

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

adopting a special measure on supporting Albania in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation to be financed from the general budget of the Union for 2020

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary	Albania
Basic act:	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA-II)
CRIS/ABAC Commitment references	2020/042-596
Budget line	22.02 01 02
Total cost	EUR 15 000 000
Union Contribution	EUR 15 000 000
Method of implementation	Indirect management with an entrusted entity to be selected according to the criteria set in section 2.2
Final date for contracting , including the conclusion of delegation/contribution agreements	At the latest by 31 December 2021
Indicative operational implementation period	6 years following the date of adoption of the financing decision

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIAL MEASURE

2.1 SECTORS SELECTED UNDER THIS SPECIAL MEASURE

On 26 November 2019, an earthquake of magnitude 6.4 hit Albania causing destruction of public and private infrastructure, hitting thousands of households and resulting in 51 fatalities, about 1,000 injured people, and about 14,000 people displaced of which about 60% have been accommodated in tents, 30% in hotels and the rest with families and others.

Albania Earthquake Global Rapid Post Disaster Damage Estimate (GRADE) report was produced under the EU Multi Country Risk Management Programme implemented by World Bank. According to the GRADE report, thousands of buildings have experienced serious damage. In particular, 36 schools were reported as severely damaged, some of them will need to be demolished. 6 schools were reported with moderate damage, and 176 with light damage. As a result of the damage, around 14,000 people in the Durrës region are at least temporarily unemployed. Precise figures on buildings damage are pending final assessments under the ongoing post-disaster needs assessment.

EU emergency response

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism was activated at the request of the Albanian government immediately after the earthquake on 26 November. Three medium Urban search and rescue teams from Italy, Romania and Greece were deployed to Albania the same day. The EU's Copernicus emergency satellite mapping service produced six images delineating the damage to assist the search and rescue operations.

The Commission (DG ECHO) provided EUR 300 000 in humanitarian aid to cover the emergency needs of the affected population. The assistance, provided by the International Federation of the Red Cross, included provision of food packages, non-food items and psychosocial support. While the humanitarian needs persisted in the direct aftermath of the earthquake, notably in terms of winterised shelter, basic needs and protection, they seem to be covered as of end of January thanks to an extensive response of the humanitarian organisations and the Albanian authorities.

An additional request for structural engineers and in-kind assistance saw teams of engineers from Italy, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus and France mobilised to support the national Damage Assessment Coordination Cell composed of 75 international structural engineers together with Albanian counterparts. An EU Civil Protection Team was in Albania from 27 November - 20 December and coordinated the international response from Tirana and Durrës, including the damage assessment process and arrival of incoming assistance. The EU-supported Damage Assessment Coordination Cell assessed 1,850 critical buildings in the 10 affected municipalities.

Beds, blankets, hygiene packs, generators, tents, mattresses, kitchen sets, first aid kits and sleeping bags from Slovakia, Austria, Belgium, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria were delivered. In-kind assistance was delivered also bilaterally by several countries of the region.

EU Post Disaster assistance

A post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) is prepared jointly by the Government of Albania and assistance mobilised by the EU, the United Nations (UN) and the World Bank (WB). The PDNA work builds upon the Global Rapid post-disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) report produced by the World Bank, takes on work done by the EU Civil Protection Teams deployed after the earthquake, and relies on the Albanian government sectoral and coordination teams carrying out the PDNA with the support of the EU-UN-WB expertise.

The PDNA assesses the impact of the earthquake on affected sectors and populations. It studies the socio-economic development of affected districts, as well as on a wider national level. It defines a recovery strategy with short, medium and longer term needs, priority actions and costing, and an intervention framework. The PDNA report serves to inform the donors` response.

A donors` conference is organised by the EU in Brussels on 17 February 2020, based on the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report.

- Rationale for the selection of the specific sectors under this programme:

This special measure shall address immediate needs for priority rehabilitation or reconstruction of public buildings, in particular schools, in order to support the fast recovery of vital public services such as the education of children and youth. Additional funding may be made available depending on the outcome of the PDNA.

List of Actions foreseen:

Action	Direct management	Indirect management	
		With entrusted entity	With IPA II beneficiary
Rehabilitation and reconstruction of public buildings			
1 Post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation	EUR 0	EUR 15 000 000	EUR 0
TOTAL	EUR 0	EUR 15 000 000	EUR 0

2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU* .

SECTOR: Education, employment and social policy	Support for the post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation	EUR 15 000 000
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(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

The **overall objective** of the action is to assist Albania in the reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake, in order to enable swift recovery and delivery of vital public services. The focus of the intervention will be on schools and education facilities and may as well include other public buildings. The data collection initiated by the Government of Albania and supported by the PDNA team will provide the rapid needs assessment and guide priority needs.

Specific objective:

- to provide support for post-earthquake reconstruction to ensure delivery of public services

Expected results:

- Severely affected public buildings are rehabilitated / reconstructed

Key Performance Indicators

- a) number of buildings renovated;
- b) number of buildings reconstructed;
- c) number of students attending rehabilitated/reconstructed schools

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main assumption is that the relevant authorities are responsible for the coordination of the activities. The condition is that the technical documentation is of sufficient quality and produced on time. Construction and reconstruction will only be undertaken on sites for which the necessary permits have been issued.

(3) Implementation modalities

This action will be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission services using the following criteria: (i) mandate of the entrusted entity covering

* 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.

the nature of the action; (ii) operational capacity/technical expertise, logistical & management capacities, including at the local level; (iii) impact, results, leverage effect of cooperation with other entities/donors, also covering effectiveness of the delegation of tasks, included in Albania; (iv) reduced transaction costs (v) transparency and absence of conflict of interest, (vi) and the capacity of the entity for possible co-financing. Experience of the potential entity in particular in the context of the European Union and in the Western Balkans, is an asset.

Brief description of the tasks entrusted to the entity

The entity will be responsible for the implementation of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the damages caused by the earthquake to selected public buildings. This will include design preparation, finalisation of tender documents, award and completion of contracts. It will also be responsible for supervising the implementation on the ground, reporting to the EU Delegation and monitoring the activities.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

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3 BUDGET

3.1 INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE – SPECIAL MEASURE ON SUPPORTING ALBANIA IN POST-EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

		Indirect management		Direct management	Total EU contribution (EUR)	IPA-II beneficiary or other third party contribution (EUR)	Total (EUR)
		with IPA-II beneficiary	with entrusted entity				
		EU contribution (EUR)	EU contribution (EUR)	EU contribution (EUR)			
Objective 2	Sector Education, employment and social policy						
	Action 1 Special measure on post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation		15 000 000		15 000 000		15 000 000

4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

As part of its performance measurement framework, the Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II Regulation on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA II assistance.

The Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from all sources, which will be aggregated and analysed in terms of tracking the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the Indicative Strategy Paper.

The overall progress will be monitored through the following means: a) Result Orientated Monitoring (ROM) system; b) IPA II Beneficiaries' own monitoring; c) self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations; d) joint monitoring by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and the IPA II Beneficiary, whereby the compliance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA II Monitoring committee, supported by Sectoral Monitoring committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level.

5 EVALUATION

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another financing decision.

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants. It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the IPA II beneficiary and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the IPA II beneficiary, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.