



Brussels, 12.11.2013
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.11.2013

**on the Annual Action Programme 2013 (Part 2) in favour of the Southern Region of the
European Neighbourhood, to be financed from the general budget of the European
Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument¹, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002² (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Financial Regulation’), and in particular Article 84 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted, under the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Regional Strategy Document (2007-2013) and the Regional Indicative Programme 2011-2013³ for Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, which provides for the following priority areas: supporting common regional institutions, confidence building measures and media development; promoting regional economic integration, investment and regulatory convergence; sustainable development for the Mediterranean; promoting social inclusion and cultural dialogue.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2013 (Part 2) in favour of the Southern Region of the European Neighbourhood Policy are to maintain and support the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean through a financial contribution and to improve access for, and effective participation of, young people in mainstreaming their priorities in legislation and national planning in ENP South countries.
- (3) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁴ (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Rules of Application’).
- (4) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under joint management (indirect management with an international organisation) to the entities identified in the Annexes of this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a contribution agreement. The responsible authorising officer has ensured that these entities comply with the

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2012) 6074 of 31.8.2012.

⁴ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

conditions of Article 53d of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002⁵ on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁶ (hereinafter referred to as 'the Financial Regulation 1605/2002') and of Articles 35 and 43 of its Implementing Rules.

- (5) It is appropriate to acknowledge that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer who ensures that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals according to Article 190 of the Rules of Application are fulfilled. Where the reasons for and potential beneficiaries of such award are known at the moment of the adoption of this Decision, they should be identified therein for reasons of transparency.
- (6) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment under Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of the Rules of Application.
- (7) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The Annual Action Programme 2013 (Part 2) in favour of the Southern Region of the European Neighbourhood Policy, comprising the actions identified in the second paragraph, is approved.

The actions, the description of which is set out in the attached Annexes 1 and 2 respectively, are:

- Annex 1: Net-MED Youth.
- Annex 2: EU support for the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2014.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 12.21 million, to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2013.

⁵ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1. These provisions remain applicable until 31 December 2013 according to Article 212 of the Financial Regulation.

⁶ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1. These provisions remain applicable until 31 December 2013 according to Article 212 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The budget-implementation tasks under joint management are entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annexes, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

Section 4 of the Annexes referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of the Rules of Application.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer according to Article 190 of the Rules of Application. Where known at the moment of the adoption of this Decision, the reasons for this as well as the potential beneficiaries shall be identified in the attached Annexes.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 will also cover any possible interest due for late payment.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or cumulative changes to the allocations for specific actions not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 will not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies will be taken into account in the ceiling referred to in this article.

The responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 12.11.2013

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission

ANNEX 1

to the Commission Decision on the ENP Regional South Annual Action Programme 2013 —
Part II

Action Fiche for Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth)

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Networks of Mediterranean Youth — NET-MED Youth CRIS number: ENPI/2013/024-856		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 8 800 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 8 000 000		
Aid method/ Method of implementation	Project approach Joint management with UNESCO		
DAC code	16010 Youth	Sector	Social/welfare services

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

NET-MED Youth is a regional programme aimed at mainstreaming youth issues and priorities across national decision making in European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) South countries by building the capacities of youth¹ and youth organisations² and promoting their active engagement in revising relevant legislation, implementing national youth strategies where they exist, ensuring that youth issues are adequately covered by national and regional media and identifying workable models for improving young people's access to employment. The programme also aims to favour regional exchange of experience and the cross-fertilisation of tools and approaches, especially in the light of the recent geo-political developments in ENP South countries from 2011 onwards. It also envisages involving youth networks from EU countries in order to learn from the experience of these networks in impacting national policies.

2.2. Context

NET-MED Youth is in line with the two Joint Communications 'A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' and 'A new

¹ According to the 'EU Strategy for Youth — Investing and Empowering: a renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities', youth is understood as including teenagers and young adults from 13 to 30 years old. Nevertheless, depending on the contexts, this age range could vary: i.e. for national and regional activities implemented in the Southern Mediterranean countries, UNESCO applies the definition given in the African Youth Charter, where 'youth' means 'every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years'.

² Youth organisations are included in the list of non-state actors in Article 24(2) of the Financing Instrument for Development Cooperation DCI 2007-2013 established under Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2006.

response for a changing Neighbourhood’, which updated the ENP, asserting Europe’s solidarity with and support for the struggle for democracy, dignity and prosperity. The first Communication calls for ‘... partnerships not only with governments but also with civil society ...’ and ‘... increasing opportunities for youth exchanges ...’ It is also in line with the new EU Strategy for Youth, where ‘... in the period up to and including 2018, the overall objectives of European cooperation in the youth field should be to create more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and to promote the active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people.’

Many have described the ‘Arab Spring’ as a youth rebellion driven by grievances about unemployment and oppressive political regimes. Of the 367.4 million people living in the region, more than half are under 25 years of age. A youth bulge (a significant increase in comparison with other age groups) has resulted in the most rapid growth in the region’s history.³

Young people in the region face the biggest youth unemployment challenges in both quantitative and qualitative terms and suffer from poverty and a lack of quality education. The ‘Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012’ states that in the Arab states one in five young people in the age bracket 15-24 have not completed primary education, and that more than 6 million young people in this region are illiterate . Young females, in rural areas in particular, are even more disadvantaged than males because of discriminatory structures and norms. In rural Morocco, 93 % of young women do not have the skills learnt at elementary school. In most Arab countries, young women are not included in the numbers of the unemployed because they are not actively seeking work. To complete the picture of youth unemployment and under-employment in the region, it is estimated that more than 20 million young people (mostly unskilled and/or low-skilled) work in informal, poor quality jobs at subsistence wages and without any prospects for improvement.⁴

The recent geo-political unrest in the region has compelled governments and the international community to give youth issues even greater attention. Efforts have been made to formulate national youth policies, strategies and action plans to offer young people more opportunities.⁵ Youth groups and organisations are frustrated with the lack of national reform and improvement in their situation and feel that their contribution to the revolution(s) has been somehow hijacked by the new ruling political classes. Young people have clearly stated that current legislation often hampers their access to political participation.

Growing unemployment and the lack of credible policies and actions to address this problem has also emerged as a primary concern of young people in all countries. However, despite their dissatisfaction, young people lack the tools to voice their fears and concerns. They also lack the leadership needed to effect change mainly because they are not organised and not aware of each other’s activities and potentials. This programme therefore aims to empower young people by harnessing their collective potential.

³ <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/Regional%20Overview%20Youth%20in%20the%20Arab%20Region-Western%20Asia.pdf>.

⁴ [http://www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/8FFEB91E20FD39D8C12579A4003746FB/\\$file/UfM%20Employability%20Review%20-%20DRAFT-%20080212.pdf](http://www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/8FFEB91E20FD39D8C12579A4003746FB/$file/UfM%20Employability%20Review%20-%20DRAFT-%20080212.pdf).

⁵ This is the case in Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt.

Mainstreaming youth issues and concerns also emerged as one of the major gaps in the desk research of youth projects implemented in the region during 2010-13, whether nationally or regionally. Mainstreaming youth entails significant capacity building within the framework of a well-defined action plan with clear milestones and a clear definition of the desired outcomes. Similarly, continuous lobbying and advocacy is needed across various influence spheres in order to ensure that youth concerns and priorities are taken seriously into consideration. Utilising mainstream media (TV, radio, print media) is one advocacy tool which will empower young people and make their voices heard. However, mainstream media are largely neglected in favour of web-based tools and social media, although they remain the primary tool for reaching out to public opinion at large, and young people should therefore have a marked presence in mainstream media that is at least equivalent to their marked presence in online media and social networks.

Proper advocacy calls for building networks and coalitions and for planning together how to effect change. Young people interviewed in various countries were aware of their need to work together in order to more effectively push for their interests, and as such, it was not surprising that the establishment of national networks was one of the most frequently cited priorities in various consultations with youth groups.⁶ Networking appears to be particularly pertinent due to the diversity of issues and causes that young people are currently dealing with (active citizenship, civic rights, unemployment, health, education, gender mainstreaming, etc.). Capacity building was also cited as another key priority in order to consolidate and institutionalise the spontaneous emergence of youth organisations and youth leaders and in order to channel their motivation and energy into actionable strategies with clear objectives and milestones, especially since current interventions are mostly focused on individual capacity building and rarely address the system level.

At the national level, NET-MED Youth is in line with the Action Plans concluded with most of the Southern Mediterranean countries within the context of the ENP. It also complements the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs), particularly in relation to youth and the inclusion of civil society in the light of the EU's renewed emphasis on building deep democracies and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The proposed programme will also build on the achievements of the previous Euro-Med Youth programming cycles, most particularly the current Euro-Med Youth IV, and will capitalise to the greatest extent possible on the experiences and networks of the youth organisations that took part in Euro-Med Youth, along with the 'multipliers' and leaders that were identified and trained during the process.

2.3. Lessons learnt

A comprehensive independent external evaluation of Euro-Med Youth IV together with the different results-oriented monitoring (ROM) reports point to a converging set of lessons learned:

- Avoid the fragmentation of inputs and efforts.

⁶ Needs Assessment Report, Identification of a Regional Programme for Youth and Evaluation of ongoing Programme Euromed Youth IV, March 2013, Contract ENPI/2012/298-514.

- Go beyond the ‘comfort zone’ of the programme and reach out to rural and marginalised youth organisations.
- Avoid working with the same circle of organisations and give the broadest possible range of youth organisations and groups the opportunity to benefit from support under the programme.
- Focus on the long-term sustainability of the action.
- Use a light and proactive implementation structure.

2.4. Complementary actions

Networking projects targeting civil society organisations do exist, and might as such include youth organisations. Such a pattern was found within the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Network, Euro-Med Migration III, the Civil Society Facility and the new regional programme for women ‘Spring Forward for Women’. It is also worth mentioning the work carried out in the framework of the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership⁷ and the European Youth Forum.⁸

There are also a few existing national networks around certain themes, such as the Réseau Marocain de la Jeunesse et de Concertation (REMAJEC) in Morocco, the Bus Citoyen initiative in Tunisia, the Young Arab Analyst Network (ALN) in Algeria, the Egyptian Youth Coordination Network in Egypt, the UNDP/ILO-supported Sharek Youth Forum in Palestine, and regional networks such as SIRAJ,⁹ which is a regional leadership network supported by USAID, Nawaat, an Arab Youth Climate movement linked to the UN, and the National Arab Liberals Youth Network (NAL) in a few Arab countries. The networks that exist include only a small number of organisations. The project will build on existing networks and empower them through a broader platform that will include all national projects: significant synergies can be offered by SALTO¹⁰ (Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), Youth in Action¹¹, Anna Lindh Foundation networks and previous EU regional programmes, together with existing multipliers from the Euro-Med Youth IV regional programme.

In addition, NET-MED Youth will complement a global initiative under the thematic programme *Investing in People* currently under preparation whose aim is to contribute to inclusive growth by helping partner countries to better respond to the aspirations of young people and strengthen their involvement in national development processes, through a better understanding of the determinants of youth inclusion and greater capacity to design effective evidence-based national policies promoting youth inclusion. This global programme should cover up to three countries in the ENP South region, and although the overall objective is similar to the NET-MED Youth programme it will focus on **building the capacity of**

⁷ <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int>.

⁸ <http://www.youthforum.org>.

⁹ SIRAJ is a regional leadership network developed by Save the Children that brings together 500 youth and youth development workers:

<http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6153137/#siraj>.

¹⁰ <https://www.salto-youth.net/>.

¹¹ <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth>.

governments and relevant stakeholders responsible for youth issues and could thus complement NET-MED Youth.

2.5. Donor coordination

In line with the European Consensus on Development, the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, this action will contribute to more effective donor coordination, at both global and country level, and interaction with partner countries. Consultation with EU Member States, international organisations and other relevant donors present in ENP South countries already took place during the identification stage.

It is intended to establish close cooperation with other donors within the framework of the programme, in order to avoid overlapping activities but mainly to join forces to enhance the role of youth in the democratic transition towards active citizenship, political participation and social inclusion. At the regional level, the programme will take into account and coordinate with on-going and future EU programmes, including Euromed Civil Society, the Civil Society Facility, the Anna Lindh Foundation, Euro-Med Youth IV, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, and Youth in Action (*to be merged into Erasmus+ programme as from 2014*). It will also coordinate with regional programmes of international organisations, NGOs, universities and other relevant stakeholders dealing with youth issues.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of NET-MED Youth is to improve the access and effective participation of young people in mainstreaming their priorities in legislation and national planning in ENP South countries.

The specific objective of the programme is to build the capacities of youth organisations in ENP South countries and enhance networking among them in order to reduce the fragmentation of efforts and harness the collective potential of young people in achieving democratic transition towards active citizenship, political participation and social inclusion.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The NET-MED Youth regional programme aims to achieve the following results:

- Inclusive, transparent, gender-friendly and proactive youth organisations are supported in each of the ENP South countries and at regional level for the systematic and structured mobilisation of youth around common themes and challenges.
- Capacities are built in order to empower young men and women in revising their national legislation and advocating the development of national youth strategies, and to lobby for the sound implementation of these strategies when they exist.
- Fair and objective coverage of gender-sensitive youth news and achievements is ensured in mainstream media (TV, radio, print media) together with the positioning of youth vis-à-vis national policies and programmes across various

sectors (education, employment, access to rights, the environment, the fight against corruption, political inclusiveness, etc.).

