



Brussels, 14.12.2021  
C(2021) 9118 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 14.12.2021**

**on the financing of the 2021 annual work programme for the operational expenditure to finance evaluation and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union to beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and of assistance provided in the neighbourhood region**

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**on the financing of the 2021 annual work programme for the operational expenditure to finance evaluation and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union to beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and of assistance provided in the neighbourhood region**

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 58(1), Article 58(2)(d) and Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 23 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the operational expenditure to finance evaluation and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union in beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region for 2021, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2021. 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) It is necessary to use Article 58(2)(d) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, in addition to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, as the latter would cover the part of the annual work programme for 2021 financed under the operational budget line 14.020112 for monitoring activities in the neighbourhood region, while the former would cover the part financed under the Strategic evaluations and audits prerogative budget line 14.200404 for evaluation of assistance in beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region. The objectives of the annual work

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

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, 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.

programme are to improve the quality and impact of the external assistance provided by the Union, by financing evaluations, monitoring and related quality support measures and systems for the management of external assistance financed from any of the instruments implemented by the Commission. The combination of these two budget lines is justified by the fact that evaluations and monitoring activities are interlinked as they benefit from each other and both can be used to improve planning and implementation.

- (4) The actions entitled ‘evaluation and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union in beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region for 2021’ aim to improve the quality of the interventions financed within the external assistance framework throughout their life cycle, from identification and ex-ante evaluation to monitoring and final evaluation, focusing on their relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, coherence, added value and impact.
- (5) 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.
- (6) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the annual work programme, 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,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The annual work programme*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the operational expenditure to finance evaluation and monitoring activities of external assistance granted by the Union in beneficiaries of pre-accession assistance and the neighbourhood region for 2021, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The work programme shall include the following two actions:

- a) Evaluation and capacity building for beneficiaries of IPA III and neighbourhood region;
- b) Results-Oriented Monitoring for the neighbourhood region.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme for 2021 is set at EUR 6 200 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14.020112 Neighbourhood – Cross border, territorial cooperation and supporting measures: EUR 3 700 000;
- (b) budget line 14.200404 Strategic evaluations and audits: EUR 2 500 000.

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

*Article 3*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases<sup>4</sup> or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the Article 2, first paragraph, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the action.

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.

Done at Brussels, 14.12.2021

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

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<sup>4</sup> These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.