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First Commission interim report on the implementation of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions 2014

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Introduction

This is the first Commission interim report on the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions in 2014.

It covers the 66 projects/actions for which commitment appropriations (for a total of EUR 79,4 million) were approved by the Budgetary Authority for the Budget 2014, both for the 45 new projects/actions and the 21 existing projects/actions (see summary table in introduction section). The different elements of the report are structured by type of action (pilot projects, preparatory actions), and within these categories by MFF heading and budget nomenclature.

The report contains the following elements:

1. Summary tables of pilot projects and preparatory actions by MFF heading, summarising the amounts voted under the 2014 budget both in commitments and payments, and identifying the Commission service responsible for the implementation.
2. For each pilot project/preparatory action, an outline of the objectives for implementation, information on implementation to date (where relevant) and procedures envisaged in 2014, as well as an indicative timing of the main steps foreseen for the implementation of the 2014 appropriations. Out of the 66 pilot projects and preparatory actions, the report sets out the main elements for the implementation of 60 projects/actions totalling EUR 72,16 million in commitment appropriations. For 4 projects/actions (representing a total amount of EUR 4,75 million in commitment appropriations), the Commission considers, in line with the position expressed in the letter of executability of 25 October 2013, that the proposed actions can be covered by an existing legal base; the Commission therefore proposes to transfer the appropriations to the relevant legal base's budget lines. For 1 preparatory action (representing an amount of EUR 1,5 million in commitment appropriations), the Commission considers that appropriations voted under the 2014 budget may not be implemented as ongoing actions financed by previous years' appropriations already address the objectives set out for the action. Finally for one preparatory action, representing an amount of EUR 1 million in commitment appropriations, the Commission is at this stage still examining the possible options for the implementation of the action.
3. Summary tables of pilot projects and preparatory actions with the names of contact persons within the Commission service responsible for the implementation (Annex 1).

A second report will be transmitted with the Draft Budget (DB) 2015, as required by Article 54, point 2 a and b of the Financial Regulation. This will be more detailed, and will also provide information on pilot projects and preparatory actions which are in the completion stage, i.e. for which there are no new commitments foreseen in 2015, but which still have payment appropriations.

Summary Table on Pilot projects

Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2014 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
HEADING 1a				
02 02 77 16	ENTR	Pilot project — on the Future of Manufacturing	1 000 000	500 000
04 03 77 15	EMPL	Pilot project — Feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefit scheme	2 000 000	1 000 000
06 02 77 05	MOVE	Pilot project — The role of rolling stock in European interoperability	1 000 000	500 000
09 04 77 01	CNECT	Pilot project — Open Knowledge Technologies: Mapping and validating knowledge	1 500 000	750 000
09 04 77 02	CNECT	Pilot project — Connected for health: Wellbeing and Healthcare Solution in an Open Access FTTH-Networks	1 000 000	500 000
09 04 77 03	CNECT	Pilot project — REsearch (Research Excellence Innovation Framework) — Enhancing the competitiveness of the European Research Area by increasing communication among researchers, citizens, industry and policy makers	1 000 000	500 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1a			7 500 000	3 750 000
HEADING 1b				
13 03 77 13	REGIO	Pilot project — Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the "stairway to excellence"	1 200 000	600 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1b			1 200 000	600 000
HEADING 2				
05 08 77 10	AGRI	Pilot project — Agropol: development of a European cross-border Agribusiness Model Region	1 200 000	600 000
05 08 77 11	AGRI	Pilot project — Agroforestry	1 000 000	500 000
07 02 77 22	ENV	Pilot project — Biodiversity protection through a results-based remuneration of ecological achievements	500 000	750 000
07 02 77 26	ENV	Pilot project — Creation of South East European regional centre on advanced recycling of electric and electronic waste	750 000	375 000
07 02 77 27	ENV	Pilot project — Resource efficient use of mixed wastes	500 000	250 000
11 06 77 07	MARE	Pilot project — Bringing a network of marine protected areas established or to be established under national and international environmental or fisheries legislation into service, with a view to enhancing the production potential of EU Mediterranean fisheries on the basis of maximum sustainable yields and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management	2 000 000	1 000 000
11 06 77 08	MARE	Pilot project — Support measures for small-scale fishing	1 500 000	750 000

Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2014 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
17 02 77 03	SANCO	Pilot project — Your Europe Travel (YET) Application for mobile Devices	500 000	250 000
17 03 77 12	SANCO	Pilot project — Reducing health inequalities: building expertise and evaluation of actions	1 500 000	750 000
17 03 77 13	SANCO	Pilot project — Developing evidence based strategies to improve the health of isolated and vulnerable persons	1 000 000	500 000
17 04 77 03	SANCO	Pilot project — Developing best practices in animal transport	1 000 000	500 000
17 04 77 04	SANCO	Pilot project — Farmhouse and Artisan Cheesemakers' European Network – Project involving the production of European guidelines for proper hygienic practice	250 000	125 000
32 02 77 06	ENER	Pilot project — Techno-economic models for district heating networks with multiple inputs	1 750 000	875 000
34 02 77 02	CLIMA	Pilot project — Making efficient use of EU climate finance: using roads as an early performance indicator for REDD+ projects	1 200 000	600 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 2			14 650 000	7 825 000
HEADING 3				
09 02 77 02	CNECT	Pilot project — Implementation of the Media Pluralism Monitoring Tool	500 000	500 000
09 02 77 03	CNECT	Pilot project — European Centre for Press and Media Freedom	1 000 000	1 000 000
15 04 77 07	EAC	Pilot project — Fostering European integration through culture by providing new subtitled versions of selected TV programmes across all Europe	1 500 000	750 000
16 02 77 01	COMM	Pilot project — New narrative on Europe	1 000 000	750 000
16 02 77 05	COMM	Pilot project — The promise of the EU	500 000	250 000
17 03 77 08	SANCO	Pilot project — European Prevalence Protocol for early detection of Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Europe	800 000	790 000
17 03 77 09	SANCO	Pilot project — Promotion of self-care systems in the European Union	1 000 000	800 000
18 02 77 02	HOME	Pilot project — New integrated mechanisms for cooperation between public and private actors to identify sports betting risks	2 000 000	1 000 000
33 02 77 08	JUST	Pilot project — Knowledge platform for professionals dealing with female genital mutilation	900 000	450 000
33 02 77 09	JUST	Pilot project — Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening their involvement in the monitoring of National Roma Integration Strategies	1 000 000	500 000
33 03 77 04	JUST	Pilot project — Raising awareness of children to be aware of their rights in judicial procedures	700 000	350 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 3			10 900 000	7 140 000
HEADING 4				

Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2014 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
21 02 77 15	DEVCO	Pilot project — Strategic investment in sustainable peace and democratisation in the Horn of Africa	1 250 000	775 000
21 02 77 16	DEVCO	Pilot project — Strengthening veterinary services in developing countries	2 000 000	1 000 000
21 02 77 17	DEVCO	Pilot project — Corporate Social Responsibility and access to voluntary family planning for factory workers in developing countries	750 000	375 000
21 02 77 18	DEVCO	Pilot project — Investing in sustainable peace and community rebuilding in the Cauca area - Colombia	1 500 000	750 000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 4</i>			<i>5 500 000</i>	<i>2 900 000</i>
<i>TOTAL PILOT PROJECTS</i>			<i>39 750 000</i>	<i>22 215 000</i>

Summary Table on Preparatory actions

Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2014 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
HEADING 1a				
02 02 77 08	ENTR	Preparatory action — Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis on cultural and industrial products	2 000 000	2 000 000
02 02 77 09	ENTR	Preparatory action — Tourism and accessibility for all	690 000	1 035 000
04 03 77 09	EMPL	Preparatory action — Information centres for posted workers and migrant workers	1 000 000	600 000
04 03 77 14	EMPL	Preparatory action — Social innovation driven by social business and young entrepreneurship	1 000 000	650 000
04 03 77 16	EMPL	Preparatory action — Micro credit to specifically combat youth unemployment	2 000 000	1 000 000
06 02 77 06	MOVE	Preparatory action — General aviation - Statistics and key figures	500 000	250 000
12 02 77 03	MARKT	Preparatory action — Single Market Forum	1 200 000	1 200 000
12 02 77 05	MARKT	Preparatory action — Capacity building for end users and other non-industry stakeholders in connection with Union policy-making in the area of financial services	1 750 000	875 000
15 02 77 09	EAC / DEVCO	Preparatory action — E-Platform for Neighbourhood	1 000 000	500 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1a			11 140 000	8 110 000
HEADING 1b				
13 03 77 12	REGIO	Preparatory action — Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region	1 800 000	800 000
13 03 77 14	REGIO / MARE	Preparatory action — A regional strategy for the North Sea Region	250 000	125 000
13 03 77 15	REGIO	Preparatory action — World cities: EU - third countries cooperation on urban development	2 000 000	1 000 000
13 03 77 16	REGIO	Preparatory action — The actual and desired state of the economic potential in regions outside the Greek capital Athens	700 000	350 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1b			4 750 000	2 275 000
HEADING 2				
05 08 77 06	ESTAT	Preparatory action — European farm prices and margins observatory	1 000 000	1 000 000
05 08 77 09	AGRI	Preparatory action — Union plant and animal genetic resources	1 000 000	600 000
11 06 77 06	MARE	Preparatory action — Guardians of the Sea	600 000	900 000
17 03 77 11	SANCO	Preparatory action — Fruit and vegetable consumption	750 000	675 000

Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2014 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
17 03 77 14	SANCO	Preparatory action — Healthy diet: early years and ageing population	500 000	250 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 2			3 850 000	3 425 000
HEADING 3				
15 04 66 03	EAC	Preparatory action — Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment	1 000 000	1 499 100
16 02 77 04	COMM	Preparatory action — European Civil Society House	250 000	250 000
16 03 77 05	COMM	Preparatory action — Share Europe Online	1 000 000	500 000
17 03 77 15	SANCO	Preparatory action — European study on the burden and care of epilepsy	1 230 000	615 000
18 03 77 09	HOME	Preparatory action — Funding for the rehabilitation of victims of torture	3 000 000	1 500 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 3			6 480 000	4 364 100
HEADING 4				
19 05 77 02	FPI	Preparatory action — Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension	1 000 000	500 000
21 02 77 13	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Enhanced health care for victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	2 000 000	1 200 000
21 02 77 19	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Building resilience for better health of nomadic communities in post crises in the Sahel region	3 000 000	1 500 000
21 02 77 20	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Socio-economic reintegration of children and female sex workers living at mines in Luhwindja, South Kivu Province, eastern RDC	2 200 000	1 100 000
21 02 77 21	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Building and strengthening local partnerships to develop social economy and to establish social enterprises in Eastern Africa	1 000 000	500 000
21 03 77 05	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Asset recovery to Arab Spring countries	2 740 012	1 370 006
SUBTOTAL HEADING 4			11 940 012	6 170 006
HEADING 5				
16 03 77 01	COMM	Preparatory action — European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism	1 500 000	750 000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 5			1 500 000	750 000
TOTAL Preparatory Actions			39 660 012	25 094 106

Implementation of Pilot Projects

Heading 1a

Pilot project — on the Future of Manufacturing (02 02 77 16)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

In line with the budget remark, this pilot project will explore scenarios for the reindustrialisation of Europe and employment-related issues in line with the aim of increasing industry's share of European GDP from its current level of around 16% to 20% by 2020.

This pilot project will have a key focus on manufacturing - a priority of the Commission's Industrial Policy Communication Update, which sets out a detailed strategy for addressing some of the factors that can contribute to economic recovery. Beyond its industrial policy context, the project will have a very clear employment dimension, addressing questions related to job creation and reintegration into the labour market, restructuring trends, the gender dimension, skills/reskilling, entrepreneurship, and SME engagement in markets outside the EU.

In particular the pilot project will evaluate the potential of regions and sectors to respond to the rapidly changing circumstances and identify the key drivers that assure the capacities for an industrial renaissance in Europe. It will also identify comparative advantages of specific areas or sectors in the EU and sectors where external effects are located in the European Union. Last, it will try to conceptualise and measure the role of business services in the future of manufacturing. This will be based both on case studies, data collection and desk research.

2. Implementation

It is envisaged that the project will be implemented through a call for tender.

The study and services to be provided will include:

1. Identification of drivers for manufacturing growth in Europe.
2. Conceptualisation of the measurement of regional or sectoral potential for growth and its application to the European context (including both primary and secondary data as well as case studies).
3. Conceptualisation of a measurement of manufacturing business services and its application to the European context.
4. Exploration of the employment dimension, with special attention to the skills needed and the gender dimension.

Expected results include a methodology to identify key areas for industrial growth together with its application to a set of regions and or sectors within the European Union.

3. Forecasts for 2014 - timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation for 2014 is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	April 2014
Prior Information Notice	April 2014
Call for tender	May 2014
Signature of contract	October 2014
Pre-financing payment (if any)	November 2014
Inception report	December 2014

Pilot project — Feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefit scheme (04 03 77 15)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

In accordance with the budget remarks, the pilot project aims at assessing the feasibility and added value of introducing a European unemployment insurance or benefit scheme possibly taking the form of a minimum unemployment allowance. The ultimate aim would be to pave the way for the concrete implementation of this idea, as a key component of the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union.

