

Brussels, 23.7.2024
C(2024) 5422 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.7.2024

amending Implementing Decision C(2022) 4868 approving the cooperation programme “Interreg Europe” for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in all Member States in partnership with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine

CCI 2021TC16RFIR001

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments¹, and in particular Article 19(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 4868, as amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2023) 8860, the cooperation programme “Interreg Europe” for support from the European Regional Development Fund (‘ERDF’) and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (‘NDICI’) under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in all Member States in partnership with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine (‘the participating partner countries’) and Switzerland and Norway (‘the participating third countries’) was approved.
- (2) On 9 April 2024 France submitted on behalf of all Member States, the participating partner countries and third countries, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the cooperation programme. The request was accompanied by a revised cooperation programme, in which France proposed amendments to the cooperation programme approved by Implementing Decision C(2022) 4868.
- (3) The amendment to the cooperation programme consists, mainly, in the allocation of funds from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (‘IPA III’) to the cooperation programme for the years 2025-2027 pursuant to Article 5(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council², following the extension of the geographical coverage of the programme in 2023 to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia as beneficiaries listed in Annex I to this Regulation.

¹ OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 94.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1).

- (4) In accordance with Article 19(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the request of France for the amendment to the cooperation programme is justified by the need to adapt the programme to the recent developments in the Union enlargement policy framework and consequently support the participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia in the programme in order to allow their effective contribution to the Interreg-specific objective of a better cooperation governance. The request for the amendment to the cooperation programme also sets out the expected impact of the amendment on the achievement of the objectives defined in the cooperation programme and is compliant with Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 and Regulations (EU) 2021/1058³ and (EU) 2021/1060⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- (5) In accordance with Article 30(2), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the monitoring committee at its meeting of 15 June 2023 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the cooperation programme, taking into account the text of the revised cooperation programme and its financing plan.
- (6) The Commission assessed the revised cooperation programme and did not make observations pursuant to Article 19(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059. Nevertheless, France submitted a modified version of the revised cooperation programme on 19 June 2024.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, in order to implement an Interreg programme in a third country, partner country or OCT, in accordance with Article 112(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵, a financing agreement should be concluded between the Commission, representing the Union, and each participating third country, partner country or OCT represented in accordance with its national legal framework.
- (8) The amended cooperation programme, which is subject to the Commission's approval under Article 19(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, should therefore be approved.
- (9) Implementing Decision C(2022) 4868 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2022) 4868 is amended as follows:

1. The title of the decision is replaced by the following:

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

⁵ 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 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

“Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 4868 approving the cooperation programme “Interreg Europe” for support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in all Member States in partnership with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine”;

2. Article 1 is replaced by the following:

“Article 1

The cooperation programme “Interreg Europe” for support from the ERDF, IPA III and the NDICI under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in all Member States and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Ukraine for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027, submitted in its final version on 25 April 2022, as last amended by the revised cooperation programme submitted in its final version on 19 June 2024, is hereby approved.”;

3. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

“Article 2

1. The maximum amount of support from the Interreg funds for each year is set out in Annex I.
2. The maximum amount of support for the programme is set at EUR 394 482 670, to be financed from the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2022:
05 02 01 00.05: EUR 379 482 670 (ERDF – ETC);
14 02 01.12: EUR 5 000 000 (NDICI);
15 02 03.00: EUR 10 000 000 (IPA III).
3. The co-financing rate for each priority is set out in Annex II. The co-financing rate for each priority shall apply to total contribution, including public and private contribution.”;
4. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision;
5. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 2

The Director-General of the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy is hereby mandated to sign the financing agreement to be concluded with the Government of Albania, the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Government of Montenegro, the Government of North Macedonia and the Government of Serbia on behalf of the Commission.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 23.7.2024

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

