



Brussels, 24.6.2025
C(2025) 4066 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 24.6.2025

**on the financing of the multi-country and civil society facility and media multiannual
action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye for 2025-2027**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹, and in particular Article 110(1) 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 Assistance², and in particular Article 9(1) and Article 5(8) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multi-country and civil society facility and media multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye for 2025-2027, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme for 2025-2027, in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures³ adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate, biodiversity, and gender-equality mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters

¹ OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p.1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>.

³ See 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.

⁴ COM(2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁵.

- (6) The Commission has adopted a Pre-Accession Assistance ('IPA III') Programming Framework⁶ for the period 2021 – 2027, which identifies five thematic windows for the delivery of the specific objectives and thematic priorities of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529.
- (7) The objective pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 is to contribute to the preparation of the IPA III beneficiaries for future membership of the Union and to support their accession process by providing assistance for actions addressing issues of regional nature, or when a regional or facility approach will allow for greater efficiency in all of the five thematic windows in line with the IPA III Programming Framework: (1) Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy; (2) Good governance, EU *acquis* alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication; (3) Green agenda and sustainable connectivity; (4) Competitiveness and inclusive growth; and (5) Territorial and cross-border cooperation.
- (8) The objectives of the action entitled 'Multi-country multiannual action in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye for 2025-2027' are to enhance the application of the rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy in line with the Union standards as well as regional cooperation and reconciliation; improve governance and application of Union *acquis*; increase sustainability of green and digital transition, more inclusive socio-economic development and trade; and improve territorial cooperation.
- (9) The objective of the action entitled 'EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the Western Balkans and Türkiye 2026-2027' is to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU approximation and integration process in the Western Balkans and Türkiye.
- (10) In accordance with Article 5(8) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529, a part of the action (Central European Free Trade Agreement related support covered under the Common Regional Market/part of area of support 4) set out in Annex I – 'Multi-country multiannual action in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye for 2025-2027' is of a regional nature, fostering regional cooperation. Due to the action's nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally to the country identified in the action document, as its participation constitutes an important element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional cooperation.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation and Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (12) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union

⁵ Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2020/1222/oj).

⁶ Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 8914 of 10 December 2021 on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) Programming Framework for the period 2021-2027.

funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation. To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.

- (13) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198, points (c) and (f), of the Financial Regulation.
- (14) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the committee for the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (the 'IPA III committee')⁸.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 *The action plan*

The multiannual financing Decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the multi-country and civil society facility and media multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye for 2025-2027, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Multi-country multiannual action in favour of the Western Balkans and Türkiye for 2025-2027 as set out in Annex I; and,
- (b) EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the Western Balkans and Türkiye 2026-2027 as set out in Annex II.

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2025, 2026 and 2027 is set at EUR 553 900 000 (EUR 126 110 000 in year 2025, EUR 260 590 000 in year 2026 and EUR 167 200 000 in year 2027), and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 15 02 01 01.01: EUR 451 900 000 (EUR 69 610 000 for year 2025, EUR 215 090 000 for year 2026; and EUR 167 200 000 for year 2027);
- (b) budget line 15 02 02 01: EUR 99 000 000 (EUR 53 500 000 for year 2025; and EUR 45 500 000 for year 2026);
- (c) budget line 15 02 03: EUR 3 000 000 (EUR 3 000 000 for year 2025).

⁷ Except for the cases of Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

⁸ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this action plan does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo*, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The appropriations provided for in the first 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 the years 2026 and 2027 following the adoption of those budgets by the budget authority.

Article 3 *Flexibility clause*

Increases⁹ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, considering each financial year separately, 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 for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes 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 4 *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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.3 of Annexes I and II.

Article 5 *Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes to the bodies referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of Annexes I and II.

Done at Brussels, 24.6.2025

For the Commission
Marta KOS
Member of the Commission

⁹These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.