2. Implementation

The Commission is currently considering the options for the implementation of the pilot project. It is likely that a call for tender (or possibly several separate ones) will be used for elaborating the detailed study in three parts on the options, feasibility and added value of a European insurance scheme.

It is also likely that grants will be used to foster the creation of a network to facilitate the exchange of best practices between Member States, local and territorial administrations, Trade Unions and associations on national unemployment insurance schemes.

Finally, a high-level conference would be organised at the end of the project (in 2015).

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The intention is to elaborate a roadmap for the implementation of the pilot project by the end of the first quarter of 2014 at the latest. The Commission financing decision would be adopted in May /June 2014, and the calls for tender / call for proposals published by the end of the second quarter of 2014. The award procedures would be completed and contract(s) and grant agreements signed by the end of 2014.

Pilot project — The role of rolling stock in European interoperability (06 02 77 05)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objective is to analyse the main barriers for an increased use of interoperable rail rolling stock for Combined Traffic, to develop, in line with market needs, technological solutions addressing in particular gauge restrictions and to provide input for possible proposals for regulatory measures regarding i.a. dimensions for intermodal loading units. The overall objective of this systematic approach is to improve inter-modality in the EU transport system supporting the achievement of the Transport White Paper objectives.

2. Implementation

The subject of the pilot project is covered by the innovation area 'Freight' of the Shift-2-Rail initiative, which includes development of a concept for a high performance low-built intermodal freight wagon with a modular design and foresees a full-scale technical demonstration with a P400 semi-trailer or container in the (rather restrictive) rail gauge B+. This project will include a market analysis and be carried out involving relevant market actors. The outcome of the project can be used for well-founded proposals for regulatory measures, in particular regarding dimensions for intermodal loading units.

The setting-up of the Shift-2-Rail Joint Undertaking is foreseen for summer 2014 and is expected to become operational during the second half of the year. Research and development activities to be covered under Shift-2-Rail, including freight, will already start following the current Call for Proposals under Horizon 2020 but this newer concept will only appear in a call later in 2014 or in 2015.

A budgetary transfer of the appropriations of the pilot project will be proposed to the appropriate budget line of the Horizon 2020.

Pilot project — Open Knowledge Technologies: Mapping and validating knowledge (09 04 77 01)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The overall objective of this pilot project is to demonstrate a European-wide ICT-based system shortening the up - and re-skilling time for European citizens, in particular those unemployed, through maximising the use of online courses and open education resources.

The pilot will develop and deploy a technological platform integrating online services, including inter alia the following modules:

1. Skill / competences mapping;
2. Tailored learning roadmaps (via educational services, including specific open educational resources);
3. Mechanisms for the validation of the acquired knowledge.

These services should be accompanied by a thoughtful and comprehensive social innovation process to engage people in the proposed learning and skilling activities.

2. Implementation

The Pilot project will be implemented through a call for proposals, with a maximum possible rate of co-financing of 70% of the eligible costs of the project. The duration of project(s) supported shall not exceed two years.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation of the 2014 appropriations is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	First quarter 2014
Launching the call for proposals	Second quarter 2014
Evaluation of proposals	September / October 2014
Signature of grant agreement(s)	December 2014
Beginning of the implementation of the supported action(s)	January 2015

Pilot project — Connected for health: Wellbeing and Healthcare Solution in an Open Access FTTH-Networks (09 04 77 02)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The Pilot Project Connected for Health: Wellbeing and Healthcare Solution in Open Access FTTH-Networks was initiated under the 2014 budget to benefit elderly people, people with disabilities and/or other people who live in rural regions in Finland and Sweden and who have limited or no access to healthcare. It will be implemented in those regions with an FTTH infrastructure.

The main objectives of this pilot project will be to explore, identify and test new and existing e-Health applications in order to corroborate profitable and usable models and/or best practices for accessible home healthcare.

2. Implementation

This pilot project will be implemented through a grant awarded pursuant to an open call for proposals. The duration of the project supported shall not exceed two years.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation of the 2014 appropriations is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	First quarter 2014
Launching the call for proposals	Second quarter 2014
Evaluation of proposals	Third quarter 2014
Signature of grant agreement/Pre-financing payment	Fourth quarter 2014
Beginning of the implementation of the supported action	Fourth quarter 2014

Pilot project — RElsearch (Research Excellence Innovation Framework) — Enhancing the competitiveness of the European Research Area by increasing communication among researchers, citizens, industry and policy makers (09 04 77 03)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

In accordance with the budget remarks, the project's main target is to accelerate the full use of Europe's intellectual capital to the benefit of citizens, entrepreneurs and scientists through new media tools and therefore promote active interaction between science, citizens and policymakers through the involvement of European media and social media, in order to support participation of citizens in research agenda setting, on-going research processes, as well as in discussions on the results and impacts of research for society, policy making.

This main target will be achieved by the development of an e-infrastructure based on the concepts of social networks, to promote direct communication between researchers, businesses and media within the European Research Area (ERA). Concretely, the project aims are:

- to develop a reliable, non-profit e-infrastructure (similar to social networks) as basic tool to promote stronger communication and dialogue across disciplines, sectors and borders;
- to integrate identity security of researchers and other actors to ensure a reliable and secure environment;
- to connect to existing research infrastructures ensuring a single access point to research results from all countries and disciplines (interoperability) connecting also to existing European initiatives;
- to create virtual clusters on specific topics (e.g. the "societal challenges") that bring together researchers, industry, media and policy makers to enhance collaborations on these key themes, starting from the existing European collaborations creating an easy and useful tool to facilitate dialogue and collaborations;
- To create a direct dialogue between these virtual clusters and citizens through the connection to leading European media.

2. Implementation

The Commission confirms its position as expressed in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013 and is still reflecting on options for the most appropriate delivery mechanism for this project.

Heading 1b

Pilot project — Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the "stairway to excellence" (13 03 77 13)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

Building excellence in a given area of research and innovation often takes sustained efforts and long-term strategic planning. The development of good national/regional research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3) is considered essential for sustaining the innovation performance and the economic growth of the European Union. Therefore, the support by the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P) within the Joint Research Centre (JRC) to Member States and regions to design and upgrade their RIS3 is essential. In particular, this allows new Member States and catching-up regions to identify a limited number of areas of good quality research and industrial activities with high innovation potential in their territory that will be further reinforced and developed using the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), to become more excellent and more competitive in Horizon 2020 calls. Beyond a stronger capacity to generate innovation, this policy framework also allows increasing the absorption capacity by new Member States of the innovation results developed/generated in more innovative territories in the context of past Framework Programme projects.

With the resources of the Pilot Project, a new activity will be launched within the Smart Specialisation Platform in order to support new Member States and regions to develop and exploit the synergies between Horizon 2020 and ESIF, building on and exploiting synergies.

The Pilot Project is centred on the provision of support to enhance the value of two key EU funding sources for research, development and innovation (ESIF and Horizon 2020) by actively promoting their combination.

2. Implementation

In 2014 it is envisaged that the Pilot Project implementation will be entrusted to the JRC of the European Commission through the signature of an Administrative Agreement, with the support of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy - DG REGIO.

The duration of the implementation of the Pilot Project should not exceed fifteen months from its launch.

The following actions are planned:

- Assistance to new Member States and regions in closing the innovation gap, in order to promote excellence in all regions and Member States of the European Union.

The action aims at launching "Upstream actions" to prepare regional R&I players to participate in Horizon 2020 ("stairways to excellence") to be developed, where necessary, through capacity mapping and capacity building. Communication and cooperation between Horizon 2020 national contact points and managing authorities of the European Structural and Investment Funds shall be strengthened.

- Stimulating the early and effective implementation of national and regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

The action aims at launching "Downstream actions" to provide the means to exploit and diffuse R&I results, stemming from Horizon 2020 and preceding programmes, into the market with particular attention on creating an innovation-friendly environment for business and industry, including SMEs and in line with the priorities identified for the territories in the relevant RIS3.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is in preparation and is expected to be adopted in March 2014.

Most of the actions will start in the second quarter of 2014.

Heading 2

Pilot project — Agropol: development of a European cross-border Agribusiness Model Region (05 08 77 10)

1. Objectives

The aim of the pilot project is to examine how to bring together and promote cross-border agribusiness expertise in rural areas and to form agribusiness competence regions – so-called ‘Agropols’, which will offer a sustainable economic perspective to those areas.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented via an open call for tenders.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The initial phase of this pilot project has already started: the Commission services steering group to follow up on this project is currently being formed and the financing decision is in preparation.

The publication of the open call for tenders is planned for publication in first half of 2014. If the procurement procedure is successful, the contract is planned to be signed before the end of 2014.

Pilot project — Agroforestry (05 08 77 11)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The purpose of the pilot project is to raise awareness amongst European farmers about the multiple benefits of agroforestry and the necessary conditions for efficient implementation; to share knowledge (for instance via network(s) of exchange of good practices); involve farmers in improving agroforestry practices; and to bring available and state-of-the-art knowledge on agroforestry to the practice. The aims will be reached through a set of concrete actions, to be described in the tender specifications of the call for tender.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented via an open call for tender.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The initial phase of this pilot project has already started: the Commission services steering group to follow up on this project is currently being formed and the financing decision is in preparation.

The publication of the open call for tenders is planned for publication in first half of 2014. If the procurement procedure is successful, the contract is planned to be signed before the end of 2014.

Pilot project — Biodiversity protection through a results-based remuneration of ecological achievements (07 02 77 22)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

As set out in the budgetary remarks, the pilot project is aimed at:

- stopping/reversing the decreasing trend in species-rich grassland and at
- exploring options for a more effective protection of habitats and species through result-based payments (as opposed to activity-based standards under current agri-environment measures).

2. Implementation

This pilot project started in 2013 and is being implemented through two separate but interlinked strands:

- A call for tender on a study and some related deliverables, to take stock of currently existing result-based schemes, draw lessons on best practices, and make these available in ready-to-use formats for future application. The contract (worth just under EUR500 000) was signed in December 2013 and is running for 12 months.
- A call for proposals for actions “on the ground”, whereby (groups of) stakeholders, including farmers or their associations, carry out voluntary on-farm experiments for testing different methods of result-based remuneration schemes and document their outcomes.

The European Parliament is regularly kept informed of the progress in the implementation of the preparatory action.

As already mentioned in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013, the additional appropriations (EUR 500 000) made available in the 2014 budget for this pilot project will be used to expand the scope and/or the number of the voluntary on-farm experiments. Following the adoption of the Commission financing decision for the 2014 appropriations, it is therefore envisaged to publish in 2014 a call for proposals to co-fund voluntary on-farm experiments for an overall amount of EUR 2 000 000 (EUR 1 500 000 from the 2013 budget plus EUR 500 000 from the 2014 budget).

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision on the 2014 appropriations is planned to be adopted in March 2014. The call for proposals for the action grants is expected to be launched by the end of March 2014.

The grant agreements will be signed in the third quarter of 2014.

In September 2014 a conference - foreseen to be hosted by the European Parliament– will be held to discuss the preliminary outcomes of the study financed by the 2013 appropriations.

In December 2014 the final outcomes from the study funded under the 2013 appropriations are expected, including an inventory of existing schemes and practitioners’ manual.

Pilot project — Creation of South East European regional centre on advanced recycling of electric and electronic waste (07 02 77 26)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The pilot project aims at developing a study on the waste situation in the Western Balkans countries. The preparations for the EU accession involve alignment with the *EU acquis* in all the environment sectors. The waste sector is one of the most demanding in terms of resources needed for the implementation of the relevant EU legislation. The Commission Annual Progress Reports for all the Western Balkans countries underlines the efforts that still need to be made in this sector for a full compliance before accession to the EU.

The study envisaged under the pilot project will contain three main parts:

1. A first part will present the situation in all the Western Balkan countries in the waste sector, including its institutions (central, regional and local) and administrative capacities, with a focus on the electric and electronic waste streams.
2. A second part will aim at developing options for better alignment, compliance and implementation of the waste legislation in the enlargement countries, considering the EU policy developments in this sector and the move towards more recycling, reuse and waste prevention as opposed to the predominance of land-filling.
3. The third part of the study will contain suggestions for feasible regional cooperation options in this sector such as the establishment of a regional collection and recycling centre for electric and electronic waste stream and ways of implementing them.

A meeting with the Honourable MEP who initiated the pilot project took place to discuss its outline and contents.

2. Implementation

The project will be implemented by a call for tender.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision for this pilot project will be adopted in the first quarter of 2014.

The call for tender is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2014.

The contract will be signed in the third quarter of 2014 in order to start the implementation of the activities in January 2015.

Pilot project — Resource efficient use of mixed wastes (07 02 77 27)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

This project aims at improving the management of construction and demolition waste (CDW) in Member States in line with EU waste legislation and policy, including the 70% re-use/recycling target set in the Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste (EU Waste Framework Directive).

