EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 29.7.2021
C(2021) 5811 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.7.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 1289 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion" for support from the European Social Fund and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Cyprus CCI 2014CY05MOP001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006[1], and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

(1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 1289, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 7681, certain elements of the operational programme "Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion" for support from the European Social Fund ('ESF') and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative ('YEI') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Cyprus were approved.

(2) On 12 July 2021, Cyprus submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to this operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Cyprus proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (iv) and (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 1289.

(3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in allocating part of the REACT-EU resources made available to Cyprus as external assigned revenues in accordance with Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094[2] under the new thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

[1] OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

[2] Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 23).

and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy" and should cover the year 2021.

(4) The amendment to the operational programme consists in addition in the creation of a new priority axis 6 "Support to workers under the REACT-EU programme". Specific output and result indicators are introduced in this new priority axis. The REACT-EU resources are directed to support workers affected by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the framework of the implementation of Short Term Employment Support Plans.

(5) In accordance with Article 30(1) and in accordance with the sixth subparagraph of Article 92b(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the need to quickly deploy the REACT-EU resources for crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and to prepare a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy within the current programming period. The request for the amendment to the operational programme sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 92b(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. It is consistent with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[3].

(6) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 9 July 2021 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.

(7) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

(8) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.

(9) Implementing Decision C(2015) 1289 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2015) 1289 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

   "The following elements of the operational programme "Employment, Human Capital and Social Cohesion" for joint support from the ESF and the specific allocation for the YEI under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Cyprus and benefitting from the REACT-EU resources for 2021, submitted in its final version on 8 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 12 July 2021, are hereby approved:";

[3] Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

2. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"Article 2

The following priority axes shall be supported by the operational programme:

a) Priority axis 1 "Improvement of employment prospects of the workforce" from the ESF

b) Priority Axis 2 "Increase of employment of young people up to 29 years of age and facilitation of their entry into the labour market" from the ESF and the specific allocation for the YEI;

c) Priority Axis 3 "Combatting poverty and social exclusion" from the ESF;

d) Priority Axis 4 "Development of the skills of the workforce and improvement of the efficiency of public administration" from the ESF;

e) Priority Axis 5 "Technical Assistance for ESF implementation" from the ESF;

f) Priority Axis 6 "Support to workers under the REACT-EU programme" from the ESF REACT-EU";

3. in Article 4, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. The total financial appropriation for the operational programme is set at EUR 251 593 722, to be financed from:

(a) the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014:

04 02 62: EUR 168 456 929 (ESF – More developed regions);

04 02 64: EUR 18 136 793 (Youth Employment Initiative);

(b) the following REACT-EU resources made available to Cyprus in accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 on the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2021:

07 02 05 01: EUR 65 000 000 (ESF REACT-EU)";

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

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Cyprus.

Done at Brussels, 29.7.2021

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

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For the Secretary-General

Martine DEPREZ
Director
Decision-making & Collegiality
EUROPEAN COMMISSION