

ANNEX

EN

ENER Preparatory Actions and Pilot Projects in 2020

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in the 2020 budget remarks, the Preparatory Actions and the Pilot Projects in the field of Energy to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2020 shall be as follows:

Legal basis

Article 58(2) of the Financial Regulation

Budget line(s)

32 02 77 16
32 02 77 17
32 02 77 18
32 02 77 19
32 02 77 15

Objectives pursued

See the relevant sections below

Expected results

See the relevant sections below

2. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2020 shall be EUR 7 675 000.

2.1 32 02 77 16 Preparatory Action – Teaching island authorities and communities how to tender for renewable energy projects - EUR 2 000 000

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

Technical assistance

Implementation

DG ENER.B3

Objectives pursued and expected results

This proposal can be implemented as suggested in the 2020 budget remarks, and may also include support to islands in preparing their transition agendas and studies. The Commission takes note that the proposal has been changed from a Pilot Project to a Preparatory Action. Given the different purposes of the two instruments according to Article 58(2) (a) and (b) of the Financial Regulation, any potential future extension of the Preparatory Action would have to be reviewed in the light of the purpose of the instrument.

Under this preparatory action, island authorities and communities will be taught how to write open tenders themselves. The open tenders will then be for private clean-energy companies to competitively respond to with proposals, in particular in connection with solar, wind energy, storage (not only batteries) and district heating/cooling.

Rapidly falling renewable energy costs and increasing numbers of clean-energy providers mean that Union islands should now be transitioning to clean energy, provided that their authorities know how to write, evaluate and award tenders. For islands with low administrative budgets, this process is risky, as it makes highly technical, financial and legal demands. This preparatory action will provide islands with off-the-shelf templates for tendering and will be developed throughout its duration by taking island representatives to visit renewable energy experts for islands and sites around Europe, where profitable clean-energy projects are already being delivered, where possible involving renewable energy communities, in order to share first-hand experiences and learn about the latest project life-cycle budgeting for islands. These real-life training classes and site visits will then be distilled into free, open-access online training courses at the end of the preparatory action.

This preparatory action reverses the normal Union project process, in that, instead of providing a successful standalone proposal in response to a Commission open tender, it will teach island communities how to write tenders themselves, to which they will receive responses that they have been trained to process and manage.

2.2 32 02 77 17 Preparatory Action – Strengthening cooperation on climate action among villages in the Union and beyond through the creation of a rural identity within the Covenant of Mayors - EUR 2 000 000

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

Study

Implementation

DG ENER.C1

Objectives pursued and expected results

Important synergies exist between rural development (e.g. ‘Smart Village’ initiative, see <https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/sites/agriculture/files/rural-development-2014->

[2020/looking-ahead/rur-dev-small-villages_en.pdf](#)), energy (in particular as regards energy efficiency and the development of Renewable Energy Sources, RES), climate action and agriculture.

The implementation of the proposal through the framework of the Global Covenant of Mayors appears to be premature given the early stage of development of the initiative.

It would appear advisable to adopt a two-stage approach, first focusing on the Union level before tackling the international level. In that respect, making a link to the Union Covenant of Mayors – which already has a strong community of rural municipalities and provinces in its membership – is recommended.

2.3 32 02 77 18 Pilot Project – Energy communities repository - Monitoring and support for energy communities in the Union - EUR 1 000 000

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

Study, IT tools

Implementation

DG ENER.B3

Objectives pursued and expected results

This proposal can be implemented as suggested in the 2020 budget remarks.

The energy communities repository, as established under this project, should fulfil two basic functions: (i) monitoring and collecting data on development of energy communities in the Union and (ii) providing communities with models for technological and administrative solutions.

The data collected through the repository would constitute a very important source of information for the European institutions and national and local governments. The data would feed in to existing and future policy streams. In other words, it would facilitate the implementation or, if need be, revision or improvement of the regulatory framework.

In addition, the repository could be a great source of know-how for citizens and citizen associations that wish to set up their energy communities, in particular in Member States that have not developed regulatory frameworks or best practices so far. Best practices may include technological solutions, e.g. for electricity sharing, the use of blockchain and distributed ledgers for transacting and providing information on the origin of electricity from sources belonging to the community, and documentation to set up a community, e.g. models for rules of associations and examples of agreements with distribution system operators.

2.4 32 02 77 19 Pilot Project – Engaging companies for energy transition - EUR 875 000

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

Study, technical assistance

Implementation

DG ENER.B

Objectives pursued and expected results

This proposal can be implemented as suggested in the 2020 budget remarks.

A European private-sector dimension will be developed to complement existing bottom-up energy/climate initiatives of cities local municipalities (e.g. the Covenant of Mayors). By engaging leading (industrial and commercial) companies to form a Union-wide (voluntary) movement, the scale, impact and synergies of actions taken by different levels of governance can be increased. Voluntary incentives for action are needed as the share of CO 2 emissions from industry is expected to grow in relative terms compared to energy supply and road transport towards 2050.

2.5 32 02 77 15 Pilot Project – Covenant of Mayors as an instrument to tackle energy poverty - EUR 1 800 000 (extension)

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical assistance / evaluation / survey / IT / communication services/etc.*)

Technical assistance as in the Annex of Commission Decision C(2019)3780 of 22/5/2019

Implementation

DG ENER.B3

Objectives pursued and expected results

This proposal can be implemented as suggested in the 2020 budget remarks and in line with Commission Decision C(2019)3780 of 22/5/2019.

The pilot project focuses both on measures to raise awareness and exchange good local and regional practices for tackling energy poverty and on concrete measures to reduce energy poverty in Europe.

By the end of this pilot project, outcomes will include:

- providing vulnerable homes with technical support to reduce energy consumption and

costs, together with support to improve their energy performance,

- action across a number of government departments involving public health, social services, housing and environmental services, in order to take coordinated action to tackle the various aspects of energy poverty, which causes public health problems and social vulnerability and is often linked to buildings with poor energy performance; reducing energy consumption also has a positive effect in terms of combating climate change,
- actions to link energy savings in local public facilities with the creation of a fund to fight energy poverty in all municipalities,
- actions to empower consumers in their energy consumption patterns,
- assessments of how energy poverty projects can improve the local economy by creating opportunities for energy investments in private houses, and help create jobs,
- dissemination actions including Europe-wide exchange of good practices.