To this end, the project will cover the following activities:

1. Assessment of the situation as regards management of CDW in the Member States and preparation of a "scoreboard" ranking the Member States according to their performance;
2. Identification of key conditions for success and related good practices, particularly in the best performing Member States;
3. Analysis of the situation ("factsheets") and elaboration of recommendations ("roadmaps") for the Member States with the largest implementation gaps;
4. Presentation and discussion of the results in the framework of participative workshop(s) in key Member States; and
5. Follow up of the recommendations.

The above list of activities is indicative and subject to modifications on the basis of the results of the initial analysis.

2. Implementation

The project will be implemented through one or more service contracts, following specific call(s) for tenders.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is expected in the first quarter of 2014, together with the launch of the call(s) for tenders.

The contract(s) is/are expected to be signed by the end of 2014, with an expected duration of all the activities of 30 months.

Pilot project — Bringing a network of marine protected areas established or to be established under national and international environmental or fisheries legislation into service, with a view to enhancing the production potential of EU Mediterranean fisheries on the basis of maximum sustainable yields and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (11 06 77 07)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

This pilot project should provide the Commission services with an updated overview of the state of the network of marine protected areas in the EU marine waters of the Mediterranean as well as an analysis of the scientific, technical, legal and organizational matters at stake for an effective interplay between nature spatial conservation and sustainable exploitation of the marine resources.

It is in particular oriented to test the effectiveness and contributions of networks of marine protected areas for management and enhancement of sustainable fisheries with a view of exploiting marine biological resources at rates which restore and/or maintain populations of harvested stocks above levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

Hereby a preliminary tentative list of specific and operational objectives that could be envisaged for the implementation of the pilot project:

- To provide a reasoned categorisation, with respect to their primary conservation objective(s), of the marine protected areas (MPAs), including those under imminent establishment, in EU waters and in the High Seas adjacent to EU coastal states. Secondary conservation and/or economic objectives shall be identified as well.
- To identify the exploited species/stocks which are more likely to have beneficial effects (stock size; reproductive success; recruitment success; etc.) from each single MPA and from the network of MPAs. Provide the empirical and/or scientific justifications underpinning the likely beneficial effects on the exploited stocks and on the sustainability of the fisheries.
- To identify whether and how the existing network(s) of MPAs needs to be improved to increase the number of exploited stocks benefiting for its implementation.
- To identify the basic dimensional requirements which are needed, either as single MPA or as a network of MPAs, to achieve the envisaged conservation objective(s) for sustainable fisheries.
- To identify the basic organizational/administrative/legal requirements which are needed to make effectively enforced and functioning a marine protected area or a network of MPAs with a view to ensure nature conservation and sustainable exploitation of resources.
- To identify which are the basic characteristics of an MPA or of a network of MPAs to ensure the exploitation of marine biological resources at rates which restore and maintain populations of harvested stocks above levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

- To identify which of the existing or under implementation MPAs fulfil those requirements; gaps needs to be addressed for the others.
- To evaluate the geographical scale of the conservation results delivered by an MPA or a network of marine protected areas.
- To test through modelling and simulations under close to real-life conditions the feasibility of an enhanced network of MPAs to deliver sustainable fisheries in line with MSY approach while ensuring the achievements of biodiversity and nature conservation goals.
- To evaluate whether the network of MPAs is adequate to counteract the overfishing of juveniles (growth overfishing) and/or the overfishing of brood-stock (recruitment overfishing) for the main exploited species/stocks.
- To identify the relative proportion and demographic composition of the stock(s) subject to protection by an MPA or by the network of MPAs.
- To evaluate whether and which of the current EU fisheries control rules and technical measures facilitate the implementation and enforcement of MPAs and which ones instead would demand an adaptation.
- To identify fisheries and metiers which would deserve more specific spatial protection in order to exclude catches of juveniles and improve their exploitation pattern.
- To evaluate whether the current sub-regional network of implemented MPAs contain spatial gaps which reduce the conservation effects for nature protection and sustainable exploitation in line with MSY.
- To identify which should be the mean distance between MPAs to achieve the expected conservation results including sustainable exploitation of marine living resources.
- To identify the minimum dimensional, scientific, legal and organisational characteristics that are necessary to make a network of marine protected areas suitable for management of fisheries in line with the MSY. The minimum requirements should be replicable in other areas to achieve similar conservation goals.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented through a call for proposals, aiming at choosing 2-3 projects covering different Mediterranean sub-regions among the applications received.

The Commission services (DG MARE) are still in the very preliminary phase of the project conception which will necessitate a close inter-service consultation within DG MARE and with other Commission services (in particular, ENV, REGIO, RTD) during February and March 2014. The duration of the projects should be around 24-30 months.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	End March 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	April 2014
Evaluation of proposals	June-August 2014
Selection of proposals	August-September 2014
Signature of grant agreements	September- November 2014
Beginning of the implementation of the action	October-December 2014
Pre-financing payment (if any)	October-December 2014
Interim payment	March / April 2016
Final Payment	March / April 2017

Pilot project — Support measures for small-scale fishing (11 06 77 08)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The general aim of the pilot project is to help small-scale fisheries unlock their growth and jobs potential. This pilot project will be carried out in the South-Western Waters and in the North-Western Waters of the North-East Atlantic region and in the Outermost Regions.

The actions foreseen are:

- To map small-scale/artisanal fisheries in the areas aforementioned. This includes describing and quantifying the various fishing activities (e.g. vessel type, vessel length, engine power, gears used, fishing season, species/quantities landed) and its social (e.g. employment, age, gender), economic (e.g. income, contribution to the local economy), environmental and cultural importance.
- To identify (giving examples) local initiatives aimed at designing and developing technical capacity necessary for the implementation of the new EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) through regionalisation and analyse how such initiatives could be replicated in other areas.
- To support such initiatives and groups especially with a view to their participation in the work of the Advisory Councils and other relevant discussion fora in the context of regionalisation of the CFP and their technical/scientific capacity to reach these goals.
- To identify all EU/national instruments, actions, measures and funding sources that can help unlocking the growth and job potential of small-scale fisheries and promote the diversification of fishing activities into other sectors of the local coastal economy.
- To analyse the extent to which existing (and expected) instruments, actions, measures and funding sources available are sufficient and appropriate to meet the needs of the small-scale fishing sector and, on the basis of this analysis, to suggest improvements and adjustments that may be necessary.
- To identify and describe (e.g. in number, nature, representativeness, importance, funding/technical needs) existing professional organisations and NGOs representing the interests of small-scale fishermen and to suggest improvements with a view to enhance fishermen coordination, preparation and participation in Advisory Councils and other relevant discussion fora in the context of regionalisation of the CFP.

2. Implementation

It is envisaged to implement the pilot project through a call for proposals divided in 3 lots, one for each aforementioned sea basins. The duration of the project would be 24 months.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the financial decision	April 2014
Launch the call for proposals	May 2014
Evaluation of proposals	September 2014
Selection of proposals	October 2014
Preparation of the grant agreement	October/November 2014
Financial commitment	November 2014
Signing legal commitments	November/December 2014
Kick-off of the project	January 2015
First payment	January 2015
Interim payment	January 2016
Final payment	January 2017

Pilot project — Your Europe Travel (YET) Application for mobile Devices (17 02 77 03)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objective of this pilot project is a one-stop shop that offers information on consumer rights and cross-border issues, and that helps travellers when they encounter problems while they are abroad and have limited access to information and advice services.

It will provide practical information for consumers and focus on real-life, cross-border situations.

Its focus should be on EU rights and related national rules relevant for short-term travel within the EU such as consumer rights, access to healthcare and health insurance abroad, use of payment means. It should also facilitate access to cross-border advice and assistance services, in particular the European Consumer Centre Network.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented through procurement procedures.

It will be implemented in 3 phases, which may partially overlap:

- The first phase will be a study to assess the feasibility and cost-efficiency of technical and content generation options, and to develop a content strategy. Only after this feasibility study has been concluded will the services have sufficient information on how to proceed with the project and with which technical solution consumers will be supported (e.g. an application, an interactive home-page, etc.).
- The second phase will concern content and IT development, production of a prototype and of final language versions.
- The third phase will include promotion, maintenance and updating.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The adoption of the financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014.

The first phase of the project will be completed in 2014. The second phase will be completed for all language versions in 2015.

Pilot project — Reducing health inequalities: building expertise and evaluation of actions (17 03 77 12)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objective of the pilot project is to establish a network of exchange between experts and policy advisers across the EU, addressing health inequalities at national and sub-national/regional level.

This pilot project would aim at improving the awareness and knowledge in key target groups for policy about the importance of addressing health inequalities and the opportunities to do so, notably through the structural funds. It will also review and evaluate actions taken through the structural funds and programmes in this matter, thus promoting the development of better policy making in future.

2. Implementation

It is envisaged that the pilot project will be implemented by the award of an action grant. The possibility to award a grant without a call for proposals in accordance with the provisions of Art. 190(1)(c) or 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application of the Financial regulation for a joint action with Member States is being considered among the options.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. Dialogue with Member States and interested parties will take place to prepare a possible joint action in the second and third quarters of the year and the signature of the grant agreement is expected at the end of 2014.

Pilot project — Developing evidence based strategies to improve the health of isolated and vulnerable persons (17 03 77 13)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

This pilot project has following objectives:

1. To gather and assess existing information on the differences of men's and women's (in particular the isolated and vulnerable) health in the participating Member States and on existing practices to address this issue.
2. To increase the knowledge base on the life styles and attitudes towards individual (including mental) health, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of especially isolated and vulnerable persons.
3. To analyse health systems across different Member States to identify what the causes of the relative under-utilisation of health services by less advantaged groups are and what can be done to address it.
4. On the basis of the evidence collected to develop and test (gender) targeted strategies to improve the health of these people, to facilitate their access to health services and to prevent health problems to occur in the first place.
5. To disseminate the results and best practice examples to Member States, in particular health providers in the primary sector, and to encourage follow up on the results.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented by a call for tender.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The call for tender will be launched soon after and the signature of the contract is expected at the end of 2014.

Pilot project — Developing best practices in animal transport (17 04 77 03)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The pilot project will focus on the management for transported animals with a certain focus on the main farm species and key stakeholders participating to the transport of these animals (farmers, specialised transporters, traders, slaughterhouse operators and veterinarians).

The final output of the pilot project will be an analysis of the different practices on assessment of the animals in order to bring the best practices to light. Based on this analysis the project will establish standard operating procedures for transporting animals and a strategy to disseminate them among stakeholders including possibly training courses as necessary.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented by a call for tender.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The call for tender will be launched in the third quarter of the year and the signature of the contract is expected at the end of 2014.

Pilot project — Farmhouse and Artisan Cheesemakers' European Network – Project involving the production of European guidelines for proper hygienic practice (17 04 77 04)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

Under this project, small producers will be coming together to draw up guidelines for proper hygienic practice as a first step in a response to this need for continuous improvement that will be at least as effective, and in all probability more transparent.

The project's aim is to produce guidelines for proper hygienic practice validated by the Commission that can serve as a reference guide for all those working in this area. The guidelines will therefore be based on how the professionals in the sector actually work, rather than on theory.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented by a call for tender.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The call for tender will be launched in the second quarter of the year and the signature of the contract is expected in the third quarter of the year 2014.

Pilot project — Techno-economic models for district heating networks with multiple inputs (32 02 77 06)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objective of this pilot project is to elaborate, model, test and demonstrate technical and system solutions that increase the total efficiency of district heating and cooling networks. It should contribute to developing the next generation district heating and cooling by integrating the intelligent use and control of distributed energy storage systems in the network; improving design and control of substations in the building; integrating multiple thermal generation inputs (renewable solar thermal, geothermal, waste heat) and storage, and to providing solutions for intelligent control of the overall network, in particular the thermal energy demand of the connected buildings, and both distributed and collective thermal energy storage systems.

The overall objective is to increase the overall efficiency of the thermal network, by *inter alia* minimising losses and improving system integration with buildings (a 20% primary energy consumption reduction is foreseen), and thus contribute to the promotion of efficient district heating and cooling networks as provided in Article 14 of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented through an open call for tender.

The first package of deliverables would provide the initial study work in the period of 2014-2015, by end of 2015 at the latest. It should include: 1) a smart control algorithm for distributed thermal energy storage and substations; 2) a design of a low cost system to determine the state of charge of compact distributed thermal energy storage systems in the buildings; 3) a design for low-temperature substation if improved efficiency performance; and 4) an overall control scheme for the system (network and sub-stations, supply sources, demand, storage) to cope with the unbalance between multiple (unpredictable) renewable heat sources and thermal energy needs of the connected buildings.

The second package of deliverables by the end of 2016 must provide test run and demonstration of the technical and system solutions on a site of approximately 60 buildings, from which some of them are to be connected within the framework of the pilot project in 2014-2015.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is expected to be adopted by end May 2014.

The launching of the tender is foreseen for the third quarter of 2014 with award decision and implementation to start in the fourth quarter of 2014. It will be coordinated to the extent possible with the H2020 call, under the topic "Technologies for district heating and cooling" (which is part of the H2020 Work Programme), to ensure complementarity and synergy.

