

ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the support measure for evaluation, the Residual Error Rate (RER) study and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union in beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the Neighbourhood region for 2022

1. Introduction

This support measure sets out the implementation measures of the operational expenditures to finance evaluation, the Residual Error Rate (RER) study and monitoring of external assistance activities, planned under the 2022 allocations from lines 14.020112, 14.200404 and 15.02010102 of the general budget of the European Union to the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (DG NEAR), for a total amount of **EUR 9 984 484 for 2022**, subject to the availability of the requisite appropriations on the budget line concerned.

This support measure covers operational expenditure to finance evaluation, the RER study and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union to beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region. In specific cases, countries outside the two main regions of interest (notably those managed by the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)) might be covered by evaluation activities whenever the scope of the evaluations makes it relevant, in the spirit of strengthening synergies and cooperation with programmes under other Union instruments.

The global budgetary envelope of EUR 9 984 484 for 2022 is reserved for **procurement** contracts.

The evaluations, RER study and capacity building on monitoring and evaluation for neighbourhood and enlargement regions are envisaged in the support measure and will be financed by allocations from budget line 14.200404 in accordance with Article 58(2)(d) of Financial Regulation 2018/1046¹ and the relevant procurement rules and procedures, and will be implemented by DG NEAR under direct management, ‘Coordination of financing instruments - performance, results and evaluation’ unit (NEAR.A4) and the ‘Audit and internal control’ unit (NEAR.R3) for the RER study.

The Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) for the neighbourhood region is envisaged in the support measure and will be financed by allocations from budget line 14.020112 in accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947²The Results-Oriented Monitoring

¹ 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 (OJ L193, 30.7.2018).

² Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and amending

(ROM) for the enlargement region is envisaged in the support measure and will be financed by allocations from budget line 15.020101.02 in accordance with Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529³

This support measure shall be implemented under **direct management** by the Commission in accordance with article 62(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation.

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part One, Title VII Chapter 3 of the Financial Regulation.

Where appropriate, the Commission will also make use of Framework Contracts concluded by other Directorates-General of the Commission following Part One of the Financial Regulation.

2. Description of the programme, objective, expected results and assumptions

2.1 Overall objective

The **overall objective** of the 2022 evaluation, the RER study and monitoring support measure is to provide an assessment of the implementation of EU support (policy dialogue and financial assistance) in the beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region, and to support the development of evidence-based policies, instruments and operations design.

With regard to Article 34 of the Financial Regulation, the focus is on enhancing the relevance, EU value-added, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and accountability of assistance by means of studies, Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) and evaluations of policies, projects and programmes financed from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument (ENPI)/ European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)/ Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe NDICI instruments.

This includes, among others, the following:

- any of the IPA I National and Multi-Beneficiary Annual Action Programmes,
- any of the IPA II planning and programming documents (Country and Multi Country Strategy Papers, Country and Multi-country Action programmes, Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes, Rural Development Programmes, etc.),
- ENI/ENPI bilateral programmes, multi-country programmes, cross-border cooperation programmes, managed by the Commission Headquarters, EU Delegations or by the administrations of the beneficiaries and partner countries under different management modes,
- IPA III planning and programming documents (IPA III Programming Framework, annual or multi-annual or multi-country action plans or measures, cross-border cooperation programmes),

and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1.)

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1.)

- Global Europe-NDICI– Neighbourhood planning and programming documents (Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes, annual or multi-annual action plans or measures, cross-border cooperation programmes).

Evaluations are planned for IPA I (2007-2013), IPA II (2014-2020), IPA III (2021-2027) ENPI (2007-2013), ENI (2014-2020), NDICI (2021-2027) and other external action instruments if and when relevant. The activities will focus on geographic and thematic/sector evaluations/studies related to programming and implementation of pre-accession assistance in candidate countries, and potential candidates as well as programming and implementation of EU assistance in partner countries and territories covered by the European neighbourhood policy. Selected evaluations could have a broader geographical coverage, covering regions under the responsibility of other instruments. Activities may include capacity building in linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation, and ad-hoc evaluations and studies on non-expenditure related themes and policies. The evaluations at Commission headquarters' level are aimed at addressing the strategic level, mostly dealing with evaluation of policies, instruments and sectors with a multi-country perspective to identify orientations for policy making and instrument setting.

The ROM system is the external monitoring system of the European Commission (EC). It aims at enhancing the EC's accountability and management capacities with a strong focus on results. It supports EU Delegation and Headquarters' services by providing an external opinion on project implementation. ROM activities under this proposal are for the benefit of neighbourhood partner countries.

Results-oriented monitoring is planned for projects financed under ENI (2014-2020), NDICI (2021-2027), IPA II (2014-2020) and IPA III (2021-2027).

Evaluations activities under this proposal are for the benefit of beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region. For this purpose, when relevant, evaluation activities may be carried out in countries other than these beneficiaries, e.g. where similar assistance programmes have been implemented, and for which the evaluation results would be relevant for IPA beneficiaries and ENI/ENPI partner countries. Capacity building activities related to linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation might be also supported through this programme. The membership of the Commission at the European Evaluation Society might be supported with a view to benefit from exchanges of evaluation practices with practitioners from the EU Member States and the beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region.

