

ACTION FICHE FOR THE 2008 EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP REGIONAL ACTION PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Euro-Mediterranean partnership Global Allocation for 2008-2009		
Total cost	EUR 8,900,000		
Aid method / Management mode	Project approach – centralised		
DAC-code		Sector	

2. RATIONALE

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership Global Allocation for 2008-2009 is a flexible mechanism, a "facility" giving the EC the possibility to decide on the financing of small-scale actions that are in keeping with the objectives of the Southern dimension of the ENPI programme as well as its operational and policy priorities.

Based on the ENPI Regulation, and in particular Article 16 "Support measures" thereof, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership Global Allocation for 2008-2009 provides funding directly necessary for the implementation of the ENPI Regulation and for the achievement of its objectives, e.g. support activities and studies to the country or multi-country programmes, the organisation of the ENPI-South meetings, activities in the fields of culture and information as well as ad hoc operations.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of this Global Allocation is to ensure rapidity of the commitment decision on actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility through the use 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 to the project cycle management:

This component includes activities linked to:

- identification and formulation of bilateral and regional projects which may result in funding from ENPI-South (e.g. sector 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 their 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 foreseen due to the N+1 rule, or is no longer available.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 2,600,000**, to be contracted by means of framework contracts. In the very few cases where the existing framework contracts would be impossible (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 to local or regional cultural activities in the fields of audiovisual and multimedia, arts, cultural festivals (cinema, dance, theatre), dialogue between cultures, etc.
- information: publications and other information and awareness-raising activities about the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation and partnership, designed and implemented in coherence and complementarity with the regional Information and Communication programme, in order to enhance the visibility of EC activities in each Mediterranean country

This component will have an indicative budget of **EUR 2,300,000**, to be split among 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 required procedures for service contracts will be applied in accordance with the Financial Regulation. This component will cover delegations' activities in 2009 since their activities on 2008 are already covered by the former Euro-Mediterranean partnership Global Allocation.

(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 co-operation with the EU Presidency, thematic working groups, civil fora, sector preparation meetings, etc.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 3,500,000**. The technical preparation of the meetings as well as their logistical organisation will be done through framework contracts.

(4) Ad hoc operations:

This component will be used to finance operations for specific cases, which fall outside the scope of the standard country or multi-country programmes.

The indicative budget for this component is **EUR 500,000** to be split between service contracts, grant contracts and/or contracts with international organisations according to the needs of each activity.

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

4.3. Budget and calendar

Contracts can be financed under this Euro-Mediterranean partnership Global allocation as soon as the Commission decision is adopted, until 31 December 2009 in accordance with the "N+1" rule, and provided that the funds available under the former Euro-Mediterranean partnership Global allocation have been fully utilised.

It should however be mentioned that the level of funds to be committed under this Allocation may not be sufficient for all activities to be undertaken under the four components. A reinforcement of this Global Allocation may be necessary during the course of 2008 or 2009.

4.5 Evaluation and audit

Certifications 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 entrusted by the EC as well as external audits at the initiative of the Commission, if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from other sources because of the "N+1" rule applying to the contracting-out period of this decision.