

Full description

ACTION FICHE FOR ISRAEL

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Support to the ENP action Plan		
Total cost	4,000,000 € (2,000,000 € to be committed in 2007 (2,000,000 € to be committed in 2008)		
Aid method / Management mode	Project approach Direct centralised management		
DAC-code	43010	Sector	Multisector Aid

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

Negotiations and implementation of the ENP Action Plan (AP) Have led to an intensification of contacts between the EU and Israel both in quality and quantity.

The AP provides for the possibility for Israel to progressively participate in a number of EU programmes, to upgrade the scope and intensity of political co-operation, to examine the possibility to approximate Israeli legislation to the *EU acquis* as a means to progressively acquire stakes in the EU internal market. The identification of priorities is guided by the policy objectives of the EU-Israel Action Plan and focuses on those areas which are in the EU's strategic interest and consistent with Israel's priorities as detailed in the CSP.

The Action programme for 2007 will support the implementation of the Action Plan (AP) through operations that promote the approximation of Israeli norms and standards to those of the EU.

2.2. Lessons learnt

To date, EU cooperation with Israel has been limited to programmes in support of civil society, mainly in the context of the EU Partnership for Peace programme, the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, the Information and Cultural programme and regional programmes under MEDA. Since 2006 Israel is also receiving support from the TAIEX instrument.

Consequently, Israel has limited experience in the management of EC programmes. Furthermore, participation in regional activities has frequently proved difficult for Israeli representatives in the absence of bilateral diplomatic relations between Israel

and some Euromed partner countries. Therefore, at this stage, the Action Programme should be centrally managed.

2.3. Complementary actions

Given Israel's high income level, the majority of donors do not provide funding. This is a unique action.

2.4. Donor coordination

Local level coordination takes place between the EC and EU Member States on dedicated issues such as: human rights, research, development and cultural activities. There is also ad hoc coordination with other donors, when necessary.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

General Objective:

The general objective is to develop an increasingly close relationship between the EU and Israel aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening political cooperation.

Specific objectives:

- To promote legislative approximation (including with regard to participation in Community programmes);
- To strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The Action Programme for 2007 supports the approximation of Israeli legislation to EU norms and standards with a view to facilitating and improving cooperation and paves the way to the participation in EU Programmes. Discussions with the Israeli authorities show that their main indicative priority areas are environment, energy, justice, liberty and security (JLS) and transport. Final identification of specific areas and actions will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel Action Plan and the Country Strategy Paper.

The expected results are:

- The administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU MS has been reinforced;
- The implementation of the priorities agreed in the Action Plan.

3.3. Stakeholders

The direct beneficiary of the programme is the Israeli Public Administration

3.4. Risks and assumptions

Start up of activities could eventually be possibly delayed due to the limited experience from the Israeli side in dealing with EC programmes. This risk will be mitigated through initial central management of the funds.

3.5. Crosscutting Issues

During all phases of this Action Programme, particular attention will be devoted to the principle of equality of treatment and opportunity of both men and women

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

The measure will be implemented through centralised management, under a Financing Agreement.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

All contracts implementing the action must 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.

Twinning projects will be implemented in accordance with the applicable twinning manual.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The total financial contribution of the European Community to the project will be €4,000,000. €2,000,000 million will be committed in 2007 and €2,000,000 in 2008. Each project component will include its own provision for evaluation, audit and visibility.

In the case of Twinning projects, the Beneficiary Administration should provide some co-financing as stated in article 6.2 of the Twinning contract's work plan and as stated in the Twinning's budget. In the case of technical assistance projects, the beneficiaries are commonly requested to contribute to the logistical arrangements (internalised cost) as well as political support in case the reform and development strategies in one or more of the concerned sectors need revision or update.

The implementation period of the project activities is 36 months from the date of the signature of the Financing Agreement.

4.4. Performance monitoring

Achievements will be monitored regularly by the EC and the key indicators will be the yearly results of the twinning activities undertaken.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

Audits will be performed in accordance to EC procedures. Additionally, a mid-term and an ex-post evaluation and *ad hoc* monitoring missions might also be carried out.

The European Commission will prepare the terms of reference and select the service providers for the audit, monitoring and evaluation missions. All audit and evaluation reports will be communicated by the European Commission to the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries will put at the disposal of the audits, monitoring or evaluation missions all necessary supporting documents.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The European Commission will ensure that adequate communication and visibility is given by the contracting parties to the projects.