Pilot project — Making efficient use of EU climate finance: using roads as an early performance indicator for REDD+ projects (34 02 77 02)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

Early evaluations suggest that the lack of common methodologies and sufficient resources (human, technical and financial) to forecast, measure, report, verify and compare (FMRVC) forest emissions over time and between countries are major weaknesses of REDD+.

Assessing the impact of increasing accessibility to forests can help in measuring performance in the five activities encompassed by REDD+ (deforestation, forest degradation, conservation, management, and enhancement of forest carbon stock). Additionally, road planning is an easily understandable strategic tool that can be used by donors and beneficiaries of the REDD+ scheme, which ties in with the international drivers of deforestation (including EU imports).

This pilot project will use existing roads and expansion of accessibility, through the opening of new roads, as an early performance indicator for projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and to strengthen Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). At the same time the pilot project will incorporate information on accessibility (e.g. road networks) into harmonised FMRVC methodologies as a way of improving the efficiency and reliability of REDD+ reporting, thus laying the groundwork for the post-2020 climate regime to be agreed at UNFCCC COP-21 in Paris in December 2015.

This could also help meet a strategic EU target stemming from the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, namely that, by 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, should be at least halved and, where feasible, brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation significantly reduced.

These appropriations should help deliver and cover the cost of:

1. producing an up-to-date, forward-compatible¹ global map of roadless areas in forested regions, focusing on tropical forests (based on best available spatial data and satellite images). These maps will be made publicly available on a dedicated website;
2. developing a prediction model for deforestation and forest degradation on the basis of existing roads and road building forecasts in priority areas;
3. compiling a brochure on the impacts of key EU sectoral policies (e.g. infrastructure, energy, agriculture and/or mining) on tropical deforestation and forest degradation;
4. presenting the above deliverables in workshops and symposiums (in particular as side events during the UNFCCC and CBD COPs) and disseminating the relevant material.

¹ i.e. ready for improved datastreams to be made available in a near future.

2. Implementation

The activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which is already working on Forest Resource Assessment in the tropical belt (with FAO) and on forest degradation more specifically (through the RECAREDD initiative).

A Steering Group (10-20 people) would be set up, consisting of Commission Officials, Researchers, Civil Society Organisations and REDD+ experts, to follow the implementation of the pilot project and ensure coordination with other on-going initiatives (e.g. RECAREDD and Copernicus).

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision will be adopted in the first quarter of 2014.

It is expected to define, in close collaboration with the JRC, a detailed work plan with time and resource allocation in the second quarter of 2014, with a view to start actual scientific work in the third quarter of 2014.

Heading 3

Pilot project — Implementation of the Media Pluralism Monitoring Tool (09 02 77 02)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The Media Pluralism Monitoring tool was developed through an independent study at the request of the European Commission: "Indicators for Media Pluralism in the Member States - Towards a Risk-Based Approach". It is a monitoring tool for assessing risks for media pluralism in the EU Members States and identifying threats to such pluralism based on a set of indicators, covering pertinent legal, economic and socio-cultural considerations, to be applied by an independent entity.

In November 2013, the Council invited² the Commission to "*continue to support the independent monitoring tool for assessing risks to media pluralism in the EU (Media Pluralism Monitor), which is implemented by the European University Institute of Florence, and encourage its further use by Member States and all relevant stakeholders.*"

The specific objective for the second year of this pilot project is to test the indicators in practice in those EU Member States that were not covered during the first year. The additional objective is to further study the relevance of the indicators in the light of the outcome of their testing in a sample of EU Member States during the first year of the pilot.

2. Implementation

The Commission is currently considering to continue the approach of 2013 with the possible award of a grant without a call for proposal to the European University Institute (EUI), established in Florence, Italy, provided the conditions set out in article 190(1) (f) of the Rules of Application of the Financial regulation are met. This should contribute to a better comparability of results across EU Member States.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is scheduled for adoption by the end of the first quarter of 2014. The award decision is expected to be adopted before summer in view of the launch of the project in September 2014, thus avoiding a gap between the two testing phases.

² http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/139725.pdf

Pilot project — European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (09 02 77 03)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The proposed European Centre for Press and Media Freedom will follow on from the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and European Charter for Freedom of the Press.

For its second year, the implementation of this pilot project should also take account of the invitation of the Council³ to "*continue to support projects that aim at enhancing the protection of journalists and media practitioners*". Violations against them should therefore be monitored and documented by the Centre.

This could be usefully complemented by preparing reports of such violations, raising awareness, and organising related training. It will also act as an alarm centre for acute cases, for instance by organising support to journalists facing challenges.

2. Implementation

For the first year of the pilot project (2013), the Commission supported four projects following a call for proposals. In 2014, the Commission proposes to launch a call for proposals with a co-financing rate of maximum 70 % of the eligible costs. The precise scope of this call would aim to fill in gaps and add value to the projects launched following the 2013 call.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is scheduled for adoption by the end of the first quarter of 2014. The call for proposals is expected to be published before the summer. The award decision is expected to be adopted during autumn in view of the launch of the project(s) by the end of the year. The duration of the supported project(s) should not exceed one year.

³ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/139725.pdf

Pilot project — Fostering European integration through culture by providing new subtitled versions of selected TV programmes across all Europe (15 04 77 07)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

Fostering European integration through culture is a crucial issue in a digitalized European economy. In this context it is urgent that we assist European cultural stakeholders find new tools to help in the dissemination of audiovisual content. The digital revolution offers a tremendous opportunity for cross-border online dissemination of content for European stakeholders but this dissemination is often practically slowed down by linguistic borders. By providing new and diverse subtitled versions of selected TV programmes across Europe this project aims to assess the impact of linguistic differences on the transnational digital dissemination of audiovisual cultural content.

The key objective of the action is to foster European integration through a wider dissemination of European audiovisual cultural content. The Pilot Project would test the added value of subtitling existing audiovisual cultural on-line content; and its impact on audiences outside their country of origin through the development of new business models for European media stakeholders whilst enabling EU institutions to base future policy initiatives on the outcome.

2. Implementation

This pilot project includes a scientific evaluation to measure and compare the outreach of content and the audience with and without different language versions, both within and outside Europe. The action will allow a transparent selection of programmes to be supported and would give all European stakeholders the opportunity to benefit from the experience and use the results.

The action will be implemented through calls for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Preparatory brainstorming meeting with broadcasters (PSB and commercial, ACT, EBU, Arte, etc.)	30 January 2014
Adoption of the Commission Financing Decision / Work programme	April 2014
Publication of the call(s) for proposals	End April 2014
Selection of proposals	Mid-October 2014
Signature of grant agreements	October - November 2014
Submission of the interim reports	October 2015
End of projects	31 March 2016
Workshop presenting the results	Second quarter of 2016

Pilot project — New narrative on Europe (16 02 77 01)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The Commission has implemented in 2013 the pilot project “New Narrative for Europe” decided by the Budgetary Authority. The project intended to produce a new narrative on Europe by bringing together certain central figures from the cultural and creative sectors as well as other opinion makers.

The success of this initiative, as well as the time required to elaborate the final document necessitates a review of the initially planned schedule. Indeed, taking into account the significant level of interest shown by the cultural, intellectual and scientific worlds, and also taking into account the electoral agenda, it is appropriate to extend the pilot project for a second year, as allowed for by the Financial Regulation.

This extension will allow the Commission to maximise the success of this action, since:

- The event to adopt the Charter will be held at a time close to the European Parliament elections, thereby increasing its communication impact;
- The extension will give interested parties and stakeholders more time to better prepare the necessary communication activities to help spread the Charter; and
- The extension will ensure time to define the follow up and the sustainability of the project.

2. Implementation

As indicated in the financing decision for 2014, the procurements will be done by using existing framework contracts. These contracts will allow implementing the main following actions:

- Organising a major event on the occasion of the adoption and public launching of the Charter;
- Conducting dissemination actions to publicise the Charter on the "New Narrative for Europe" in all Member States, mainly by the use of 'ambassadors' for the Charter;
- Testing the way in which this initiative could have a long-lasting impact through networks among existing cultural, scientific and citizens' organisations.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision was adopted on 21 January 2014 (Decision C(2014)132). The first event will be held on 1 March 2014 in Berlin; the last one is scheduled by the end of October.

Pilot project — The promise of the EU (16 02 77 05)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

2014 will mark the completion of several initiatives undertaken by the Commission to bring the EU closer to the citizens: the European Year of Citizens 2013, the Citizen's Dialogues and the pilot project "New Narrative for Europe". With all these elements it should be possible to develop a clear vision on the future of Europe, articulated along a triple axis:

- How much unity do citizens want and what are the areas where integration should take place?
- What would make the EU more democratic and how can EU politicians be made accountable for the decisions they make?
- What is the right balance between responsibility and solidarity?

The pilot project "The promise of the EU" is timely, arriving at a time when it is necessary to redefine the role of the Union in the new economic and social context of the 21st Century. The outcome of this project should help European Institutions to make appropriate political choices, and satisfying once again citizens' belief in the European Union.

2. Implementation

- To conduct the Qualitative Eurobarometer, a specific contract based on an existing Eurobarometer framework contract will be entered into. The survey will consist of focus groups and interviews with experts in six Member States. It will be carried out in June 2014, and the final report should be available by the end of August 2014.
- The organisation of the central event will be the responsibility of the Italian Presidency. As it is in a situation of de facto monopoly, the Commission intends to conclude a grant agreement with the Presidency covering the costs resulting from the central event, which will be organised in co-operation with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to ensure a maximal media impact.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The financing decision is planned to be adopted by mid-March. This will allow signing the specific contract for conducting the Eurobarometer in due time to have the final report ready by the end of August. The event co-organised by the Italian presidency will be held in mid-September; relevant negotiations will be conducted to precise the terms of the grant.

Pilot project — European Prevalence Protocol for early detection of Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Europe (17 03 77 08)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The objectives of this project should focus on the major issue surrounding ASD in adulthood, namely early detection of high functioning ASD and developments of means to support such people. The strategic objective is the improvement of the quality of life, social and vocational reintegration of individuals affected by ASD and avoidance of social disintegration and early retirement.

2. Implementation

The pilot project as adopted for the 2013 budget is to be extended (former Article 17 03 16).

The call for tender launched for the 2013 budget was cancelled due to the insufficient quality of proposals received. A single call for tender will be launched in 2014 covering the appropriations of 2013 and 2014.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester of 2014 and soon after the call for tender will be launched. The signature of the contract is expected in the second semester of 2014.

Pilot project — Promotion of self-care systems in the European Union (17 03 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The project objectives are to put in place a framework for action to enhance self-care at Union level and to develop strategies to support the broader implementation of effective self-care.

2. Implementation

The pilot project as adopted for the 2013 budget is to be extended (former Article 17 03 17). The pilot project will be implemented by a call for tender. Actions initiated in 2013 focus on minor and self-limiting diseases. In 2014, actions will be expanded to chronic diseases.

The following actions are foreseen:

1. Undertaking of an independent cost/benefit analysis of self-care in the European Union and the current frameworks in place to enhance self-care and patients' empowerment;
2. Setting up of a platform of experts in self-care and healthcare gathering cross-functional stakeholders.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The adoption of the financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The implementation of the 2014 appropriations will be combined with the actions initiated under the 2013 pilot project.

Pilot project — New integrated mechanisms for cooperation between public and private actors to identify sports betting risks (18 02 77 02)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The main objective of this pilot project is to ensure fair sports betting, to reduce corruption in sport and to prevent gambling from being used for criminal purposes.

The pilot project will cover the following actions:

- Collecting and analysing information from qualified sources: online and offline betting operators, gambling organisations, sports federations, gambling regulators and law enforcement authorities;
- developing risk indicators to be used at both national and EU level;
- assessing potential sports betting threats;
- enhancing information sharing and cooperation between private operators and police forces and between law enforcement authorities of different Member States;
- identifying sports events that could be targeted by corrupt athletes and/or criminals for match fixing purposes, including by monitoring the media, the internet and social networks;
- warning all stakeholders about specific risks of match fixing by disclosing information in an appropriate and timely manner;
- supporting competent authorities in undertaking investigations, where necessary, both within sport and in criminal circles;
- creating working groups or round tables at national level to promote the exchange of views and best practices between stakeholders;
- establishing mechanisms for anonymous reporting to national contact points.

There is no difference with the budgetary remarks as adopted.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented through grants awarded pursuant to an open call for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable for 2014 implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	First quarter 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	Second Quarter 2014
Selection of proposals / award decision	Third quarter 2014
Signature of grant agreements	Fourth quarter 2014
Start of implementation of financed actions	Fourth quarter 2014

Pilot project — Knowledge platform for professionals dealing with female genital mutilation (33 02 77 08)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objectives of the pilot project are to create a web-based knowledge platform, which will give easily access to information and to training modules on female genital mutilation (FGM). The platform is aimed at improving professionals' knowledge of FGM, deliver victim support more effectively, help prevent the practice, prevent stigmatisation in the media and protect women and girls living with, or at risk of, FGM. The platform will include training modules covering several relevant professional fields (for example education, judiciary, child protection, etc.) as well as country specific information. It should build on and not duplicate existing similar tools.

