

ANNEX 8

Action Fiche for the 2009 Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Regional Action Programme - Global Allocation

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation for 2009-2010		
Total cost	EUR 18 000 000		
Aid method/ Management mode	Project approach – centralised		
DAC code	43010	Sector	Multi-sector

2. RATIONALE

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation for 2009-2010 is a flexible “facility” giving the EC the possibility to decide to finance small-scale measures in keeping with the objectives of the Southern dimension of the ENPI programme and with its operational and policy priorities.

Based on the ENPI Regulation, in particular Article 16 on “Support measures”, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation for 2009-2010 provides funding directly necessary to implement the ENPI Regulation and achieve its objectives, e.g. for support activities and studies relating to the country or multi-country programmes, organisation of ENPI South meetings, activities in the fields of culture and information or *ad hoc* operations.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of this Global Allocation is to ensure a rapid commitment decision on action and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument capable of adapting to evolving circumstances, such as dealing with unforeseen situations.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The Global Allocation will be used as a framework for financing activities in the following fields:

(1) Support for project cycle management

This component includes activities linked to:

- identification and formulation of bilateral and regional projects which could result in funding from ENPI South (e.g. sectoral studies, country or region studies, studies on cross-cutting issues or in specialised areas, preparatory activities, etc.);
- small projects and other small-scale activities to back up major projects during implementation (programmes carried out under the country or multi-country programmes);
- audit and evaluation/impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be provided due to the n+1 rule or is no longer available.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 5 200 000** to be allocated by means of framework contracts. In the very few cases where the existing framework contracts could not be used (e.g. budget over the EUR 200 000 threshold, experts unavailable for various lots, etc.), other procedures laid down in the Financial Regulation will be followed.

(2) Cultural and information activities

This component covers activities of the EC Delegations in the Mediterranean countries and territories in the following areas:

- culture: support for local or regional cultural activities in the audiovisual and multimedia sectors and in the fields of the arts, cultural festivals (cinema, dance, theatre, etc.), dialogue between cultures, etc.;
- information: publications and other information and awareness-raising activities about the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and partnership, designed and implemented in coherence with and to complement the regional information and communication programme, in order to raise the profile of EC activities in each Mediterranean country.

This component will have an indicative budget of **EUR 3 000 000**, to be shared between the EC Delegations, based on their annual programme of activities. These activities will be implemented by means of grant and service contracts. All grant contracts will be awarded following calls for proposals launched locally by the EC Delegations. The procedures applied to service contracts will be in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

(3) Organisation of meetings

This component covers the different kinds of meetings organised by the EC in the framework of the ENPI South partnership, including ministerial conferences conducted in cooperation with the EU Presidency, thematic working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 4 300 000**. The technical preparations for and logistical organisation of the meetings will come under framework contracts or other procedures laid down in the Financial Regulation.

(4) *Ad hoc operations*

This component will be used to finance operations in special cases, which fall outside the standard country or multi-country programmes.

One third of the total amount under this Global Allocation will have to be used to finance three major structures which will be set up after the Union for the Mediterranean has come into operation. These are the:

Secretariat for the Union for the Mediterranean

The Secretariat will play a key role in the institutional architecture of the Union for the Mediterranean, mainly by taking charge of identifying measures to follow up and promote new projects, but also by seeking funding and partners to implement projects.

This co-financing will have to follow the provisions of the Financial Regulation strictly. The other sources of funding will have to come from the Euro-Mediterranean partners.

The project will be managed via an operating grant and will be implemented under direct centralised management.

Euro-Mediterranean University of Slovenia

The Euro-Mediterranean University of Slovenia marks a step towards building educational and cultural bridges between the North and the South of the Mediterranean and is designed to encourage cooperation in the field of higher education and promote academic mobility between the two sides of the Mediterranean.

The funding will not cover running costs and will be clearly earmarked for the benefit of citizens from non-EU countries. Care will also be taken to ensure that it does not duplicate funding under other EC programmes.

The project will be managed via a grant for action and will be implemented under direct centralised management.

Support for Arab League liaison office in Malta

This liaison office is designed to enhance cooperation between the Euro-Mediterranean partners and the Arab League in activities and to help them further develop their relations. Among the areas of cooperation where both parties are or will become active in the future we can quote electoral observation and crisis response and early warning. The activities which will be funded under this project will notably concentrate on training seminars for Arab League's executives, joint activities in the priority sectors within the EU/Arab League cooperation and information and communication campaigns.

The project will be implemented under direct centralised management.

The indicative budget for the whole component is **EUR 5 500 000** to be divided between service contracts and grant contracts.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

Centralised management.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

The essential selection criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. The maximum rate of co-financing for grants is 80%. Full financing is possible only in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation where financing in full is essential in order to carry out the action in question.

4.3. Budget and calendar

Contracts can be financed under this part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation as soon as the Commission decision is adopted and until 31 December 2010 in accordance with the “n+1” rule, provided the funds available under the previous Euro-Mediterranean Partnership Global Allocation have been fully utilised.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

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 conducted by external experts entrusted by the EC, along with external audits on the initiative of the Commission, if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources because the “n+1” rule applies after the contracting-out period for this Decision.