



Brussels, 1.4.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.4.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the European Instrument for Democracy
and Human Rights (EIDHR) 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 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide¹ (hereinafter "European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights"), and in particular Article 4.1.c) thereof,

Having regard to the 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 external action² (hereinafter "Common Implementing Regulation") and in particular Articles 2(1) and 3 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 (hereinafter 'Financial Regulation') and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Strategy Paper for the period 2014-2017 by means of Commission Implementing Decision of 21 October 2014, setting out the five objectives i.e: (1) Support to human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk (2) Support to other EU human rights priorities (3) Support to democracy (4) EU election observation and (5) Support to targeted key actors and processes, including international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action programme to be financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights are four of the objectives (1, 2, 3 and 5) of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Strategy Paper for the period 2014-2017 while the fourth objective is addressed by another Annual Action Programme exclusively dedicated to EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOMs).

¹ OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 85.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

- (3) The support measures constitutes the necessary support for the sound management of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights programme, the achievement of its expected results and objectives and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact.
- (4) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁴.
- (5) 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 Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- (6) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified 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 authorising officer responsible needs to ensure 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. These entities are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entities' positive assessment under Council 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.
- (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.
- (8) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012⁵ and Article 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Democracy and Human Rights Committee set up by Article 8 of the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Regulation referred to in Recital 2.
- (10) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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).

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p.1

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

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| Annex 1 | Supporting 110 Calls for Proposal targeting local civil society through Country-Based Support Schemes (CBSS) |
| Annex 2 | Supporting Human Rights priorities – EIDHR global call 2015 |
| Annex 3 | Supporting Human Rights and their Defenders where they are the most at risk – EIDHR facility |
| Annex 4 | Supporting Democracy - Media and freedom of expression in the framework of the pilot exercise for democracy |
| Annex 5 | Supporting a global network of universities for human rights and democracy postgraduate education |
| Annex 6 | Supporting key international actors – UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| Annex 7 | Supporting selected EU trading partners in implementing fundamental labour conventions – International Labour Organisation |
| Annex 8 | Supporting Human Rights dialogues and their follow-up |
| Annex 9 | Support measures |

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 130 166 185 and shall be financed from budget line 21 04 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

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

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” of the Annexes to this Decision 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 authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by the first paragraph of Article 2 while not bringing that contribution above EUR 10 million, 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, 1.4.2015

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission