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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**amending Decision C (2019) 8977 of 17 December 2019 on the financing of the European
Maritime and Fisheries fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2020**

ANNEX

The Annex is amended as follows:

(1) Point 2.1.8 ‘Blue economy window’ is replaced by the following:

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

For-profit SMEs¹ legally established in an EU Member State.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The Blue Economy can support Europe’s post-crisis economic recovery through innovative products and services, high-value jobs that shift the EU towards the objectives of the Green Deal.

However, a market study conducted by the Commission shows that there is a lack of investment in the SMEs who drive the necessary changes. The study shows that businesses in innovative, sustainable and circular blue economy sectors, while receiving good financial support including funding from Horizon 2020, lack support on the path towards market entry and scaling up.

The objective therefore is to develop and bring to market new products, services and business models in blue economy value chains that could develop pre-commercial innovations into revenue-generating activity that provide sustainable and innovative blue growth in Europe's sea basins.

A sustainable blue economy can also contribute significantly to European Green Deal objectives, including the biodiversity, circular economy, digital earth and farm to fork strategies and the transition to a climate-neutral economy. It can help communities and industries hit hard by the coronavirus or migration of key workers to recover through a more resilient economy with reduced carbon and environmental footprint that is competitive on a global scale.

The grants offered in this blue economy window shall help to advance market-readiness of new products, services or processes. Activities could, for example, include trials, prototyping, validation, demonstration and testing in real environment conditions, and market replication.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be for-profit SMEs legally established in an EU Member State. They can apply as single applicant or in a consortium.

By way of derogation, applicants established in non-EU countries are eligible for funding only if their involvement is necessary in view of the nature of the action and in order to reach its objectives. The coordinating entity must be established in an EU Member State.

Applicants must provide a letter of intent for investment support from a financial

¹ Definition of SME: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en
For-profit SMEs’ means micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC, that are not ‘non-profit legal entities (i.e., a ‘legal entity which by its legal form is non-profit-making or which has a legal or statutory obligation not to distribute profits to its shareholders or individual members’)

intermediary eligible for equity or guarantees from the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI)²³ or equivalent institution, or significant firm commitment from a customer.

Applicants must present a business plan and a first commercialisation plan.

Applicants may not be in a situation of concurrent implementation with another EU funding instrument in respect of the same action.

Selection criteria

Applicants must have the economic, financial, technical and professional capacity required to implement and complete the proposed project.

Award criteria

Impacts: including revenue growth potential, contribution to EU policies, environmental and social impact

Innovation: including innovation potential, progress beyond the state of the art, technological, practical and economic feasibility of the proposed innovation, area of application or business plan;

Implementation: including work plan, strength of team, investor support, use of resources.

In order to ensure a variety of high-level skills, knowledge and experience in different domain and sectors, proposals will be evaluated by independent expert evaluators.

The Commission will take into account geographical diversity in selecting those proposals for funding from amongst those that have reached the quality threshold.

Implementation

EASME

Indicative amount

EUR 20,000,000

Indicative timetable

Call for proposals to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2020

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 70%

- (2) Point 2.3.17 Contribution to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) to support specific activities of the GFCM and to scientific

² EFSI Equity: https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/efsi/equity-deals.pdf

³ Guarantees under EFSI https://www.eif.org/what_we_do/efsi/guarantee-deals.pdf

Templates and guidance will be provided in the call for proposals

and institutional cooperation to support responsible fisheries in the Eastern Mediterranean is replaced by the following

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

FAO, International Organisation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

Improving the governance and the poor state of the stocks in the context of the Mediterranean and Black Sea capture fisheries and fostering aquaculture is a priority. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is the main conduit, notably *via* the implementation of its current (for 2017-2020) and future (for 2021-2025) Strategy, for DG MARE to define multiannual fisheries management plans in the GFCM areas of competence, reinforcing compliance with GFCM recommendations and decisions by GFCM Members and relevant non-Members and supporting the fostering of a sustainable aquaculture in the region.

The main priorities are to support activities on country-level and regional implementation in the framework of the Malta MedFish4Ever Declaration (signed in 2017), the Sofia Ministerial Declaration (signed in 2018) and the Regional plan of action for Small Scale Fisheries (declaration signed in 2018). The implementation of the activities and strategy of the GFCM have been planned and decided according to the priorities identified and agreed during the 42nd and 43rd sessions of the GFCM.