- A watchdog role is played with a view to improving the design, implementation and evaluation mechanisms (effectiveness, efficiency and equity) of projects and programmes that are supposedly addressing youth needs, and more specifically those geared towards employment and promotion of youth entrepreneurship.

In order to achieve these expected results, the following indicative list of activities and sub-activities could be envisaged. In any event, detailed action plans based on the context and needs of each Southern Mediterranean country will be prepared and adopted in close and regular consultation with the EU Delegations and other relevant national stakeholders. Furthermore, capacity-building activities will be tailored to reflect the needs at each national level.

Activity 1: Preparing a comprehensive regional directory on youth organisations in ENP South countries

A comprehensive national mapping study will be carried out of all youth organisations working across the ENP South countries targeted by the programme. This should in particular include organisations focusing on activities with young women. The programme will use the results of already existing or on-going mapping exercises such as the initiatives of the World Bank, Council of Europe, Europe Youth Partnership, the European Youth Forum and others.

These national maps will provide the basis for selecting the members of the national networks.

Activity 2: Building the capacities of existing groups of independent youth organisations in each ENP South country targeted by the programme and making them more inclusive to new and grass-root youth organisations.

As mentioned in section 4.3, the implementing Agency will be UNESCO. Participants will be selected by the implementing agency, taking into account the views and opinions of the EU Delegations, Member States and other relevant stakeholders working with youth organisations, especially those working at local community level. A mix of 'old' traditional youth organisations and 'new' ones and of large and grass-roots entities will be sought. Members of other networks established under EU-funded programmes will also be taken into account to maximise possible synergies among various programmes. Attention should be given to the ALF's activities under the 'Young Arab Voices' and 'Citizens for Dialogue' programmes, as well as under its activities dealing with youth and the media.

Working groups should also showcase the diversity and dynamism of youth organisations across all sectors of interest (active citizenship, political participation, human rights, the environment, the arts, culture, education, gender mainstreaming, reproductive and behavioural health, ICTs, handicapped people, organisations in rural areas, etc.) and try to ensure equivalent representation of both genders.

Capacity building activities will address each of the main topics identified as priorities for young people in the region. In this sense, three working groups are envisaged:

- a working group on mainstreaming youth issues in national policies,
- a working group on youth and employment,
- a working group on youth and the media.

Draft terms of reference for the working groups on the media, employment and mainstreaming youth issues in national policies will be prepared by the implementing agency together with the programme participants, in addition to formulating an annual action plan for the working groups. Links and working relations with already existing institutional platforms such as national youth councils will also be clearly defined and developed.

Activity 3: Identifying loopholes discriminating against youth in national policies and implementing a national and a regional agenda for action

Based on national stock-taking reports and existing country profiles analysing policies discriminating against youth, including gender-based discriminations, a set of concrete action areas and entry points will be identified and proposed. An agenda for action will be prepared as a follow-up to the national workshop and should lead to the submission of proposals for a number of substantive amendments to national legislation to make it more youth-friendly.

Regional follow-up meetings between the members of the Policy Mainstreaming Working Group (PMWG) will be held on a regular basis to discuss progress and lessons learned, along with recommended best practices to achieve policy influence.

Sub-regional exchange visits will be also organised on the peer assist model (e.g. between Morocco and Egypt, which are both in the process of drafting new national youth strategies, or between Libya and Lebanon on youth in post-war transition).

Regional training of trainers in strategic planning and advocacy will be organised for the core members of the PMWG. It will feature case studies and success stories from EU countries in dealing with similar situations. The training of trainers will be replicated at national level for all members of the PMWG in order to prepare them for developing the agenda for action. Limited South-South and North-South physical exchanges in addition to more extensive virtual exchanges could also take place between participants. In the case of virtual exchanges, this activity would run as a pilot following already existing schemes in the region where universities are being used as hubs facilitating such types of exchange.

Constant feedback loops will be maintained between this working group and the youth and employment and youth and the media working groups.

Activity 4: Developing a benchmarking and recognition system for national and regional programmes targeting youth employment to incite them to become more transparent and more accountable to young people¹²

Regional training of trainers in lobbying and benchmarking will be organised for the core members of the Youth and Employment Working Group (YEWG). It will

¹² Surveys and work conducted by the ILO and the ETF in several Southern Mediterranean countries, such as Egypt, Syria and Jordan, will be taken into account as baseline data and information.

feature case studies and success stories from EU countries with comparable contexts to ENP South countries. The training of trainers will be replicated at national level for all members of the YEWG in order to prepare them for developing an agenda for action.