2. Implementation

The Commission intends to implement this Pilot Project through a call for proposals. The Commission will either award one grant to a project creating a comprehensive platform covering all relevant Member States or to several projects developing complementary modules.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable for 2014 implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	May 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	Third Quarter 2014
Selection of proposals / award decision	Fourth quarter 2014
Signature of grant agreements	Fourth quarter 2014 – First Quarter 2015
Estimated duration of financed actions	Up to 24 months

Pilot project — Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening their involvement in the monitoring of National Roma Integration Strategies (33 02 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objectives of the pilot project are to contribute to the creation and capacity building of local Roma civil society as well as a monitoring mechanism regarding Roma integration and inclusion in all 28 EU Member States. This includes especially the production and dissemination of ‘shadow reports’ where civil society coalitions could supplement or present alternative information and data to the reports submitted by Member States concerning the implementation of their national Roma integration strategies. The monitoring would focus on the local implementation of strategies in the four priority areas (employment, education, housing, health), in the fields of anti-discrimination and gender equality and would also provide information on the level of involvement of civil society, the use of EU Funds and mainstreaming of Roma inclusion measures.

2. Implementation

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project through a call for tenders.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable for 2014 implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	May 2014
Launching the Call for tenders	Second Quarter 2014
Selection of contractor / award decision	Third - Fourth quarter 2014
Signature of contract	Fourth quarter 2014
Start date of activities under the contract	Fourth quarter 2014

Pilot project — Pilot project — Raising awareness of children to be aware of their rights in judicial procedures (33 03 77 04)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The aim of the pilot project is to fund projects at EU level which raise the awareness of children of their rights in the context of civil, criminal and administrative judicial proceedings.

To this effect projects should develop and roll out comprehensive awareness-raising programmes in schools targeting secondary school children. In particular this could include interactive activities (such as mock trials/moot courts) that allow secondary school students to understand their rights, with some degree of customisation for each participating country to take account of the national context. Projects should enable children to experience the phases of mock criminal, civil or administrative cases, and improve their understanding of the various roles and responsibilities (e.g. child subject to proceedings, witness, guardian, parent, lawyer, prosecutor, judge, social worker, police officer, etc.) as well as their own rights.

In order to ensure optimal implementation of the projects, they should be prepared with and involve children, teachers and staff in a participatory and empowering manner and have the prior commitment of participating schools to facilitate the activities.

2. Implementation

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project through a call for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable for 2014 implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	May 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	May 2014
Signature of grant agreements	November 2014
Estimated duration of financed actions	Up to 24 months

Heading 4

Pilot project — Strategic investment in sustainable peace and democratisation in the Horn of Africa (21 02 77 15)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

Overall objective

To contribute to the promotion of peace and democratisation in the targeted countries through building the capacity of youth in becoming active members of society with strong knowledge and skills in democratic processes.

Specific objectives

1. Create a large number of youth with strong knowledge and skills in democratic culture and processes including in civic education, elections (education, census, registration and observation) and women participation.
2. Exchange and create regional linkages on democratic and change-making processes and experiences among youth leaders, youth and communities in the Horn of Africa.
3. Support to innovative ideas of youth leaders aiming at establishing a culture of democracy at community level.

2. Implementation

This second phase of this pilot project will be implemented through a combination of two complementary actions. Objectives 2 and 3 will be realised by building on and consolidating achievements of phase 1 of this pilot project (Commission Decision PP-AP 2013/25078- Horn of Africa, budget line 21.030400), implemented by the British Council. Activities will be broadened to include as well a particular focus on democratic culture, and the duration of the action will be extended to 36 months to ensure continuation and sustainability.

Objective 1 will be implemented by a new partner, yet to be identified, and will have a specific focus on all relevant elements of democratic processes to establish a genuine culture of democracy among youth in the Horn of Africa.

As objectives are closely interlinked to each other, partners will be encouraged to work together and build on each other's achievements to ensure complementarity and avoid overlapping. The network of youth established, and communities identified across Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia in Phase 1 of the pilot project will be used as a very useful starting point for implementation of Phase 2.

Projects will be implemented under centralised management. The EU Delegation in Sudan will be responsible for the development of the project and identification of a suitable implementing partner (for objective 1). The implementing partners will be awarded a grant each for the implementation of objective 1, and objectives 2 and 3. The implementing partner(s) will be encouraged to develop partnerships with local civil society organisations.

The regional coverage is envisaged to stay the same as in Phase 1, targeting Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia for justified reasons of sustainability, feasibility, efficiency and effectiveness of the outputs. Continuous monitoring of the situation in South Sudan is required and partners will be asked to present an extensive risk analysis combined with mitigation measures.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

A project proposal will be formulated by the EU Delegation to Sudan in the first semester of the 2014, with the financing decision foreseen to be adopted at the end of the third quarter of 2014.

The EU Delegation to Sudan will initiate discussions with other EU Delegations in the countries targeted by the intervention, to ascertain the feasibility of the proposed action in their countries and to seek their advice on potential implementing partners.

Direct negotiations with the British Council will be carried out in extending the scope/duration of phase 1 of the pilot project.

The Delegation will at the same time endeavour to identify potential partners already operating in Sudan, South Sudan and Ethiopia and active in youth and democratisation related interventions. After that the delegation will initiate discussions with them on a potential partnership.

The grant agreements will be concluded during the last quarter of 2014, while ensuring timely validation of the initial pre-financings before the end of the year.

Pilot project — Strengthening veterinary services in developing countries (21 02 77 16)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The overall objective is to strengthen veterinary services in developing countries through the support to national animal health systems. The aim is to promote alliances among stakeholders at national and regional level, monitor progress made by veterinary services and animal health services on the basis of national needs and priorities (Performance on veterinary services gap analysis follow up) and implement actions to accompany progress.

The Commission takes note that the budget remarks refer in several instances to Sub-Saharan Africa. The Commission services are however currently examining in cooperation with the World Organisation for animal Health (OIE) the geographical areas and region(s) where the pilot project will prove most useful and will have a major demonstrable impact, also with a view to ensure complementarity with ongoing initiatives already being implemented by the OIE.

2. Implementation

It is envisaged that the project will be implemented by the World Organisation for Animal health, the OIE, an international organisation, under the modality of indirect management.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

From January until April 2014, identification and formulation process of the pilot project will be carried out in collaboration with the OIE. The financing decision is expected to be adopted by September 2014, with the contract signed by October 2014 and the first payment foreseen in November 2014.

Pilot project — Corporate Social Responsibility and access to voluntary family planning for factory workers in developing countries (21 02 77 17)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objective of the pilot project is to fund the establishment of a Europe wide network bringing together MNCs with activities in developing countries and headquarters in Europe and organizations providing family planning services. The project will select most specifically companies factories based most notably in countries with a high unmet need for family planning. This Europe wide network will aim to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, information and experiences in the field of family planning linked to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and at providing opportunities for collaboration between companies and family planning organizations to increase access to family planning for factory workers in countries with a high unmet need for family planning. Ultimately the appropriation will establish one pilot project exploring the linkages between CSR and the provision of voluntary family planning services in factories.

2. Implementation

As indicated in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013, the proposed theme of action is already covered under the Sexual and Reproductive Health Call for Proposals (EuropeAid/134837/C/ACT/Multi), which has a wider focus in increasing access to Family Planning services. This call encourages involvement of wide stakeholders by allowing private companies to be applicants to actions and several applications involving them were received (for instance actions in Cambodia involving garments industry). The Call for Proposal is targeting provision of sexual and reproductive health services including family planning and could therefore cover partially the concept of the Pilot Project but within a more comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health than only a family planning. The call allows private sector applicants and collaboration with them.

Given this, the Commission intends to transfer the appropriations of the pilot project line to the ongoing call for proposals EuropeAid/134837/C/ACT/Multi (21 02 51 07).

Pilot project — Investing in sustainable peace and community rebuilding in the Cauca area - Colombia (21 02 77 18)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this pilot project for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The pilot project aims at reactivating the Cauca region's small-scale farming economy in order to continue creating a viable path for the small communities to exit the armed and social conflicts of the region. Therefore the pilot project will allow the development of a business plan, and the setting up, installation, equipment and operation of a distribution centre to commercialise the agricultural products produced by these communities. Such a centre is required to guarantee the distribution at local and regional level, as well as to facilitate potential conflict-settlement as in other hot spots in Colombia.

The project will strengthen the productive skills and performance of small farmers and hence increase their productivity as well as the production volume to be sold through the Distribution Centre. The planned infrastructure will also improve the logistics of the recollection, packing, distribution and marketing process of the products from the small farmers of the Cauca River Valley in south-western Colombia, in a view of improving their livelihoods.

The Distribution Centre will also use a specific branding based on the idea of peace, to be applied in consumer campaigns in the marketing strategy.

Bridging the gap between consumers and small farmers producing food in conflict areas of Colombia is the key to reactivating the Cauca region's small-scale farming economy, reducing the pressure on the farmers for growing illicit crops or for joining illegal armed groups.

2. Implementation

The appropriations will be implemented by way of a grant agreement. The implementation will need to be integrated in the local development and peace building programme of Vallenpaz, and to form part of the unique methodology Vallenpaz has developed for peace-building through productive development. The Commission is currently considering the options for the implementation of the pilot project, including the possible award of a grant without a call for proposal, provided the conditions set out in article 190(1) (f) of the Rules of Application of the Financial regulation are met.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation for 2014 is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	March 2014
Signature of grant agreements	April 2014
Beginning of the implementation of the action	April/May 014
Pre-financing payment	April/May 2014

General objective: to promote the economic reactivation of small rural producers in the Cauca region as a ways to exit the ongoing social and armed conflict in this region

Specific objective: to support the setting up and sustainable operation of a centre for logistical coordination for the marketing of agro products of small rural producers in local and regional markets

Expected results:

- the productivity and the organisation level of the smallholders (500 families) has been increased so as to ensure a stable supply of good quality for the local and regional markets;
- new marketing methods and mechanisms have been developed and articulated with the various markets of the region;
- consumption of the products of the small farmers of the region participating in the programme has been increased through fair trade initiatives.

Potential difficulties:

There is a risk related to the climate: droughts and floods may affect the goals set for the production supply. Another risk is security and public order in the production areas that could cause farmers' displacement.

Implementation of Preparatory Actions

Heading 1a

Preparatory action — Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis on cultural and industrial products (02 02 77 08)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

In line with the budget remark, the preparatory action has the following main objectives:

- by funding cross-border tourism projects, to help improve the quality of tourism products and destinations as a whole across the Union,
- to further develop cultural products and tourism as an integral part of a sustainable economy and to support regional economies,
- to promote tourism in regions in reconversion, in order to boost employment and growth in these regions,
- to establish a network of regional, national and Union-level stakeholders and decision-makers, in particular in the fields of cultural and industrial tourism,
- to promote the value of cultural products and cultural tourism within Europe and to reinforce the image of Europe as the number one destination for tourists worldwide,
- to support transnational cultural or industrial themes and products which help to foster a greater sense of European identity.

2. Implementation

Given the important success of the 2013 call for proposals (49 registered proposals), a new call for proposals will be launched in 2014 to create, support and promote sustainable trans-European projects linked to cultural and industrial heritage.

The objectives of the call for proposals will be to:

- help the design of tourism strategies;
- promote tourism in regions in crisis or in conversion, in order to boost employment and growth in these regions;
- facilitate exchanges of good practices, the development of networks and of discussion platforms between public decision-makers and the private sector, in the fields of cultural and industrial tourism;
- facilitate and stimulate public-private partnerships and the integration of enterprises of the cultural tourism sector into regional development strategies;
- improve the quality of the European tourism offer by a strengthened cross-border cooperation;

- strengthen the management skills of public or private bodies in charge of developing thematic tourism products.

It is also envisaged to award a grant to the European Travel Commission (ETC) for communication, promotion and visibility activities, on both the internal market and third-country markets, for 'European sustainable, transnational and thematic tourism products'. This grant would ensure the continuity and follow-up to the activities carried out by the European Travel Commission during the last two years and focus, in particular, on the development of pan-European content, the update and renewal of the "visiteurope.com" portal and appropriate marketing and promotion campaigns both on the "visiteurope.com" portal, through the social media and via participation in tourism fairs.

2014 is the third and final year of implementation of the preparatory action. Based on the results of the three years of the preparatory action, the Commission's intention would be to possibly include this initiative in 2015 in the work programme of the COSME programme together with the other actions related to the Tourism sector.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The financing decision is expected to be adopted in April 2014.

The call for proposals will be launched during the second quarter of 2014 (Indicative budget: EUR 1 000 000). The signature of grant agreements is expected by end 2014 and the selected projects should start in January 2015 for an 18 months implementation period. The final balance payments should be foreseen in 2016.

