



Brussels, 20.11.2014
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.11.2014

**on the Annual Action Programme 2014 for the Pan-African Programme to be financed
from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2017³, which provides for the following priorities:
 1. Peace and Security
 2. Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights
 3. Human Development
 4. Sustainable and inclusive development and growth and continental integration
 5. Global and cross-cutting issues.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁴ with regard to the African continent are to:
 - (i) improve the African Union Commission's (AUC) ability to fulfil its mandate in electoral observation;
 - (ii) support harmonised approaches and standards of public finance systems;
 - (iii) (iv) reinforce research capacities and innovation in Africa as well as cooperation between Africa and the EU in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation;
 - (v) (vi) (vii) support African Union flagship programmes in Higher Education through harmonisation/tuning and quality support, and centres of excellence in Africa;
 - (viii) maximise the development potential of migration and mobility within Africa and between Africa and the EU;
 - (ix) support capacity of African institutions to enhance transparency and sustainability in Africa's extractive industry;
 - (x) provide comparable quality statistical information to cover national, regional and international

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014) 5375 final.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44.

needs; (xi) (xii) support the development of safe, efficient and sustainable continental and inter-regional infrastructure networks and enabling environments; (xiii) ensure more effective cooperation with the African Union for the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and increased synergies with Africa in multilateral processes.

- (3) Action entitled “*African Union Capacity in Election Observation (AUCapEO)*” has the objective to enable the African Union to conduct long term election observation to international standards, making an increased contribution to the conduct of credible elections in Africa. This action may be implemented in direct management through the award of a grant to the AUC and the procurement of services.
- (4) Action entitled “*Pan-African Financial Governance Programme*” has the objective of supporting development and pilot implementation of harmonised approaches and standards of public finance systems by strengthening Networking Organisations in the field of public financial management, taxation and oversight. This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- (5) Action entitled “*African Union Research Grants II (AURG II)*” will provide funding to the AUC to organise calls for proposals for collaborative research projects, to fund the selected projects and to monitor their progress. This action may be implemented in indirect management with the AUC.
- (6) Action entitled “*Africa Connect II*” has the objective to contribute to the reduction of poverty and the digital divide by harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for sustainable development in Africa. Implementation will be done through direct awards.
- (7) Action entitled “*Harmonisation of Higher Education in Africa*” has the objective to contribute and support the harmonisation of higher education programmes and the creation of a revitalised, distinctive, attractive and globally competitive African higher education space, through enhanced intra-African collaboration. The action will be implemented under direct management by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture (DG EAC) through procurement of services.
- (8) Action entitled “*Support to the Pan African Master Consortium for Interpretation and Translation (PAMCIT)*” has the objective to train sufficient numbers of students to work as highly qualified translators, conference interpreters and public service interpreters to meet emerging needs, thus making a significant difference on the African market for Conference Interpreting and Translation services. Implementation will be done partly through indirect management by the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and partly through direct management by the European Commission's Directorate General for Interpretation (SCIC).
- (9) Action entitled “*Support to Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue*” has the objective to improve the governance of migration and mobility within Africa and between Africa and the EU, and enhance the role of African diaspora as development actors. This action may be implemented in indirect management with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).
- (10) Action entitled “*Contribution to the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF)*” has the objective to create greater benefits for African governments, citizens and communities from contract negotiation. This project may be implemented in indirect management with the African Development Bank (AfDB).

- (11) Action entitled “*Pan African Statistics (PAS)*” has the objective to support African integration through better availability and quality of statistical information facilitating decision-making and policy monitoring. Part of the action will be managed directly by Eurostat through procurement of services while another part may be implemented through a grant awarded to the AfDB.
- (12) Action entitled “*EU-Africa Infrastructure Support Mechanism*” has the objective to help improving access to integrated regional and continental infrastructure networks in the fields of water, energy, transport and information and communication technology (ICT). The action will be implemented through direct management (service contract) and parts of the action may be implemented through indirect management with the GIZ and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).
- (13) Action entitled “*Support to Africa Transport Policy Programme Development Plan 3 (SSATP DP 3)*” has the objective to contribute to regional/continental integration, poverty reduction and economic growth by improving the level of continental, regional and national transport policies and strategies. This action may be implemented in indirect management with the World Bank.
- (14) Action entitled “*Joint Africa-EU Strategy Support Mechanism II and Communication Strategy (JAES SM II)*” has the objective to contribute to the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES) by producing concrete results and raising further awareness on the Partnership. The European Commission will directly manage the action through procurement of service contracts.
- (15) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁵.
- (16) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by Annex 4 sections 4.3.1.1 and 4.3.2.1, and Annex 5 section 4.3.1.
- (17) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the responsible authorising officer has ensured that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. The AUC, UNON, ICMPD, AfDB, SIDA and the World Bank are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on the entities’ positive assessment under Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.
- (18) It is appropriate to acknowledge that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer who ensures that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals according to Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

- (19) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (20) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (21) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up under the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2014 for the Pan-African Programme as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Africa Union Capacity in Election Observation (AUCapEO)
- Annex 2: Pan-African Financial Governance Programme
- Annex 3: African Union Research Grants II (AURG II)
- Annex 4: Africa Connect II
- Annex 5: Harmonisation of Higher Education in Africa
- Annex 6: Support to the Pan African Master Consortium for Interpretation and Translation (PAMCIT)
- Annex 7: Support to Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue
- Annex 8: Contribution to the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF)
- Annex 9: Pan African Statistics (PAS)
- Annex 10: EU-Africa Infrastructure Support Mechanism
- Annex 11: Support to Africa Transport Policy Programme Development Plan 3 (SSATP DP 3)
- Annex 12: Joint Africa-EU Strategy Support Mechanism II and Communication Strategy (JAES SM II).

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 107 200 000 and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 97 577 288 from budget line 21 02 11 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014

and for an amount of EUR 9 622 712 from budget line 21 02 09 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015 subject to the approval of the Budget 2015 by the Budget authority.

The financial contribution 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 draft budget for 2015 after the adoption of the budget for that financial year or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annexes, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section “Implementation Issues” of the Annexes referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The reasons for this and, where known at the moment of the adoption of this Decision, the potential beneficiaries shall be set out in the Annexes.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2, 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 within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling referred to in this Article. The responsible authorising officer may adopt the non-substantial changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 20.11.2014

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission