



Brussels, 17.10.2018
C(2018) 6604 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.10.2018

**on the Technical Assistance And Information Exchange (TAIEX) Action Programme
2018-2020 under the European Neighbourhood-wide measures to be financed from the
general budget of the Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 1046/2018 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 966/2012¹, 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 action², and in particular Article 6(3)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Technical Assistance And Information Exchange (TAIEX) Action Programme 2018-2020 under the European Neighbourhood-wide measures, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the work programme, for 2018-2020. 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood – wide measures' Strategic Priorities (2014-2020)⁴ and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020)⁵ which indicates as priority 3 "Targeted capacity building" that includes supporting the approximation of the regulatory framework to EU norms and standards and enhancing public governance systems and makes reference to multi-country programmes such as the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Instrument to support approximation and public governance systems.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ 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.

⁴ Decision C(2014) 5196

⁵ Decision C(2018) 2994

- (4) The objectives pursued by the Action Programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁶ are to provide EU expertise to European Neighbourhood partner countries to achieve their progressive integration into the Union internal market and enhanced sector and cross-sectoral co-operation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence towards Union and other relevant international standards and related institutional building.
- (5) The Action Programme aims at providing funding for the TAIEX instrument. The Action Programme will be implemented under direct management through the procurement of services.
- (6) 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.
- (7) The measures 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 Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Action Programme 2018-2020 under the European Neighbourhood-wide measures as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 20 million and shall be financed for an amount of:

EUR 2.5 million from budget line 22.04.01.02 of the general budget of the Union for 2018,
EUR 3.5 million from budget line 22.04.01.02 of the general budget of the Union for 2019,
EUR 3.5 million from budget line 22.04.01.02 of the general budget of the Union for 2020,
EUR 3.5 million from budget line 22.04.02.02 of the general budget of the Union for 2018,
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EUR 3.5 million from budget line 22.04.02.02 of the general budget of the Union for year 2020.

The financial contribution referred to in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2019 and 2020 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

⁶ 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).

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases⁷ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, 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.

Done at Brussels, 17.10.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

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