



Brussels, 6.12.2018
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 6.12.2018

on the annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2018

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1046/2018 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹ ('the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1)] thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of Education for Employment in Azerbaijan, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2018. Article 110 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework for EU support to Azerbaijan for the period 2018-2020, which sets out the following priorities: Mobility and people-to-people contacts to make lifelong learning opportunities better responsive and adapted to labour market trends and skills needs, and to enhance the mobility of citizens in a secure and well-managed environment.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument are to i) enhance education and training sector, relevant to the needs of the labour market; ii) align competency-based education

¹ Regulation (EU) 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 and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 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 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L 193.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

standards with occupational standards of strategic economic sectors; and iii) develop, pilot and implement curricula and teaching/training materials.

- (5) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (6) Entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management shall ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union as referred to in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046.
- (7) To this end, such entities and persons have been subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and appropriate supervisory measures are in place in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046.
- (9) The action provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The Annual Action Programme 2018 in favour of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:

- (a) Annex: Education for Employment in Azerbaijan

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018 is set at EUR 13,500,000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 22 04 02 02: EUR 13,500,000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.4.4 of the Annex.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁴ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

⁴ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.

Done at Brussels, 6.12.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission