

ANNEX 3

of the Commission Implementing Decision on ENI East Regional Action Programme 2014
Part II

Action Document for the ENI-East Global Allocation 2014

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	ENI-East Global Allocation 2014 CRIS: ENI/2014/037-575		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 6 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 6 million		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Project approach Direct management (grants – calls for proposals; procurement of services and supplies)		
DAC-code	43010	Sector	Multisector aid

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The ENI East Global Allocation is a **Support Measure** giving the European Commission a possibility to fund small-scale activities in line with the objectives of the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) as well as its operational and policy priorities.

2.2. Context

The Global Allocation programme is in line with the **ENI Regional East Strategy** (2014-2020) and **Multiannual Indicative Programme** (2014-2017), which states in paragraph 7.4. Horizontal and sectoral support:

Support for identification and formulation of programmes as well as information and communication activities as defined in Article 3 of Regulation 236/2014 (Common Implementing Rules) which refers to support measures, may be provided.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Given the support nature of previous and current Global Allocations, past actions are assessed against a level of consumption of committed funds. This is one of the criteria, along with priorities and needs, taken into account in the initial programming, as well as in the planning exercise once the Decision is adopted.

2.4. Complementary actions

Global Allocation can be considered as a complementary action to the Technical Assistance allocations existing in the frame of the Single Support Frameworks. Global allocation for information activities of the EU Delegations in the region will

be complementary to the activities financed from the budget line 19 06 01 - "Information outreach on the European Union external relations".

2.5. Donor coordination

The Global Allocation is not directly subject - by its support nature - to donor coordination.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of the ENI-East Global Allocation is to support the project management cycle in the Eastern Neighbourhood such as preparation of programmes and activities in the field of information and communication. The Russian Federation may also benefit from the action.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The ENI-East Global Allocation will be used to finance activities in the two following fields:

Component 1 - Support to project cycle management:

- Identification and formulation of projects that may result in funding from ENI East (e.g. sector studies, country or region studies, studies on horizontal and cross-cutting issues or in specialised areas, preparatory activities, etc.),
- Other small-scale activities to back up major projects during their implementation,
- Audits, evaluations 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.

Component 2 - Information and communication activities:

- Information and communication activities to (i) raise awareness and visibility of the EU, the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership; (ii) to enhance the visibility of EU-funded activities; and (iii) to improve the understanding of EU cooperation policies in the ENPI East region.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Given the nature of the action, no major risks are identified.

3.4. Crosscutting Issues

Not applicable

3.5. Stakeholders

The action is designed to support the staff managing the EU cooperation programmes in the field and in the headquarters. The end beneficiaries are citizens in the partner countries and the EU Member States.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.

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 60 months (indicative maximum contract duration: 48 months) from the adoption of this Action Document, 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

The programme will be financed through direct management using both grants and procurement.

The ENI-East Global Allocation is a Support Measure in the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014. It is meant to react with flexibility to evolving circumstances and unforeseen situations. Therefore, the separation of amounts and number of contracts is provisional and indicative. Numbers are based on previous years' experience.

4.3.1. Grants: call for proposal (direct management)

- (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 Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

- (b) 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.

- (c) Maximum rate of co-financing

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

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of the Financial Regulation and 109 of the Financial Regulation of the 10th EDF 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.

(d) Indicative trimester to launch the call

March-April 2015.

4.3.2. *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Ensure preparation, implementation and follow-up operations of actions and projects Information and communication activities	services supplies	Up to 50	Throughout 2014 and 2015

4.4. **Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement procedures and in terms of origin of supplies and materials 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. 232/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of 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**

Component	Amount in EUR
Support for project cycle management	2 980 000
Communication and information activities	2 480 000
Reserve (contingencies)	540 000
TOTAL	6 000 000

Module	Amount in EUR
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4.3.1. – grants (direct management)	500 000
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management)	5 500 000

4.6. Performance monitoring

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

A mid-year update will be carried out to assess the level of contracting of funds as well as to update the planned needs, if necessary. In addition, regular exchange of information between headquarters and EU Delegations will be assured.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Where provided for in the applicable general conditions, 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 done by external experts hired by the European Commission as well as external audits at the initiative of the Commission, if necessary.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU and wherever justified appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in the procurement and grant contracts.

Moreover, communication and information activities are an integral part of the present action, aiming at an enhanced visibility and better understanding of EU-funded activities in the Eastern neighbourhood. The Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Action shall be used to ensure the visibility coherence and to establish the appropriate contractual obligations.