Evaluations, studies, reviews, ROM are aimed at assessing the external and internal coherence, including complementarity and synergies between the instruments (also thematic instruments intervening in the regions) and the contribution of the measures to a consistent EU external action. In that sense, they contribute to implementing the objectives referred in

Regulation 2021/947⁴ and in particular Articles 41 and 42 thereof, as well as the Common Implementing Regulation⁵ and in particular Article 17 of the mentioned regulation.

The overall objective of the RER study is to calculate the Residual Error Rate of DG NEAR (RER), which is an important element for the Director-General's assurance on the legality and regularity of the expenditure. The purpose of the study is to provide DG NEAR with the estimation of the level of error remaining after the completion of all management checks to prevent, detect and correct errors across its entire area of responsibility.

2.2 Expected results

The **expected results** of the 2022-2023 evaluation and monitoring programme are evaluations, studies, ROM reports and capacity building activities, which shall provide support to decision making in the planning and implementation of assistance and in the formulation of policies and strategies. The programme's outputs shall also provide the Commission with a judgement of actions according to their results, impacts and needs they aim to satisfy.

The expected result of the RER study is the final report presenting the Derived Residual Error Rate of DG NEAR (RER) after contract closures and completion of any audits on payment for DG NEAR transactions (DG derived rate), and the grant rate from additional testing of grant contracts.

2.3 Assumptions and conditions

It is assumed that all beneficiaries and other stakeholders are fully committed to the implementation of the 2021 evaluation, the RER study and monitoring programme. The commitment of the beneficiaries to cooperate closely and to share knowledge as well as experiences is essential for the success of the programme.

It is assumed that the beneficiaries have the necessary understanding of the RER methodology for a constructive engagement with the Contractor to derive the targeted benefit from the RER findings.

The 2022 evaluation and monitoring support measure will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with operational managers, EU Delegations and beneficiaries. It will provide an effective support to the decision-making process, enhance the ownership of evaluation results by key stakeholders and ensure that lessons learned from evaluations are taken into consideration for the programming and implementation of EU assistance.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L209, 14.6.2021).

⁵ 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 action (OJ 77, 15.03.2014,p. 95)

3. *Implementation*

This support measure for 2022 contains three main actions and budget breakdown as follows:

Action	Type of management	EUR
1. Evaluation and capacity building for beneficiaries of IPA III and neighbourhood region - budget line 14.200404	Direct management (procurement) by the European Commission	1 660 484
2. Residual Error Rate (RER) study - budget line 14.200404	Direct management (procurement) by the European Commission	1 324 000
3. Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) for the neighbourhood region - budget line 14.020112	Direct management (procurement) by the European Commission	3 500 000
4. Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) for the pre-accession countries - budget line 15.020101.02	Direct management (procurement) by the European Commission	3 500 000
TOTAL		9 984 484
OPSYS business reference	ACT-61486	
ABAC Commitment level 1 number	JAD.1048338	

a) global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement:

For 2022, the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is EUR 9 984 484.

For 2022, indicatively, EUR 1 660 484 will be used for evaluations in favour of partner countries from the beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region, as well as for capacity building, EUR 1 324 000 used for the RER study and EUR 3 500 000 for ROM in favour of neighbourhood partner countries and 3 500 000 for ROM in favour of pre-accession countries.

b) indicative number and type of contract award procedures:

Evaluations under this programme will be carried out by external consultants, through service contracts, mostly through existing framework contracts and competitive negotiated procedures. Indicatively, the ‘Coordination of financing instruments - performance, results and evaluation’ unit (NEAR.A4) of the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations will manage approximately five contract award procedures per year.

The monitoring of projects and programmes under the ROM system in the neighbourhood region will be carried out by external consultants.

The RER study will be carried out by an external contractor.

c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure:

The indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure for the service contracts is throughout year 2022 - 2023. The indicative operational implementation period will therefore be between 2023 and 2026.

A new ROM contract for the Neighbourhood region started on 1 September 2021, for duration of one year and can be extended through negotiated procedure, up to maximum of four years.

The tender procedure for a new ROM contract covering the IPA region will start before the end of 2022.

d) indicative implementation period:

The indicative operational implementation period of this work programme, during which the activities will be carried out and the corresponding contracts implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this financing decision and the relevant contracts.

e) performance monitoring arrangements:

As part of its performance measurement framework, the Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II and IPA III Regulations and ENI and Global Europe-NDICI Regulations on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation and Article 13 of the IPA III Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA assistance. The action plans referred in Article 3 of the ENI Regulation, and in Article 23 of the Global Europe-NDICI regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of EU external action in the Neighbourhood regions.

The Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from different sources. Such data will be aggregated and analysed in order to track the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the multi-annual programming documents for each country.

In the specific context of indirect management by IPA beneficiaries, National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs) will collect information on the performance of the actions and programmes (process, output and outcome indicators) and coordinate the collection and production of indicators coming from national sources.

The overall progress of EU external action in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions will be monitored through the following means:

- a) ROM system;
- b) IPA Beneficiaries and Neighbourhood Partner countries' own monitoring;
- c) Implementing partners (when different from those covered under b)) monitoring of EU interventions

- d) Self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations;
- e) Joint monitoring by the Commission and the IPA Beneficiaries. The compliance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA Monitoring committee, supported by Sector Monitoring Committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level;

Gender equality, environmental sustainability and climate change will be integrated to all activities to be implemented.

For all regions, evaluations will have to take into account, to the extent possible, indicators for which data exist and baseline values have been set.