other autonomous Palestinian bodies which depend directly upon him and other autonomous bodies as authorised by the Commission.

2.4. Risks and assumptions

None.

2.5. Conditionalities

None.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

The project will be implemented under a centralised management structure with direct payments by the Commission to service and equipment providers. A financing agreement following standard models in force will be concluded between the Commission and the Ministry of Finance of the Palestinian Authority.

3.1. Budget and calendar

The operational duration of the project will be 36 months from the date of signature of the Financing Agreement. A number of actions will be launched shortly in relation with the mission of the Quartet Representative. The exact calendar of operations will be determined in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, other ministries and other donors, with regard to budgetary appropriation needs and availability.

Indicative breakdown of the budget is €5,000,000 for technical assistance, €500,000 for equipment and €166,535.22 for audits and evaluation.

3.2. Procurement and award of grants procedures

All contracts implementing the action will 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.

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. Full financing can be applied in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation where financing in full is essential to carry out the action in question.

For activities implemented through an international organisation, all contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the international organisation concerned and in conformity with the relevant Community legislation.

The West Bank and Gaza are territories facing a crisis, as defined in Article 168(2) of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation. As a result negotiated contracting procedures or grant direct award may be used when necessary.

3.3. Performance monitoring

Implementation of the programme will be monitored regularly by the European Commission.

3.4. Evaluation and audit

A final evaluation will be carried upon the completion of the project.