



Brussels, 3.6.2022  
C(2022) 3739 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 3.6.2022**

**on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – North Macedonia  
for 2021-2027**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – North Macedonia for 2021-2027

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 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, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)<sup>2</sup> and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – North Macedonia for 2021-2027, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021-2027. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The action provided for in this Decision contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal<sup>4</sup> and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted an IPA III Programming Framework<sup>5</sup> for the period 2021 – 2027, which identifies five thematic windows for the delivery of the specific objectives and thematic priorities of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1529.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan are to contribute to social, economic and territorial development of Serbia-North Macedonia border area by improving social and cultural inclusion and health and by developing sustainable tourism.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2019) 640 final

<sup>5</sup> Commission Decision C(2021)8914 of 10.12.2021 on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) Programming Framework for the period 2021-2027

- (6) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (8) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (9) To this end, the Commission, should be able to entrust the implementation to the IPA III beneficiary or the bodies designated by it subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement in accordance with Article 158 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (11) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (12) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA III Committee set up by Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1529.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the cross-border cooperation programme Serbia – North Macedonia for 2021-2027, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following action:

- (a) Annex I: IPA III – Window 5 Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2021-2027  
Serbia – North Macedonia

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 8 400 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 15.02.03: EUR 8 400 000;
  - For year 2021 EUR 360 000
  - For year 2022 EUR 3 240 000
  - For year 2024 EUR 2 520 000
  - For year 2026 EUR 2 160 000
  - For year 2027 EUR 120 000

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2024, 2026 and 2027 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

*Article 3*  
*Methods of implementation*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to Serbia.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases<sup>6</sup> or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated reassignments of funds between actions contained in an action plan not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation and execution period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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.

*Article 5*  
*Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex I. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex I.

Done at Brussels, 3.6.2022

*For the Commission*  
*Olivér VÁRHELYI*  
*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>6</sup> These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.