These actions will support the preparation of the recommendations to be submitted to the 44th session of the GFCM (to take place in 2021) for which appropriate support will be provided for the organisation of specific meetings, workshops and seminars, as well as the implementation of existing ones.

The actions will also support the implementation of regional activities in the Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean, as well as in the Black Sea, aimed at developing a common framework for cooperation between coastal states of the Mediterranean and Black Seas to enable the common management of fish stocks in these regions. This will be done through the provision and sharing of scientific work and data including fish stock assessments with non-EU partner countries, a contribution to the enhancement of their capacity in participating actively in the relevant regional frameworks for sustainable fisheries management and to establish a sound socio-economic and scientific basis to improve fishing resources, to reduce environmental impacts on the sea-floor as well as to reduce incidental by-catch in these regions and achieve sustainable management of these resources using an ecosystem approach.

Award criteria

The applicant should demonstrate that the organisation and management structure proposed for the project are sufficient to achieve the required quality and the deployment of resources in relation to the objectives is cost effective.

Implementation

DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 5,300,000

Indicative timetable

Grant agreements to be concluded in the fourth quarter of 2020

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 85%

- (3) Point 2.3.18 Regional projects: contributions to the MEDSUDMED, ADRIAMED, COPEMED and other projects is replaced by the following

2.3.18 Regional projects: contributions to the MEDSUDMED project

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

FAO, International Organisation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation

This grant will co-finance the implementation of the FAO Regional project-Medsudmed.

This regional project aims at improving the provision and sharing of scientific work and data with non-EU partner countries and contribute to the enhancement of their capacity in participating actively in the relevant regional frameworks for sustainable fisheries management.

It also contributes to the establishment of a sound socio-economic and scientific basis to improve fishing resources in these regions and achieve sustainable management of these resources using an ecosystem approach.

Award criteria

The applicant should demonstrate that the organisation and management structure proposed for the project are sufficient to achieve the required quality and the deployment of resources in relation to the objectives is cost effective.

Implementation

DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 500,000

Indicative timetable

Grant agreement to be concluded in the second quarter of 2020

Cofinancing rate

Maximum 85%

- (4) Point 3.1.14 Assessing the costs of non-implementation of ocean governance is replaced by the following

3.1.14 International ocean governance: a “business case” for further action

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Council Conclusions on Oceans and Seas adopted in 2019 support the follow-up and further development of the International Ocean Governance Agenda . The Resolution of the European Parliament on the European Green Deal highlights the importance of fostering the role of the EU as a global leader in ocean governance. From outside the European institutions, NGOs are urging further action for improving international ocean governance to achieve ocean sustainability by 2030 .

This study will propose a “business case” for further developing the EU’s international ocean governance agenda, and thus provide guidance to the EU on how to strengthen its ocean policy and lead the way at international level.

The scope of the study is global and its objectives are:

- to describe and quantify the economic costs and benefits of scaling up international efforts on ocean governance;**
- to estimate the economic, social and environmental consequences in case of a no-change scenario for the oceans, i.e. pressures remain and/or increase while ocean-related Agenda 2030 targets remain unfulfilled;**
- to propose actions to maximise the benefits, minimise the costs and enable the transformative changes needed to conserve and sustainably use the oceans by 2030.**

Implementation

EASME

Indicative amount

EUR 360,000

Indicative timetable

Specific contract to be concluded in the fourth quarter of 2020

- (5) A new point 3.1.17 is added

3.1.17 Study for the evaluation of Council Regulation (EC) No 734/2008 on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs)

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Council Regulation (EC) No 734/2008 transposes the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105 (2006) about the impact of bottom fishing activities, particularly bottom trawling, on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the

high seas. The Regulation thus sets out rules for fishing vessels flagged in an EU Member State which use bottom-fishing gears on the high seas, outside areas regulated by regional fisheries management organisations competent to regulate such fisheries or where such organisations have not adopted measures for such fisheries.

Before any possible review of this regulation, it is pertinent to launch an evaluation, on the basis of this study, to evaluate its effectiveness following a number of UN reviews of these provisions, which have resulted in updated provisions for VMEs in the relevant UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries, as well as updated scientific information, and to decide whether any amendment or new regulation is required.

By evaluating the effectiveness of this Regulation, the study will help to identify how the protection of VMEs in areas in the high seas covered by the scope of this Regulation can be improved.

Implementation

EASME

Indicative amount

EUR 200,000

Indicative timetable

Service contract to be concluded in the 4th quarter of 2020

- (6) Point 3.5.4 Information system for commercial designations for fisheries and aquaculture products is replaced by the following

General description of the contracts envisaged

Running, maintenance and improvements of the information system for commercial designations for fishery and aquaculture products. It is the only website site on which all the lists of commercial designations drawn up by the EU Member States can be accessed and compared. National lists being hardly comparable due to their huge heterogeneity (lengths, pace of update, languages, formats), this system is a valuable source of information for stakeholders as it provides an integrated and cross-cutting view on the species put on the EU market.

Implementation

DG MARE and co-delegation to DIGIT

Indicative amount

EUR 200,000

Indicative timetable

Contract(s) to be concluded in second semester 2020

- (7) A new point 3.5.7 is added

Report on the implementation of Production and Marketing plans

General description of the contracts envisaged

Report on the implementation of Production and Marketing plans by fishery and aquaculture producer organisations throughout the European Union in order to complement the reporting on the results of the CMO Regulation (art. 48 thereof).

Implementation

DG MARE

Indicative amount

EUR 60,000

Indicative timetable

Service contract to be concluded in the fourth quarter of 2020

(8) Point 4.1.1 External expertise for the evaluation of directly managed grant applications and monitoring of projects replaced by the following

4.1.1 External expertise for the evaluation of directly managed actions and monitoring of projects

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective is to support the evaluation of grant applications and tenders under the directly managed EMFF calls for proposals and procurement procedures and, where appropriate, the monitoring of running or completed projects, by acquiring the assistance of independent external experts.

Experts will be selected from the “My Expert Area” database (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/myarea/expertarea>) or via a standard call for expression of interest.

The contracts with these external experts will cover, inter alia, the reading and analysis of background information, participation in briefing, evaluation meetings and hearings, the evaluation of assigned proposals or tenders, the review of project deliverables and reports and the preparation of consolidated evaluation reports or other deliverables.

Implementation

EASME

Amount

EUR 447,000

Indicative timetable

Direct payments to experts to be made in 2020 or 2021

(9) Point 4.1.2 Economic monitoring support is replaced by the following

General description of the contracts envisaged

The objective of this administrative arrangement with the JRC, is to support DG MARE with the necessary scientific and technical expertise for the economic analysis of the EU blue economy.

The activities, will include among others:

- the support to produce the annual EU Blue Economy Report, including the tasks related to data management, trends analysis by the EU, Member States and subsectors and economic analysis for all established sectors under the Blue Economy;**
- an overview of the socio-economic dimension of the main sectors of the blue economy where a deeper analysis of some emerging sectors such as renewable energy, desalination or the economic impacts of climate change will also be performed;**
- support/co-production of additional chapters such as those focusing on climate change/human impact and ecosystem services.**

Implementation

DG MARE

Amount

EUR 450,000

Indicative timetable

Extension of the Administrative Arrangement with JRC to be concluded in the second semester of 2020.

- (10) A new point 4.5.1 Service framework contract for supporting better regulation-related activities in two lots is added

General description of the contracts envisaged

A new service framework contract for supporting better regulation-related activities and in two lots:

Lot 1. Common Fisheries policy, excluding its international dimension,

Lot 2. Integrated Maritime Policy.

The framework contract aims to assist Commission departments in carrying out better regulation-related activities, in particular

- retrospective evaluations, including fitness checks;**
- prospective evaluations including impact assessments;**
- stakeholder consultations and surveys**
- assessment of costs and benefits associated with existing and future policies and/or regulatory measures in particular regard to administrative burdens**
- preparation and development of policy measures and tools;**

in the fields of Common Fisheries policy, excluding its international dimension and

Integrated Maritime Policy.

Implementation

EASME

Indicative timetable

Call for tenders to be published in the fourth quarter of 2020

- (11) A new point 4.5.2 Service framework contract for supporting better regulation on the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy is added

General description of the contracts envisaged

A new service framework contract for supporting better regulation-related activities in the Common Fisheries Policy.

The framework contract aims to assist Commission departments in carrying out better regulation-related activities, in particular

- **retrospective evaluations, including fitness checks;**
- **prospective evaluations including impact assessments;**
- **stakeholder consultations and**
- **assessment of costs and benefits associated with existing and future policies and/or regulatory measures in particular regard to administrative burdens**

in the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Implementation

DG MARE

Indicative timetable

Call for tenders to be published in the fourth quarter of 2020