As regards the envisaged grant to the European Travel Commission (ETC), for an indicative budget of EUR 1 000 000), the proposal for the next period should be discussed in the third and fourth quarters of 2014 in order to integrate the results of the 2013 and 2014 projects. The grant agreement should be signed in December 2014 to cover the tasks to be implemented in 2015. The final balance payment should be executed in April 2016.

Preparatory action — Tourism and accessibility for all (02 02 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

In line with the budget remark, the preparatory action has the following main objectives:

- raising public awareness, including through information campaigns, to the accessibility of tourism products and services, as well as improving dialogue and collaboration between organisations representing disabled persons, people with special needs in general and the tourism industry, in order to favour a more inclusive society and guarantee high quality free movement of people in Europe,
- contributing to facilitating the development of specific training for staff on disability awareness, in particular in the field of fire prevention and safety of accommodation in general,
- developing skilled, trained and well-informed citizens and professionals on the concept of hospitality in relation to accessibility, including through close cooperation and synergies with universities and schools,
- incentivising and rewarding European destinations which make accessibility a key priority in their promotional offers,
- incentivising better use of innovation in order to improve accessibility in tourism services for all,
- incentivising adaptation of tourist products to the needs of persons with reduced mobility and people with special needs in general,
- contributing to the creation of a favourable and accessible environment for disabled persons, persons with reduced mobility and people with special needs in all fields, notably in transport (mobility), accommodation, catering and tourism services in general,
- increasing campaigns and information actions with regard to the rights of persons with reduced mobility, and people with special needs when travelling abroad, in order to guarantee that customers have better information and better access,
- enhancing cross-border cooperation to develop accessible tourism within the industry in order to guarantee the exercise of rights for both European citizens and third-country visitors, in particular those with disabilities and special needs,
- contributing to the development, in the long term, of common minimum accessibility standards, based on quality, for all fields related to tourism and addressed to all citizens, including disabled persons, persons with reduced mobility and people with special needs.

2. Implementation

In 2014 the preparatory action will be implemented as follows:

- Given the important success of the 2013 call for proposals (57 registered proposals), a call for proposals will be launched to support tourism operators in enhancing the accessibility of their services and products by implementing concrete solutions and practices.
- Several events will be organised to increase awareness among the public and parties concerned of the importance of accessible tourism and to disseminate best practices, via use of framework contracts covering reimbursements of speakers' costs, interpretation, promotional material etc.

2014 is the third and final year of implementation of the preparatory action. Based on the results of the three years of preparatory action the Commission's intention would be to possibly include this initiative in 2015 in the work programme of the COSME programme together with the other actions related to the Tourism sector.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The financing decision is expected to be adopted in April 2014.

The call for proposals (Indicative budget: EUR 650.000) will be launched during the second quarter of 2014. The signature of grant agreements is expected by end 2014 and the selected projects should start in January 2015 for an 18 months implementation period. The final balance payments should be foreseen in 2016.

Events (Indicative budget: EUR 40.000). The first event is foreseen on 6 June 2014 in Brussels (Conference: Mind the accessibility gap! Reshaping tourism accessibility in Tourism).

Preparatory action — Information centres for posted workers and migrant workers (04 03 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The objectives of the preparatory action are:

- To ensure the equal treatment and non-discrimination of intra-EU migrant workers on the host labour market by means of creating information centres in the Member States to provide information, advice, support, including legal support, to migrant workers, including posted workers.
- To remove existing barriers to mobility of EU workers by enhancing the enforcement of rights conferred by EU law and providing information and legal support to those EU workers who are facing discrimination based on nationality.

To achieve the objectives, it is required to link with the EU initiative on the enforceability Directive for Regulation 492/2011 on freedom of movement of workers within the EU and to continue work completed in the framework of a past pilot project “Working and living conditions of posted workers” and the 2013 edition of this preparatory action.

2. Implementation

To implement the proposed activities, it is considered to support 4-5 projects by way of action grants agreements and to sign one service contract for the organisation of a stakeholders conference.

Study and pilot measures:

A call for proposals addressed to the existing equality bodies and entities established at national level to support EU migrant workers is planned to be launched with this regard. These can be innovative actions or continuation of actions started in 2013 which would aim at further extending the networking. The actions would base on the experiences of projects implemented under 2013 preparatory action provided within the report of the project leaders.

Stakeholders conference:

A conference for project beneficiaries should be organised by a contractor by use of a framework contract available in the Commission. The conference will allow experience sharing and open opportunities for further networking.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The Commission financing decision C(2014)991 was adopted on 20 February 2014.

It is foreseen to launch the call for proposals in the second quarter of 2014 and sign the grant agreements in the third quarter of 2014. The foreseen duration of projects is 12 months.

The service contract within the framework contract would be signed following the signature of the grant agreements further in course of 2014.

Preparatory action — Social innovation driven by social business and young entrepreneurship (04 03 77 14)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The objective of the preparatory action is to identify, develop, promote and disseminate good practices in supporting young or social entrepreneurs. A special focus will be on the preparation of the financial instruments in the 2014-2020 period notably in terms of investment readiness to help develop and establish feasible, suitable and reliable schemes or funds providing equity or mezzanine funding (including venture philanthropy). The preparatory action will target for instance support structures providing business development services for social enterprises or young entrepreneurs, potential finance providers or financial intermediaries in a number of pilot regions.

2. Implementation

It is envisaged that the preparatory action will be implemented through a call for proposals. The expected result would be the cooperation of private, public and not-for profit-partners in view of providing access to finance for social entrepreneurs, in particular young entrepreneurs, and of developing the investment readiness of social enterprises to ensure social enterprises are able to take on repayable finance.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The adoption of the Commission financing decision is foreseen for May /June 2014.

The decision on the selection of projects is planned for the third quarter 2014. A number of approximately 10 projects could be supported through the preparatory action.

Preparatory action — Micro credit to specifically combat youth unemployment (04 03 77 16)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

According to the budget remarks of the budget line, “The objective of the preparatory action is to provide microfinance to tackle youth employment. The preparatory action should be awarded directly to EIF.”

2. Implementation

As already indicated in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013, the objective of the preparatory action is already covered by the European Progress Microfinance facility and the future microfinance facility created under the third axis of EaSI as defined in the Regulation 1296/2013. Young people are in the target group of the micro-finance facility as defined in article 26 of Regulation 1296/2013. EaSI reporting requirements will ensure a proper follow-up on the required outreach to young people.

The Commission therefore intends to transfer the appropriations of the preparatory action to the resources available for EaSI Microfinance under budget line 04 03 02 03 Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship — Facilitating access to finance for entrepreneurs, especially those furthest from the labour market, and social enterprises, which will be managed by DG ECFIN under a cross-subdelegation agreement.

The implementation of EaSI's third axis is set to start in 2014. The Commission financing decision is foreseen to be adopted in May / June 2014.

Two implementation modes will be used: indirect management without a Dedicated Investment Vehicle (DIV⁴) and direct management with a DIV. The EIF is likely to act as an entrusted entity for guarantees implementation under the indirect management. The decision on the indirect management implementation shall be taken soon.

⁴ DIVs are investment vehicles specifically created by the Commission, by other public institutions according to Article 139(4) of the FR or by Member States, with the purpose of pooling funds from different sources or investors in order to invest those resources in projects or funds in specific policy areas. The implementation modes follow the guidelines for selection of entrusted entities and DIV managers for new financial instruments.

Preparatory action — General aviation - Statistics and key figures (06 02 77 06)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

General aviation (GA)⁵ in the EU is a diverse and dynamic sector undergoing rapid changes. It involves a wide spectrum of aircraft ranging from gliders to complex business jets and provision of high value services such as aerial works or emergency and business door-to-door transportation. It constitutes an important part of the EU aeronautical industry.

Whereas previously the general aviation sector was not the primary focus of EU action in the aviation policy area, this is now changing. The growing competences of the European Union, in aviation regulation impacts of aviation show that EU activities have an increasing relevance also for this sector. Moreover the impact of increasing congestion at primary and secondary airports used by general aviation, reflected in airport charges and the airport capacity available to general aviation, as well as general concerns as to the viability and health of aerodromes and SMEs in the sector, has led to a desire among policymakers to ensure that the sector's needs are taken into account at Union level.

In 2008 the European Commission adopted its Communication "An Agenda for Sustainable Future in General and Business Aviation"⁶. This paper concluded among others that the European Commission will in particular focus on building a basic set of data regarding European General and Business aviation.

While there is cooperation and information flow between European Institutions and market players and the views of these stakeholders are considered by the legislators, it seems useful that the European Commission gathers and publishes relevant statistics and a general aviation sectoral overview.

The preparatory action shall therefore aim to collect the most important data on general aviation in Europe, including but not limited to passenger kilometres (available and flown), workforce, turnover, economic output, environmental effect, direct and indirect impact on related industries, taxation as well as social and economic impacts. The preparatory action shall also aim at gathering information on groundhandling services provided to general aviation. It could also provide information on the position of Europe vis-à-vis other world regions.

2. Implementation

It is foreseen that the study will be prepared under an existing framework contract.

The services of the Commission would like to indicate that the level of commitment appropriations included in the 2014 budget for the preparatory action (EUR 500 000) seems to exceed the resources necessary for a study such as that described above. In the view of the Commission services the amount necessary for such study would be EUR 200 000.

⁵ General aviation (GA) refers to all flights other than military (state) and scheduled airline flights, both private and commercial. Business aviation is a commercial activity that is considered part of the GA sector.

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0869:FIN:EN:PDF>

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	End May 2014
Request for service under existing framework contract	31/08/2014
Receipt of specific tender from contractor	16/09/2014
Signature of specific contract	30/09/2014
Prefinancing payment	01/12/2014
Final payment	30/04/2015

Preparatory action — Single Market Forum (12 02 77 03)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

This preparatory action is the follow up of the Pilot project that took place in 2011 and 2012. The objective of this preparatory action is to be a platform for exchanges between stakeholders and citizens with the European Institutions responsible for the legislative proposals in the area of the Single Market.

In 2014, the Single Market Forum should focus on enforcement of the recently adopted legislations.

2. Implementation

The Single Market Forum took different paths in the last 3 years. As 2014 is a year of transition with both the European Parliament and the College of Commissioners to be renewed, the Commission services (DG MARKT) are exploring the possibility to organise events in different members States throughout the year. These events will be an opportunity to exchange with stakeholders, citizens and businesses the enforcement of recently adopted legislations and to obtain their views on possible ways forward.

This series of events in different Members States should be followed by a closing event in Brussels.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

Stages	Date or indicative period
Conceptualisation, identification of the most relevant legislations to be debated with stakeholders and Member States in which the events should take place. Adoption of the Financing Decision	February / March 2014
Contractual procedures and preparatory work	April / May 2014
Events in the Member States	June to October 2014
Closing event in Brussels	October / November 2014
Follow-up tasks	December 2014 – January 2015

Preparatory action — Capacity building for end users and other non-industry stakeholders in connection with Union policy-making in the area of financial services (12 02 77 05)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

This preparatory action, which is a follow-up to an existing pilot project, aims to enhance the capacity of organisations of non-industry stakeholders to participate in Union policy-making in the area of financial services, with a view to providing policy-makers with a counterweight to the lobbies of the financial services sector and inform the wider public of the issues at stake in the regulation of financial markets for consumers, end users, retail investors and other non-industry stakeholders.

The objectives of the preparatory action are essentially the same as stated in the adopted budgetary remarks⁷.

2. Implementation

The new preparatory action will be implemented through call for proposals for grants (benefiting from the experience gained in implementation of the preceding pilot project, also implemented through call for grant proposals).

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision concerning the 2014 work programme for the preparatory action C(2013)8746 was adopted on 11/12/2013.

The call for proposals was also published on 11/12/2013 with deadline for submission of proposals of 22/01/2014.

The call for proposals aims at providing a financial contribution (operating grant) for the year 2014 for the functioning of European financial expertise centre(s) to the direct benefit of European end-users and other non-industry stakeholders in the financial services area.

Indicative timetable for further stages of the action:

Stages	Date or indicative period
Evaluation of grant proposals	01/2014 – 03/2014
Eligibility period for the costs incurred	01/02/2014 – 31/12/2014
Award decision & information to applicants	04/2014
Signature of grant agreements	05/2014
1st pre-financing payment to beneficiaries	06/2014
Further pre-financing payment to beneficiaries	10/2014-11/2014

⁷ Except for a slight variation in the wording – budgetary remarks refer to capacity of “civil society organisations” in general, while the Commission financing decision and the call for proposals mention capacity of “organisations of non-industry stakeholders”.

Preparatory action— E-Platform for Neighbourhood (15 02 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objective of the preparatory action is to develop an E-platform for ENP countries' administrations, local authorities, academic centres and civil society, allowing for flexible yet targeted exchange of know-how and knowledge in EU affairs and *acquis communautaire*. In particular, the Platform will serve the following objectives:

- The E-Platform for Neighbourhood will foster exchanges tailored to the profiles, requirements and limitations of the participants in the ENP countries, based on a rigorous pre-implementation, development and testing stages.
- The E-Platform will use innovative, Internet-based and interactive solutions, building on experience acquired by CEE countries during times of democratic transition.
- It will be complemented with a number of face-to-face communications, fostering contact between ENP nationals and academic centres and administrations in the EU, allowing for feedback and network-building to ensure capacity-building objectives are being achieved.
- The E-Platform will allow for the involvement of top experts, provision of high quality content, active communication methods and the building of communities of practice.