In the light of a baseline study on projects targeting youth employment, the YEWG will periodically review the progress made by projects and programmes against a set of pre-defined criteria (equity, outreach, attainment of stated objectives, concrete achievements on the ground, impact on national policy, repeatability, etc.) and issue recommendations and/or warning signs if needed (watchdog role).

The agenda for action could be implemented on a reciprocal basis between country pairs with similar contexts by exposing a group of youth leaders, but also journalists and policy makers, to programmes and experiments tackling youth employment that are taking place in a specific country and across various contexts. Here again, South-South and North-South physical exchanges in addition to more extensive virtual exchanges could also take place between participants. In the case of virtual exchanges, this activity would run as a pilot following already existing schemes in the region where universities are being used as hubs facilitating such types of exchange.

Outcomes will be shared at regional level by examining youth employment in the ENP South in the light of the baseline studies, benchmarking reports and learning routes.

The YEWG will coordinate closely with the PMWG to influence/improve legislation relating to youth employment and with the Youth and Media Working Group (YMWG) to make sure that the right youth employment issues are addressed and featured.

Activity 5: Establishing a monitoring system for youth news coverage in mainstream media (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, etc.) and an active outreach strategy to incite mainstream media to become more supportive of youth issues and to regularly showcase youth-related news that are otherwise confined to social media

Regional training of trainers in media monitoring strategies will be organised for the core members of the Youth and Media Working Group (YMWG) together with young journalists from different ENPI countries, during which a simple regional monitoring model for youth news coverage will be developed. The training of trainers will be replicated at national level for all members of the YMWG in order to prepare them for developing an agenda for action. As in the case of the other two working groups, South-South and North-South physical exchanges in addition to more extensive virtual exchanges could also take place between participants. In the case of virtual exchanges, this activity would run as a pilot following already existing schemes in the region where universities are being used as hubs facilitating such types of exchange.

The YMWG members will implement the said agenda in their respective countries to track the frequency and nature of coverage of youth news in mainstream media (which could very well take place in collaboration with the youth chapters of the

national journalists' associations). It will also develop and maintain a database of journalists and anchors who have proven to be youth-friendly.

Based on a survey of young people's perceptions of national and regional media, an outreach strategy will be developed in close coordination with the policy mainstreaming and youth employment working groups in order to influence/improve legislation and to feature youth concerns regarding the right to employment and make sure that the right youth employment issues are addressed and featured.

Activity 6: Strengthening South-South and North-South interaction and exchange between independent youth organisations

On top of the regional and sub-regional training and exchange events organised within the three thematic working groups, meetings of the programme participants will be held on a regular basis. During these meetings the overall status of the programme will be reviewed and achievements, bottlenecks and lessons learned will be shared. The said meetings could take place under the framework of ALF networks, in order to maximise the synergies with ALF with respect to the various activities targeting youth in the region.

Constant exchange will be ensured through the programme's website and other social media networks. A Euro-Med Youth Summit will serve as the programme's final closing event and should bring together national delegations of 'champions' who will have emerged by the end of the programme.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Assumptions

- The political and security situation in all countries will allow the smooth implementation of the programme.
- The partners involved (the UN and community-based organisations and civil society organisations working on youth issues) are committed to participate in all activities throughout the duration of the programme.
- National youth organisations are interested in networking together and joining forces in order to better advocate their causes.
- Larger youth organisations do not overwhelm smaller rural youth organisations and disempower them.
- Advocacy efforts lead to changes in laws and improved access to resources for young people.
- Youth organisations linked to political parties do not attempt to hijack the project.

Risks

- Political instability or a deteriorating security situation in one or more countries may disrupt the implementation of one or more components of the project.

- Changes to the law on freedom of association or other regulations may undermine effective participation of civil society organisations in the programme.
- Disagreements may arise among participating youth organisations.
- Specific political developments in Israel which are perceived as anti-Palestinian or anti-Arab may lead to the withdrawal of one or more partners during regional meetings.
- Partners may receive threats by fundamentalist organisations which could lead to their withdrawal.
- As there are already several EU-funded programmes working in this field an overlap of activities could incur.

Mitigating measures

- Euro-Med Youth IV regional programme multipliers and the UN can play an instrumental part in the success of this project and in providing guidance to ensure its smooth implementation and negotiate solutions to possible tensions.
- The involvement of the UN will be important to keep the project immune from political cleavages and possible ‘hijacking’ by predominantly political youth organisations.
- Governments are encouraged to view this project as an essential and much-needed milestone to break the cycle of youth marginalisation. The project is based on transparent communication and continuous consultation and involvement of partners and thereby fosters an atmosphere of cooperation and ownership.
- Other donors supporting youth networks will be invited to cooperate in this project. Efforts will be made to strengthen and extend coordination and collaboration among donors supporting youth projects.
- Verification missions will be regularly planned to avoid the overlapping of activities with other EU-funded programmes in the same field.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

NET-MED Youth will be implemented with due regard for democracy, human rights, gender equality and good governance.

