



Brussels, 5.8.2013
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.8.2013

**on the Annual Action Programme 2013 in favour of the Republic of Moldova 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 Instrument (ENPI)¹, 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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the ENPI Strategy Paper 2007-2013³ for the Republic of Moldova and the Multiannual National Indicative Programme for the period 2011-2013⁴, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities: good governance, rule of law and fundamental freedoms; social and human development; trade and sustainable development.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme are: 1) to modernize and streamline the Vocational Education and Training in order to increase the competitiveness of the national economy; 2) to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and to promote confidence building in the Republic of Moldova; 3) to support the Republic of Moldova in preparation, negotiation, conclusion and implementation of its new contractual relations with the EU; 4) to contribute to the improvement of the mobility of Moldovan nationals.
- (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 Union (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 this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a contribution agreement. The responsible authorising officer has ensured that these entities comply with the conditions of Article 53d of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the

¹ OJEU L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2007)672

⁴ C(2010)1144

Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁵ (hereinafter referred to as 'the Financial Regulation 1605/2002') and of Articles 35 and 43 of its Implementing Rules⁶.

- (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) This decision should allow for the award of grants in the form of lump sums and/or unit costs and/or flat-rate financing for the reasons and amounts set out in the Annex 3 on the basis of Article 124 of the Financial Regulation and Article 182 of the Rules of Application.
- (7) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of the Rules of Application.
- (8) 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').
- (9) 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 in favour of the Republic of Moldova, constituted by the actions identified in the second paragraph, is approved.

The actions, the description of which is set out in the attached Annexes 1 to 4, respectively, shall be:

- Support to the implementation of the Vocational Education Training Strategy;
- Confidence Building Measures;
- Framework Programme in support of EU – Republic of Moldova agreements;
- Support to Implementation of Visa Liberalisation Action Plan.

Article 2

Financial contribution

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.

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 100 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Union for 2013.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The budget-implementation tasks under joint management shall be 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 Commission authorises the use of lump sums and/or unit costs and/or flat-rate financing exceeding EUR 60.000 per beneficiary, in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex 3.

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

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in Article 2 shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 5.8.2013

For the Commission
Cecilia MALMSTRÖM
Member of the Commission

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Support to the implementation of the Vocational Education Training Strategy;

Annex 2: Confidence Building Measures;

Annex 3: Framework Programme in support of EU – Republic of Moldova agreements;

Annex 4: Support to Implementation of Visa Liberalisation Action Plan.