2. Implementation

The implementation of the preparatory action will closely associate Commission services DG EAC and DG DEVCO, as DG DEVCO has experience in cooperation with the EU Neighbourhood and has also already dealt with the implementation of a similar Pilot Project "E - Platform for Neighbourhood actions".

The implementation of the preparatory action will need to be strictly complementary to activities funded under the Erasmus + Programme.

It is envisaged that the preparatory action will be implemented by an action grant to the College of Europe (Natolin Campus) provided the conditions of Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application Rules of the Financial regulation are met. The College of Europe (Natolin Campus) possesses unique knowledge about processes of democratic transition and structural transformations towards the EU as well as extensive experience in ENP issues, which is important for the Preparatory Action's success. Natolin is also the seat of the EU-funded ENP Chair whose academic staff can support the implementation of the Preparatory Action E-Platform for Neighbourhood.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	April 2014
Submission of proposal by College of Europe (Natolin Campus)	May 2014
Evaluation of proposal and signature of the grant agreement	June - July 2014

Envisaged project phases:

01/07/2014 - 31/12/2014: Inception phase (6 months); Providing Training Needs Assessment; Defining the Beneficiaries of the E-Platform for Neighbourhood.

01/09/2014 – 01/03/2015: Preparation of functional and technical specifications of the E-Platform (Component E-learning).

01/11/2014 – 01/12/2015: Elaboration of training concept and teaching programmes.

May 2015: Developing and putting into operation the E-learning component; Developing and putting into operation the pilot database component of the E-Platform; Designing and developing the Expert Forum constituent part of E-Platform.

01/12/2015 - 31/05/2016: Testing, evaluation and feedback provision.

Heading 1b

Preparatory action — Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region (13 03 77 12)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The preparatory action aims at facilitating the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

The objective of the preparatory action as described in the budgetary remarks is to organise or develop:

- training programmes, seminars for young people with the aim of emphasising the common regional identity of the nations living in the Danube macro-region; the programmes should stress civic education and opportunities for cultural exchanges which will contribute to a progressive, sustainable European future-oriented dimension of coexistence by addressing the questions of understanding each other's regional presence, togetherness and the need for cooperation; and by providing scope for dialogues and reconciliation,
- the improvement and development of new solutions for handling expertise by means of accessible common platforms and project information as well as building networks.

The preparatory action will promote social and economic stability in the regions concerned, including actions to develop cohesion between communities by means of opening space for familiarising with, and giving due acknowledgement to, each other's cultures and histories and will also highlight the added value of transnational cooperation. This should create a sustainable basis for a common platform giving access to regional expertise and increasing regional cooperation and should in addition allow lessons to be drawn from the experience of a macro-region strategy. The eligible area shall be the Danube macro-region and the surrounding countries in line with the European Neighbourhood Policy. The organisation of programmes should involve nongovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, in order to ensure that reconciliation efforts go also beyond the governmental sphere. The programmes eligible for funds shall involve participants from at least three Member States from the region.

2. Implementation

The 2013 appropriations were allocated to the Technical Assistance Facility and the Danube Financing Dialogue through a direct grant to PACs of Priority Action 10 'To step up institutional capacity and cooperation'. The action is for the benefit of all Priority Areas and the Strategy as a whole.

The PAC was entrusted to organise a platform to match project ideas (Danube Financing Dialogue) and funding institutions, to support projects in their initial phase (Project Preparation Facility) and to organise the Annual Forum 2014.

- Danube Financing Forum: the objective is to improve the access to funding sources for Danube specific transnational projects, through a better matching of project ideas and funds/financial instruments in the Danube Region.
- Technical Assistance Facility: the assistance will facilitate the preparation of transnational projects in their starting phase. This will be done through a project preparation facility providing assistance to project holders of transnational projects. The facility is providing consultancy

services to potential project owners. It also allows for an evaluation of the pilot stage of the action and a potential adaptation, taking into account best practice examples from other macro-regional strategies.

- Annual Forum 2014: the governance structure consists of Priority Area Coordinators, National Contact Points, existing institutions and stakeholders. The action will support the communication, exchange of experience and capitalisation of results among the main stakeholders and ensure political commitment through the organisation of an Annual Forum in June 2014.

The 2014 appropriation will be allocated to the Managing Authority of the Danube Transnational Programme. The credits will be used to continue financing a project preparation facility, to provide support for the PACs and to finance the functioning of a Technical Secretariat for the EUSDR.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The preparatory action will continue its implementation in 2014. The financing decision is expected to be adopted by May 2014. One single grant contract will be signed during the first semester 2014 with the Managing Authority of the Danube Transnational Programme who will implement the actions.

It should be noted that under the 2014 budget a new budget line (13 03 68 Macro-regional strategies 2014-2020: European Strategy for the Danube Region -Technical assistance) will be also available.

Preparatory action — A regional strategy for the North Sea Region (13 03 77 14)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The aim of this preparatory action is to analyse the region's growth potential with a view to investigate the added value of having a future shared macro-regional strategy for the North Sea area.

2. Implementation

Taking into account the objectives and the level of appropriations available, the preparatory action will be implemented in 2014 by the organisation of a North Sea stakeholder conference. Such an event would support cross-sectoral co-operation in the North Sea region by engaging stakeholders, building for instance on the example of the Baltic Sea. The aim is to trigger interest in further cooperation in the North Sea and collect ideas on which shape such cooperation could take.

The stakeholder conference would also enable a follow-up dialogue with all stakeholders, including EU Commission, Member States and regional authorities.

The Commission services (DG MARE) are already in contact with some stakeholders, including the North Sea Commission, and will work further with them on this preparatory action.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is expected to be adopted in the first half of 2014. The preparatory work for the conference will be launched as soon as the financing decision is adopted and the event itself could be held in the second half of 2014 or early 2015.

Preparatory action — World cities: EU - third countries cooperation on urban development (13 03 77 15)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objectives pursued are to promote the exchange of experience and best practice between the European Union and third countries on the theme of territorial development with particular reference to urban development, urban-rural partnership and urban cross-border cooperation in the framework of the partnerships between the Commission and third countries and to co-operate with and assist international organisations in building new regional partnerships in this field.

Commission's objectives for the preparatory action are in line with the budgetary remarks. The main focus of the preparatory action will be to support current policy dialogues and EU global relations and cooperation on urbanisation matters with strategic partners such as Brazil, China, India or Japan.

The preparatory action will help to share the benefit of the EU's experience of how regional and urban development policies underpin the process of economic and political integration with main partners outside the EU and to pool international responses and experience to the benefit of EU regions and cities on the challenges faced by cities and regions worldwide.

2. Implementation

The preparatory action will be implemented directly by the Commission through the use of Framework Contracts, direct contracts and/or grants. In addition, an Urban network knowledge transfer for sustainable development project (URBELAC) will be supported, under indirect management with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The actions supported will include the organisation of events, training programmes, information activities, technical assistance, study visits, networking and studies. Depending on the interest and commitment of the concerned countries and regions, the following actions could be carried out in 2014.

Studies and technical assistance

- Technical assistance and cooperation schemes between EU and third countries cities (namely, Brazil, China, India) on sustainable urban development to enable cities to work together to develop pragmatic solutions to major urban challenges (such as planning and implementation of investment programmes which embody a low-carbon, or carbon neutral approach, mobility, energy efficiency, etc.);
- Follow up cross-border cooperation in Latin America: support to specific cooperation actions in Central American, Brazilian or Peruvian border areas through the establishment for example of action plans proposing working lines for enhancing the collaboration between cities in the border areas with concrete actions and measures;

- Cross-border regional innovation strategies in Latin America: support the improvement of the management of the regional innovation systems in selected border regions and cities through the establishment of technical guidelines and training of officials and experts.

Programme exchanges and seminars

A number of seminars and training programmes could be supported to be held inter alia in main partner countries on topics such as: strategic and governance issues, integrated urban development, urban-rural partnerships, cross-border cooperation, etc.

A number of programme exchanges could take place, namely with Japan on urban development and renovation (urban structures that are able to adapt to change in the socio-economic situation over the medium- to long-term period) and on environmentally sensitive urban development and the challenge of global warming.

Participants will be requested to report on lessons learned, good practices and relevance of the European experience for their professional life. Practical guides and handbooks could be also drafted by participants in the training programmes.

Support to information and communication tools

In order to increase the visibility of the activities and priorities of regional policy it is important to prepare and translate information and communications products into other languages.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The financing decision is expected to be adopted by at the beginning of March 2014. Most of the actions (either use of a framework contracts or the launch of procurement procedure) will start in the second quarter of 2014. All specific and direct contracts are expected to have been signed by end 2014.

Preparatory action — The actual and desired state of the economic potential in regions outside the Greek capital Athens (13 03 77 16)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objectives of the work under the Preparatory Action will be developing and implementing the research and innovation smart specialisation strategy (RIS3) given the difficulties of the Greek Innovation System. The action would focus on assisting a selected Greek region heavily hit by the crisis to finalise and implement its smart specialisation strategy to exploit its regional competitive advantages.

The aims of this Preparatory Action are to identify, assess, and support the exploitation of the economic potential in a selected region, and to explore the possibilities of its innovation potential and its expansion. The Region proposed is one of the poorest in Greece and in the European Union, the Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (R-AMTH). The Region of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace is a Convergence Region strongly hit by the crisis and the fierce competition of low labour cost neighbouring countries. Despite the presence of a University and a Technological Institute and other research bodies in the Region, the links of the R&D&I activities with the needs of the local entrepreneurs are almost non-existent.

The Preparatory Action should provide a concrete example that growth based on innovation and export orientation of the local productive forces is feasible. This can provide lessons for further development and adaptation of the programmes to be launched, in line with their impacts. The achievements of the Preparatory Action should thus serve as the basis for defining a growth paradigm for other regions of convergence in Greece and in Europe.

2. Implementation

In 2014 it is envisaged that the Preparatory Action implementation will be entrusted to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission through the signature of an Administrative Agreement, with the support of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy - DG REGIO.

The duration of the implementation of the Preparatory Action should not exceed fifteen months from its launch.

The following actions are planned.

Creating and/or strengthening the links between the emerging regional outward looking industry/Manufacturing and the regional R&D&I bodies, jointly implementing the RIS3

The action would aim at the refinement and activation of an Industrial Research and Technology development programme directed towards the needs of "emerging dynamic" productive sectors of R-AMTH, as recognized in the RIS3 - Regional Assessment: Eastern Macedonia - Thrace, namely: geothermal energy, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and biotechnology, extraction and processing of marble and ICTs and automation.

Support Greek regional institutional R&D&I bodies with expert advice in order to create/strengthen links with the Regional outward oriented companies in providing concrete solutions to the technological needs of the exporting companies of the Region

The action would aim at the refinement and activation of a programme for Research and Technological Development support in all the thematic areas identified by the RIS3 to provide tailor made solutions to the technological needs of exporting companies of the Region.

Enhance “brain” circulation and stop brain drain

The action would aim to:

1. Fully exploit the available technological equipment and expertise in the Technological Institute of the Region and the use of such equipment by local specialised personnel to provide technological solutions for the selected exporting companies, and to ensure the optimum productivity in the exploitation of equipment and expertise, through appropriate recruitment and training
2. Create and mobilise a pool of highly qualified/experienced locals in business, trade and exports to assist and advise potential foreign investors will to invest and develop business in the R-AMTH, and to identify appropriate recruitment and training measures to strengthen this pool.

Encourage cooperation between the Managing Authority of the Regional Programme and geographic economists

The action would aim at supporting the cooperation, the exchange of best practices and twinning of the Managing Authority of the Regional Operational Programme and geographic economists for Eastern Macedonia and Thrace with a Managing Authority as well as geographic economists successfully implementing a RIS3 policy in a given Region in a Member State.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The financing decision is in preparation and is expected to be adopted begin of March 2014.

Most of the actions will start in the second quarter of 2014.

The 15-month Preparatory Action will be monitored by the Managing Authority of the Regional Programme for Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. A limited number of specific output and result indicators will be set before the start of the Preparatory Action, measuring at least growth of turnover, growth of exports and jobs safeguarded and created. A short evaluation study should be commissioned at the end of the Preparatory Action.

Heading 2

Preparatory action — European farm prices and margins observatory (05 08 77 06)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The aim of the preparatory action is to fully set up a price monitoring tool along the food chain, starting from prices associated to farms till consumer prices, via producer prices. It targets the enhancement of the existing food price monitoring tool initiated by Eurostat in order to complement it in terms of coverage, quality, technical and communicational aspects and it complements the actions started in 2013.

In particular the project will aim to:

- extend the coverage of food chain/products;
- achieve better price comparability on each grade of the food supply chain within and among Member States;
- create a basis for integrating the food price monitoring tool in the regular production process of multipurpose price statistics within the European Statistical System;
- identify and highlight any synergies with the work done by national price observatories;
- meet consumers' and farmers' need for more transparency and food price building.