Democracy. Democratic principles and democratic decision-making will be followed through thorough assessment of the needs and priorities of various youth groups and organisations across the ten ENP South countries, together with focus groups and individual interviews in seven out of the 10 target countries. Monitoring and evaluation should also ensure that democratic processes have been followed throughout the implementation of this programme.

Human rights. The implementation of this programme will ensure that human rights are duly taken into consideration in the design of activities.

Gender. NET-MED Youth will prioritise gender equality, equal opportunities and the participation of young women in all its activities. Young women will be encouraged to participate in the networks and act on the potentially different needs and aspirations of young men and women. Particular efforts will be made to include the needs of young females in rural areas, since they remain the most marginalised.

Likewise, increased exposure to EU policies and practices will enhance awareness of more open, participatory and accountable standards and, as such, **good governance**.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders of NET-MED Youth will be independent youth organisations across ENP South countries. The programme will put particular emphasis on including and reaching out to rural and less resourceful youth organisations and groups, together with others currently active at national level. The novelty of the programme but at the same time one of its major challenges is to be as inclusive as possible, so that organisations working on all issues of relevance to youth (active citizenship, civic rights, humanitarian assistance, behavioural and reproductive health, education, socio-cultural activities, culture and the arts, handicapped people, rural youth, gender mainstreaming, etc.) can find their place within the programme.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not intended to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, as referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation or in Article 17 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period for this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out, is 36 months, subject to changes to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Joint management with an international organisation

The action will be implemented through joint management with UNESCO. This implementation method is justified because the organisation has extensive experience in working with youth at both national and regional levels. Its longstanding commitment to youth has been given fresh impetus with the recognition of youth as a priority group for its action and the Strategy for Action with and for Youth which it adopted in 1999. UNESCO's global comparative advantage is one that leverages the multidisciplinary functions and expertise of its different units, beyond specific projects. UNESCO aims to focus on promoting holistic youth development and participation in public, political and community life, through education, the natural, social and human sciences, culture and communication and information. Joint management with this international organisation in accordance with Article 53d of Financial Regulation 1605/2002 is possible because the organisation is bound by a

long-term framework agreement (the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement — FAFA — concluded between the European Union and the United Nations).

UNESCO will be responsible for the proper implementation of the planned activities, their follow-up and monitoring. It must ensure close co-ordination and liaison with EU Delegations and European Commission services with a view to ensuring synergies between the different actions in favour of young people in the Southern Mediterranean countries. In particular, the programme's activities, progress and results will be shared widely within the European Commission and outside. Follow-up meetings will be organised on regular basis to ensure UNESCO keeps the European Commission well informed and up to date on the state of play of the programme.

Any change in the method of implementation would constitute a substantial change except where the Commission 're-centralises' or reduces the level of budget implementation tasks previously entrusted to UNESCO.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement under direct centralised and decentralised management

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility conditions in terms of the place of establishment for participating in procurement procedures and in terms of the origin of supplies and materials purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

In accordance with Article 27(1) of the ENPI, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of EU assistance and with regard to the regional nature of this action, the Commission has decided that natural and legal persons from Mauritania shall be eligible to participate in procurement procedures. The purchase and use of supplies and materials originating in that country shall be eligible.

4.5. Indicative budget

Results	Amount in EUR	Third party contribution
Joint management with UNESCO	8 000 000	800 000

4.6. Performance monitoring

Monitoring of the activities will be ensured through the usual results-oriented monitoring (ROM) method used for grants and projects. Objectively verifiable indicators exist (e.g. the number of consultations undertaken by governments with non-state actors, whether national legislation on associations meets international standards, etc.). Baselines also exist, with special regard to the issue of freedom of association, which has been examined and monitored for several years by regional programmes in the Southern Mediterranean region.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

A mid-term and final evaluation of programme implementation will be carried out.

Expenditure incurred will have to be certified, as part of the obligations of the contracted parties in the context of implementation of the programme. Mid-term and

final evaluations of the results achieved will be entrusted to independent consultants, and external audits will be carried out if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from sources other than the programme budget, since no commitment will be possible once the validity of this Decision has expired (the N+1 rule will apply).

4.8. Communication and visibility

The EU visibility guidelines will be followed in all projects. Visibility and communication activities in the partner countries will be carried out with the support of and in close and regular coordination with the EU Delegations, in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Action.

A specific and detailed visibility and communication plan will be developed for the action with the objective of raising awareness and informing different stakeholders about the activities carried out. This should include:

- the organisation of annual conferences with the participation of relevant stakeholders;
- the organisation of thematic events (workshops, public debates, etc.) in relation to the objectives pursued by the project, at local, national and regional level;
- the creation of a website for the dissemination of studies, presentations and research results;
- the production of information material to support the above activities (brochures, newsletters, information panels, videos, press releases, etc.).

ANNEX 2

of the Commission Decision on the ENP Regional South Annual Action Programme 2013 —
Part II

Action Fiche for EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2014

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2014 CRIS number: ENPI/2013/24886		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 8.42 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 4.21 million This action is co-financed by UfM member countries for an amount of EUR 4.21 million.		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Direct centralised management Grant — direct award		
DAC-code	15110	Sector	Public sector policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The purpose of this action is to support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean ('the Secretariat') in 2014 through an operating grant covering 50% of the cost of the organisation. The remainder of the resources necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat will be covered by the member countries of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) through financial contributions and the secondment of staff. This operating grant by the EU together with the contributions from the member countries of the UfM will permit the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate in 2014.

2.2. Context

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) was launched in July 2008 at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean. It builds on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), which was established at the Barcelona Conference in 1995 as the reference framework for political, economic and social relations between the European Union and the Southern Mediterranean Countries, also known as the Barcelona Process.

The UfM shares and builds upon the goals of the Barcelona Declaration, namely to establish an area of peace, stability, security and shared economic prosperity, to uphold democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote understanding between cultures and civilisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM is a unique forum for dialogue among 43¹ Euromed partners that complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) was established by a decision of Heads of State and Government of the UfM and its Statutes were adopted on the 3 March 2010 by virtue of a decision by the Senior Officials of the member countries of the UfM.

The mandate of the Secretariat focuses on identifying, promoting and coordinating projects which enhance and strengthen regional cooperation and impact directly on the livelihoods of the citizens in order to improve socio-economic development, regional integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the countries of the UfM. As per the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean of 13 July 2008, the Secretariat is mandated to detail a number of key initiatives in the following areas: De-pollution of the Mediterranean, Maritime and Land Highways, Civil Protection, Alternative Energies: Mediterranean Solar Plan, Higher Education and Research, Euro-Mediterranean University; the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative.

As highlighted in the two Joint Communications “A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean”² and “A new response to a changing Neighbourhood”,³ the High Representative and the Commission are ready to play a bigger role in the UfM in line with the Lisbon Treaty.

Revitalising the UfM requires a switch to a more pragmatic and project-based approach. The UfM Secretariat must operate as a catalyst to bring states, the EIB, National, Regional and International Financial Institutions and the private sector together around concrete economic projects of strategic importance and generating jobs, innovation and growth throughout the region. Partner countries’ participation in these projects could follow the principle of variable geometry depending on their needs and interests.

In light of the above, the EU is providing support to the UfM Secretariat in the form of an operating grant since 2010 in co-funding with the member countries of the UfM. The UfM Northern Co-Presidency has also been transferred to the EU in March 2012, allowing for more dynamic and coordinated political exchanges and better articulation of UfM activities with EU sector policies and programmes.

¹ Austria, Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, The Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, The United Kingdom and Libya as an observer. The participation of Syria is currently suspended.

² COM(2011) 200 of 8 March 2011.

³ COM(2011) 303 of 25 May 2011.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The overall coordination and interaction between EU staff and the UfMS has dramatically increased since 2011 with regular exchanges and meetings on transport, energy, environment and private sector development urban development and civil protection. The Secretariat's efforts to streamline and rationalise its internal procedures are also bearing fruit.

2.4. Complementary actions

The regular exchange of information between the UfM Secretariat, Commission services and EEAS staff and other donors and international financing institutions permits the Secretariat to fully account for all on-going actions in the design of projects to be given the UfM endorsement (so called labelling).

2.5. Donor coordination

The Heads of State and Government of the UfM countries have established a co-presidency to improve the balance and joint ownership of their cooperation. Senior officials convene regularly in order to prepare the ministerial meetings, including projects to be endorsed, take stock of and evaluate the progress of all components of the Union for the Mediterranean and submit the annual work plan and budget. The UfM member countries co-finance it by making financial contributions and seconding officials to the Secretariat.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of the action is to support the UfM Secretariat in executing its mandate through an operating grant with co-funding from the member countries of the UfM.

It will help the Secretariat to perform the following tasks:

- a. To work with all structures of the process, particularly with the co-presidencies, e.g. drafting working documents for the senior officials and through them for the other decision making bodies.
- b. To give an impulse to this process in terms of follow-up, promotion of new projects and the search for funding and for implementation partners;
- c. To be the focal point for multi-source funding of UfM projects.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The action will make an essential contribution to the attainment of the following results.

Result 1: Projects and initiatives in the six priority areas (Transport and Urban Development, Energy, Environment including Climate Change and Water, Higher Education and Research, Social and Civil Affairs, Business Development) are given the UfM label or endorsed.

The activities focus on the steps to be taken by the Secretariat to develop and appraise project proposals with the objective of submitting new proposals to UfM countries and then to get the projects started.

Result 2: Relations with international and bilateral financial institutions and the private sector are strengthened.

While consolidating the current strategic partnerships achieved with institutions such as European Commission, European Investment Bank, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Norwegian Aid and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, the UfM aims to scale up ongoing collaboration with key institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank. It will also reach out to potential new partners and network with other bilateral institutions such as the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, the Agence Française de Développement, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency and others in the Gulf region. A coordination meeting with IFIs and bilateral institutions will be held on an annual basis. Building strong private - public partnerships will catalyse conditions for solid development of the Mediterranean area.

Result 3: The internal functioning of the Secretariat is improved.

Activities will focus on the continuous upgrade of the manual of internal procedures and workflows, and on procedures for processing proposals and projects submitted for 'labelling'. The manual will include all the policies and regulations needed for the smooth running of the organisation, and the workflows and internal control mechanisms to be introduced to increase efficiency and transparency in line with Commission rules. The projects submitted should take account of EU policies and priorities, particularly the European Neighbourhood Policy and the external dimension of EU policies on topics such as the environment, energy, transport, civil protection, small and medium-sized enterprises, higher education, research and food safety.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risks and possible constraints derive from the fact that the global budget of the UfM Secretariat relies upon contributions from the European Union (around 50%) and the 43 UfM member countries. Any delay in the delivery of UfM government's contributions or in the fulfilment of the corresponding commitments might lead to a disruption of the implementation of the approved work plan of the Secretariat.

The UfM Secretariat will revise and adapt its work plan for 2014 should a substantial budget reduction arise.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The 2008 Paris Summit declared that the UfM could play an important role in addressing common challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as regional security, economic and social development; food security crisis; degradation of the environment, including climate change and desertification, in relation to promoting sustainable development; energy; migration; the fight against terrorism and extremism; and promoting dialogue between cultures.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders are the 43 UfM member countries and the co-Presidencies.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

No financing agreement with any partner country, as referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation, is foreseen.

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 12 months, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Grant: direct award (direct centralised management)

- (a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grant is to support the Secretariat of the UfM in executing its mandate through a financial contribution to the functioning of the organisation.

The field of intervention, priorities and expected results are those mentioned under section 3.2.

- (b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because UfM constitutes a unique forum of dialogue among the 43 Euromed partner countries, complementing the relations between the EU and each of its Southern neighbours. The Secretariat plays a key role within the institutional architecture of the UfM to contribute to achieving the political goals of the UfM initiative as agreed during the Paris Summit of 2008.

- (c) Eligibility conditions

N/A.

- (d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the Secretariat.

The essential award criteria are the relevance of the proposed work programme to the Secretariat's mandate, and the design effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the work programme.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum rate of co-financing for this grant is 50%.

This may be raised to 100% under Article 192 of the Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. In the award decision, the responsible authorising officer must give reasons why full funding is essential, in accordance with the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Quarter in which the potential direct grant beneficiary will be contacted (indicative)

Fourth quarter of 2013.

(g) Exception to the 'no retroactive costs' rule

N/A

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement in direct centralised and decentralised management

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility conditions 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 21(7) of the basic act on the basis of the unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, for reasons of extreme urgency, or if the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR	Third party contribution in EUR
Direct grant to UfM Secretariat (direct centralised)	4,210,000	4,210,000

4.6. Performance monitoring

The European Union may conduct monitoring missions, using external expertise according to needs. The Secretariat and the European Union shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and jointly decide on the follow-up action to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, the reorientation of the action.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Financial execution and statement will be subject to annual external audits, to be undertaken by independent auditors directly contracted by the Secretariat.

4.8. Communication and visibility

The Secretariat will, in all documentation and communication detailing its functioning and activities — in writing and when participating in public events — make appropriate mention of the EU logo and EU support, fully in line with the Visibility Manual for EU External actions.⁴

⁴

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index_en.htm.