



Brussels, 13.11.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.11.2015

on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Iraq for primary and secondary education 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,

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 2014-17³, point 3.2 of which provides for the following priorities: develop and streamline education policies aimed at enhancing access, equity and quality of primary and secondary education; improve education management, budgeting, expenditure controls and reporting at central, district and school levels.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁴ are to improve Iraq's education system with specific focus on governance structure; and, address the consequences of the current crisis in the primary and secondary education sector in Iraq.
- (3) Action entitled "Capacity Building Programme for Primary and Secondary Education in Iraq" aims to improve the quality and equality of the education system and strengthen the institutional capacities in education administration at central and local level and promote decentralization on education management. The action will be implemented through a direct grant and a service contract.
- (4) Action entitled "Crisis response in the field of primary and secondary education in Iraq" contributes to the implementation of Joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council: "*Elements for an EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da'esh threat*"⁵ and it aims to improve the access to inclusive education for vulnerable school-age children affected by the crisis and adapt the education and learning environments to the situation of these vulnerable children. The action will be implemented through a Call for Proposals.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014)5777

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).

⁵ JOIN(2015)2, 06.02.2015

- (5) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁶.
- (6) 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 the Annex 1: Action Document “Capacity Building Programme for Primary and Secondary Education in Iraq”- Component 1 and Annex 2: Action Document “Crisis response in the field of primary and secondary education in Iraq”.
- (7) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (8) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest dues 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.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up by Article 19 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Iraq, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: “Capacity Building Programme for Primary and Secondary Education in Iraq”;
- Annex 2: “Crisis response in the field of primary and secondary education in Iraq”.

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 35 600 000 and shall be financed from budget line 21.020400 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

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

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

⁶ 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 Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by 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 authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 13.11.2015

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission