



Brussels, 25.8.2021
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 25.8.2021

on the financing of Interregional Innovation Investments instrument to be supported by the European Regional Development Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021-2022

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to 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 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to 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 Fund², and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Interregional Innovation Investments will have the potential to encourage the development of European value chains through the commercialisation and scaling up of interregional innovation projects. The Interregional Innovation Investments instrument should bring together researchers, businesses, civil society and public administrations involved in smart specialisation strategies established at national or regional levels.
- (2) Pursuant to the provisions in Article 6 of Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003³, the Commission may entrust an executive agency with any tasks required to implement a Community programme.
- (3) By Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173⁴ the Commission entrusted the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency ('EISMEA') with the implementation of the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument, and by

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60.

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 of 19 December 2002 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes (OJ L 11, 16.1.2003, p. 1).

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173 of 12 February 2021 establishing the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, the European Health and Digital Executive Agency, the European Research Executive Agency, the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, the European Research Council Executive Agency, and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency and repealing Implementing Decisions 2013/801/EU, 2013/771/EU, 2013/778/EU, 2013/779/EU, 2013/776/EU and 2013/770/EU (OJ L 50, 15.2.2021, p. 9).

Commission Decision C(2021) 949⁵, the Commission delegated to EISMEA certain tasks related to the overall management of the calls for proposals.

- (4) Therefore, in order to ensure the implementation of the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument, it is necessary to adopt a multi-annual financing decision, which constitutes the multi-annual work programme for 2021 and 2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (5) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (6) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (7) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes that should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument for 2021 and 2022, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument for the years 2021 and 2022 is set at EUR 153 117 154, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- for 2021: budget line 05.020100.08: EUR 75 800 571
- for 2022: budget line 05.020100.08: EUR 77 316 583

The appropriations 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 general budget of the Union for 2022 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

⁵ Commission Decision C(2021) 949 of 12 February 2021 delegating powers to the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency with a view to the performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of Innovative Europe, Single Market and Interregional Innovation Investments comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4
Adjustment clause

The maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 may be adjusted to the amount of appropriations decided by the budget authority in the general budget of the Union for years 2021 and 2022 if the change does not exceed 20%.

Done at Brussels, 25.8.2021

For the Commission
Elisa FERREIRA
Member of the Commission