



Brussels, 9.9.2021
C(2021) 6678 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.9.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 approving certain elements of the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region Alentejo in Portugal

CCI 2014PT16M2OP003

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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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 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 1083/2006¹, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 7398, certain elements of the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the European Social Fund ('ESF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region of Alentejo in Portugal were approved.
- (2) On 18 August 2021 Portugal submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Portugal proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (v), and (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in the introduction of a new specific objective in ESF priority axis 5 "Employment and economic valorization of endogenous resources" under investment priority 8v; in the introduction of new COVID-19 related output and result indicators in ESF priority axis 5; in the introduction of a new type of action to be supported under investment priority 8v in ESF priority axis 5; in the introduction of a new type of beneficiary under investment priority 8v in ESF priority axis 5; in the modification of output indicators to be used as

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

target in the performance framework for ESF priority axis 5; in the modification of the description of the type of action under investment priority 8v in ESF priority axis 5.

- (4) In addition, the amendment to the operational programme consists in an increase of the Portuguese cofinancing in the value of EUR 145 379 in ESF priority axis 5 "Employment and economic valorization of endogenous resources" as well as in some minor corrections and clarifications in the text of the operational programme.
- (5) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the need to provide an effective and immediate response to the current public health and economic crisis related to the COVID-19 by strengthening labour market intervention in order to maintain the level of employment by supporting the return of workers to normal working hours after a period of lay-off has been completely terminated. This amendment aims at (i) supporting the maintenance of jobs and alleviating corporate crisis situations and (ii) reducing the unemployment risk for employers affected by the business crisis as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The request for amendment sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013² and (EU) No 1304/2013³ of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as of the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (6) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee at its meeting on 11 May 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. Nevertheless, Portugal provided supplementary information on 1 September 2021 and submitted a modified version of the revised operational programme on 2 September 2021.
- (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(2014) 10163 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 is amended as follows:

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

² Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

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).

"The following elements of the operational programme "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region of Alentejo in Portugal for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 12 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 2 September 2021, are hereby approved:";

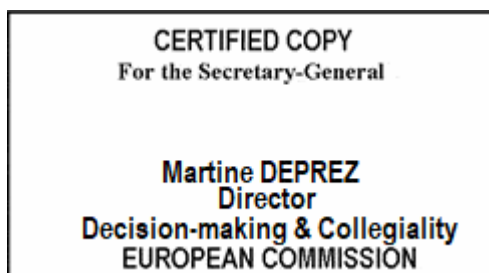
2. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Portuguese Republic.

Done at Brussels, 9.9.2021

For the Commission
Elisa FERREIRA
Member of the Commission



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ANNEX

"ANNEX II

Total financial appropriation for the support from the ERDF and the ESF, the national co-financing for the operational programme and for each priority axis and the amounts related to the performance reserve

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2020-2021 (3)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)					Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) - (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a))	
1	ERDF	Less developed	Total	272,858,075	71,871,339.00	4,127,265	67,744,074	344,729,414.00	79.1513760993%		✓	272,858,075.00	71,871,339.00	0	0.00	0.00%
2	ERDF	Less developed	Public	72,144,433	12,731,372.00	12,731,372		84,875,805.00	84.9999985273%		✓	67,699,139.00	11,946,908.00	4,445,294	784,464.00	6.16%
2	ESF	Less developed	Public	49,902,109	8,806,256.00	8,806,256	0	58,708,365.00	84.9999978708%		✓	49,902,109.00	8,806,256.00	0	0.00	0.00%
3	ERDF	Less developed	Total	69,338,701	22,592,878.00	3,319,089	19,273,789	91,931,579.00	75.4242467651%		✓	49,967,940.00	16,281,233.00	19,370,761	6,311,645.00	27.94%
4	ERDF	Less developed	Public	121,288,551	21,403,862.00	21,403,862		142,692,413.00	84.999999650%		✓	121,288,551.00	21,403,862.00	0	0.00	0.00%
5	ERDF	Less developed	Total	24,764,756	4,370,252.00	660,561	3,709,691	29,135,008.00	84.9999972542%		✓	23,389,408.00	4,127,543.00	1,375,348	242,709.00	5.55%
5	ESF	Less developed	Total	54,148,040	12,303,890.00	2,959,488	9,344,402	66,451,930.00	81.4845257316%		✓	54,148,040.00	12,303,890.00	0	0.00	0.00%
6	ERDF	Less developed	Total	151,023,395	26,651,188.00	21,540,064	5,111,124	177,674,583.00	84.9999996904%		✓	128,614,917.00	22,696,751.00	22,408,478	3,954,437.00	14.84%

Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for calculation of Union support (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Union support (a)	National counterpart (b) = (c) + (d)	Indicative breakdown of national counterpart		Total funding (e) = (a) + (b)	Co-financing rate (f) = (a) / (e) (2)	100% CO-FINANCING RATE FOR ACCOUNTING YEAR 2020-2021 (3)	EIB contributions (g)	Main allocation		Performance reserve		Performance reserve amount as proportion of total Union support (l) = (j) / (a) * 100
						National public funding (c)	National private funding (d) (1)					Union support (h) = (a) - (j)	National Counterpart (i) = (b) - (k)	Union support (j)	National Counterpart (k) = (b) * ((j) / (a))	
6	ESF	Less developed	Total	61,480,447	10,849,492.00	8,798,615	2,050,877	72,329,939.00	84.9999984101%	✓		50,690,895.00	8,945,453.00	10,789,552	1,904,039.00	17.55%
7	ERDF	Less developed	Total	43,233,512	7,629,444.00	7,419,504	209,940	50,862,956.00	84.9999988204%	✓		43,233,512.00	7,629,444.00	0	0.00	0.00%
8	ERDF	Less developed	Public	117,760,385	20,781,245.00	20,781,245		138,541,630.00	84.9999996391%	✓		111,589,812.00	19,692,320.00	6,170,573	1,088,925.00	5.24%
9	ERDF	Less developed	Public	8,141,252	1,436,693.00	1,436,693		9,577,945.00	84.9999869492%	✓		7,724,596.00	1,363,165.00	416,656	73,528.00	5.12%
9	ESF	Less developed	Public	14,295,269	2,522,696.00	2,522,696	0	16,817,965.00	84.9999925675%	✓		14,295,269.00	2,522,696.00	0	0.00	0.00%
10	ERDF	Less developed	Public	22,565,446	3,982,138.00	3,982,138		26,547,584.00	84.9999984933%	✓		22,565,446.00	3,982,138.00			
Total	ERDF	Less developed		903,118,506	193,450,411.00	97,401,793	96,048,618	1,096,568,917.00	82.3585724526%			848,931,396.00	180,994,703.00	54,187,110	12,455,708.00	6.00%
Total	ESF	Less developed		179,825,865	34,482,334.00	23,087,055	11,395,279	214,308,199.00	83.9099324427%			169,036,313.00	32,578,295.00	10,789,552	1,904,039.00	6.00%
Grand total				1,082,944,371	227,932,745.00	120,488,848	107,443,897	1,310,877,116.00	82.6121958940%		0	1,017,967,709.00	213,572,998.00	64,976,662	14,359,747.00	

(1) To be completed only when priority axes are expressed in total costs.

(2) This rate may be rounded to the nearest whole number in the table. The precise rate used to reimburse payments is the ratio (f).

(3) By ticking the box the Member State requests to apply, pursuant to Article 25a(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, a co-financing rate of 100% to expenditure declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting on 1 July 2020 and ending on 30 June 2021 for all /some of the priority axes of the operational programme.

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