The project will make further advancements in the use of modern collection ways related to the food price chains (use of scanner data, use of internet data, use of electronic devices for the price collection) as well as implement appropriate compilation techniques to enhance the availability of food price chains statistics.

2. Implementation

Under the 2014 budget an amount of EUR 1 000 000 is foreseen for the second phase of the project. Following the adoption of a financing decision expected in March 2014, a call for proposals is planned to be launched in summer 2014 for signature of grant agreements by the end of the year.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	End March 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	Summer 2014
Signature of grant agreements	November 2014
Duration of the actions	1.5 - 2 years
Pre-financing payment (if any)	2014

Final Payment	2016
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Preparatory action — Union plant and animal genetic resources (05 08 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The preparatory action shall provide support for Europe wide interlinking projects and activities in conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in the framework of upcoming rural development programmes. It shall contribute to delivering the elements for a third Union genetic resources programme, specifically on the following questions:

- how to improve communication between Member States and their authorities on best practices and harmonisation of efforts in conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources;
- how to enhance networking between key stakeholders including farmers, researchers, gene banks, NGOs and end-users, and to enhance marketing opportunities in the context of quality schemes and short food chains;
- how to improve the exchange of knowledge and research in enhancing genetic diversity within agricultural systems;
- how to adapt breeding methods and legislation to the need for the conservation of genetic diversity and sustainable use of genetic resources;
- how to contribute to the successful implementation of rural development measures through actions in the field of genetic diversity in agriculture;
- how to reduce the administrative burden so as to improve access to actions.

2. Implementation

The preparatory action will be implemented via an open call for tenders.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The initial phase of this preparatory action has already started: the Steering Group to follow up on this project is currently being formed and the financing decision is in preparation.

The publication of the open call for tenders is planned for publication in first half of 2014. If the procurement procedure is successful, the contract is planned to be signed before the end of 2014.

Preparatory action — Guardians of the Sea (11 06 77 06)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

In accordance with the text of the budgetary remarks of the preparatory action, the objectives of the preparatory action are to:

- assess the feasibility for making the best possible use of active fishing vessels which need to be decommissioned from the Community fleet and of fishermen's experience and practical know-how to benefit both of the fishermen themselves and society at large,
- test under close to real-life conditions the technical and economic viability of redeploying — from fishing to maritime activities — individuals who have been active in the sector as crew members and who can no longer make their living from fishing and possess maritime experience and knowledge at risk of being lost in case alternative sources of income are sought in land-based activities,
- test under close to real-life conditions the feasibility of converting fishing vessels into vessels operating as a platform for a number of environmental and maritime activities outside fishing, in particular collecting marine litter,
- identify under close to real-life conditions the necessary operating costs of a vessel operating under such conditions and the potential sources of funding; however, any such funding should be limited to supporting the start-up of activities that are self-sustaining in the long term,
- identify the appropriate training needed for fishermen in order to perform new duties and achieve useful results,
- support reduction of fishing capacity in line with CFP reform objectives by providing positive incentives for vessel-owners and fishermen who leave the sector and encouraging them to find/develop alternative activities at sea and/or in coastal areas,
- encourage activities complementing fishing for those fishermen staying in the sector,
- identify the necessary administrative and legal framework for collaborating with the relevant authorities and/or relevant administrative bodies and for coordinating 'Guardians of the Sea' activities with them,
- test under close to real-life conditions the implementation of the 'Guardians of the Sea' concept in the next programming period.

2. Implementation

The 2014 appropriations of the pilot project "Guardians of the Sea" will be implemented through a call for proposals. Taking into account the level of appropriations, it is estimated that 2 to 3 projects could be financed among the proposals received.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	End March 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	April 2014
Evaluation of proposals	June-August 2014
Selection of proposals	August-September 2014
Signature of grant agreements	September- October 2014
Beginning of the implementation of the action	October 2014
Pre-financing payment (if any)	October 2014
Interim payment	February 2015
Final Payment	November - December 2015

Preparatory action — Fruit and vegetable consumption (17 03 77 11)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The preparatory action aims at increasing the consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables in vulnerable population groups (low-income pregnant women and their children, the elderly, etc.), in order to improve public health.

2. Implementation

This preparatory action is a continuation of a pilot project on fruit and vegetable consumption under the 2011 and 2012 budgets (item 17 03 77 03, former article 17 03 11).

The preparatory action will be implemented via a call for tender.

This action will draw on the experience of the ongoing actions financed under the pilot project, the results of which will be taken into account to better adjust the terms of references.

It will be particularly concerned with low socio-economic groups when updating evidence, designing intervention methods and messages, and monitoring and evaluating results. Such targeting is essential for public health promotion and public health campaigns to be effective and reduce inequalities.

Within its necessarily limited scope, it should contribute to the advancement of the knowledge base on the intake of fruits and vegetables and on overweight and obesity prevalence by socio-economic strata (important data breakdowns for improved policy-making).

The Commission draws the attention to the fact that, in line with the provisions of Article 54 (2) (b) of the Financial Regulation, preparatory actions are designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions. There is no such proposal being prepared in the field of Fruit and vegetable consumption, and the implementation of the preparatory action in 2014 is undertaken under this strict proviso.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The launch of the call for tender should follow. The implementation of the 2014 appropriations will be combined with the actions initiated under the relating pilot project.

Preparatory action — Healthy diet: early years and ageing population (17 03 77 14)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

This preparatory action is intended to continue the pilot project financed under the 2012 and 2013 budgets (item 17 03 77 04, former article 17 03 12) which aims at underlining the importance of a correct and healthy diet with a focus on the ageing population.

The project has three main objectives, namely:

- support awareness on the importance of a balanced diet and adequate nutrition status in all ages, through promotion of training of health professionals, care-givers and general population regarding the importance of a balanced diet and a good nutrition status in the general population and children and the problem of malnutrition in older people;
- increase the routine screening of nutrition status of relevant target groups with appropriate tools
- implement evidence-based good practices in nutrition management in clinical and community settings, in line with the specified objectives.

2. Implementation

This preparatory action will be implemented by a call for proposals.

The Commission draws the attention to the fact that, in line with the provisions of Article 54 (2) (b) of the Financial Regulation, preparatory actions are designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions. There is no such proposal being prepared in the field of Healthy diet: early years and ageing population and the implementation of the preparatory action in 2014 is undertaken under this strict proviso.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The signature of the grant agreement(s) is expected for the end of 2014.

Heading 3

Preparatory action — Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment (15 04 77 06)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The objectives of the preparatory actions are:

- To provide information on the degree of complementarity between the different platforms of distribution available to European films: cinema release, VOD, DVD, and potentially television.
- To test the impact of a simultaneous, or semi-simultaneous release on all available platforms of distribution and in several territories.

2. Implementation

The first year of the preparatory action (2012) was fully implemented by the Commission via a call for proposals and three projects were selected. This first phase has allowed noting some resistance of the sector to modify its exploitation practices territory per territory and according to a certain sequencing of release windows that delays the making available of the films to the public. For certain non-commercial films, this mode of exploitation has allowed more audience and revenues than the traditional modes of exploitation would normally allow. The results of the first year of implementation of the preparatory action will be presented in public in May 2014.

The second year of the Preparatory Action has also been implemented by way of a call for proposals, resulting in the selection of three projects. The Commission is currently finalising the individual commitments.

Taking into account the results of the first two years of the preparatory action, and as indicated in the letter of Executability of 25 October 2013, the Commission considers that the actions covered by the preparatory action and appropriations foreseen for 2014 could be integrated in the MEDIA sub-programme in 2014 in the context of the activities covered by the new Creative Europe programme (sub-programme MEDIA), under the umbrella of “innovative actions testing new business models and tools in areas likely to be influenced by the introduction and the use of digital technologies”.

It is therefore envisaged to transfer the commitment appropriations of the Preparatory Action (budget item 15 04 77 06) to budget article 15 04 03 (Creative Europe - MEDIA sub-programme).

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The actions of the third and last year of the Preparatory Action will be integrated in the Creative Europe programme within the framework of a digital scheme designed to the support of VOD platforms and new modes of distribution. This project will be eligible under the new Creative Europe programme.

The estimated time table for is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Discussion on the call adaptation by the Creative Europe Committee	24 January 2014
Adoption of the revised Work Programme / financing decision for Creative Europe / MEDIA	April 2014
Publication of the call for proposals	May 2014
Deadline for submission of proposals	July 2014
Award decision	October 2014
Signature of grant agreements	November 2014

Preparatory action — European Civil Society House (16 02 77 04)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The budgetary remarks indicate that the objective of the preparatory action is to enable the establishment in Brussels of a European Civil Society House (ECSH) as a cost-efficient resource centre and advice bureau on European rights and civic participation for citizens and civil society organisations.

2. Implementation

As mentioned in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013, the Commission is currently carrying out an in depth feasibility study for the first year for this action (2013 budget). It would be premature to anticipate what the overall results of the study will be. Preliminary work carried out (initial interviews) showed contrasted views from Civil Society organisations about such an initiative. In the interim report, analysis of the results of the surveys and focus group so far indicate that there would be little need for a new “European House for Civil Society”, even less for a Brussels based house. Complementary analysis is still being carried out. Any further action will depend on the final outcome of the study expected in spring/summer 2014. On that basis, the Commission will examine the appropriate course of action.

As indicated in the Executability letter, it is possible that this project would need to be re-designed and would take another form than that foreseen in the budgetary remark. The Commission expects to proceed on the basis of the study’s results.

Preparatory action — Share Europe Online (16 03 77 05)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The preparatory action Share Europe Online, implemented jointly by the European Parliament and the Commission, responds to the need to adapt the communication policies of the EU Institutions to the realities of internet and social media.

It aims at improving the way the EU Institutions engage with citizens on social media by stepping up the on-line presence of European Parliament Information Offices and Commission Representations in Member States, making their communication more interactive, targeted and adapted to local concerns as well as to the specificities of national social media landscapes. The action also aims to address the current deficit in institutional communication on social networks in local languages. Through the action, the Institutions seek directions for sustainable improvement in their communication strategy on social media, from a qualitative and cost-efficiency perspective.

2. Implementation

Share Europe Online has been running successfully as a pilot project since early 2013 when dedicated social media community managers were deployed to the European Parliament Information Offices and Commission Representations in 17 Member States to assist, advise and train local staff. In view of the positive results during the pilot phase, the scheme was extended EU-wide in November 2013.

The preparatory action will serve to prolong the presence of the community managers in the 28 Member States after the expiry of the pilot project in June 2014 and will take into account the results of the pilot project's evaluation. The extension will thus allow the continuation of testing of new approaches for engaging citizens on social media, to consolidate the good practice developed in the course of the pilot project and to prepare the local offices to pursue their social media communication in autonomy after the eventual phase-out of the Share Europe Online community management scheme.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

Appropriations foreseen for the preparatory action in 2014 will be used in order to provide the Information Offices and Representations with social media-related expertise, strategy and technical support via public procurement.

The Commission financing decision is expected to be adopted by end February 2014. Specific contracts based on ongoing framework contracts will be concluded in the second quarter of 2014.

Preparatory action — European study on the burden and care of epilepsy (17 03 77 15)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The aim of the project is to assess the burden of epilepsy as well as available epilepsy health care in the European Union to build a coordinated information platform across EU Member States involving NGOs, stakeholders and government organisations with regard to the burden of epilepsy. Good practices will be identified and recommendations made for better epilepsy care across Europe.

The strategic objective is to provide the necessary data for allocation of adequate resources for a high-quality epilepsy care equal in all EU countries thus closing the treatment gap, preventing the devastating consequences of epilepsy, reducing unemployment, stigma, and isolation, and securing improved quality of life for people with epilepsy, all in line with the recommendations of the European Parliament's Written Declaration on Epilepsy.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented by a call for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The adoption of financing decision is expected in the first semester 2014. The call for proposals will be launched soon after and the signature of the grant agreement(s) is expected at the end of 2014.

Preparatory action — Funding for the rehabilitation of victims of torture (18 03 77 09)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The main objective of this Preparatory Action is to create a line of funding for the final benefit of victims of torture whether EU citizens and/or migrants present in the European Union. It will enable rehabilitation centres to offer victims of torture as full rehabilitation as possible thus empowering torture victims to function properly in the society and to integrate faster in the European economies.

2. Implementation

The Commission draws the attention to the fact that, in line with the provisions of Article 54 (2) (b) of the Financial Regulation, preparatory actions are designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions. There is no such proposal being prepared in the field of rehabilitation of victims of torture, and the implementation of the preparatory action in 2014 is undertaken under this strict proviso.

The project will be implemented directly by grants awarded pursuant to an open call for proposals. The total budget of EUR 3 000 000 EUR will allow the financing of 4-12 projects dependent on the amount of grant requested by the applicants.

This Preparatory Actions builds on the results of the calls for proposals implemented under Pilot projects financed in 2011 (budget line 19 04 07), and 2012 and 2013 (budget line 18 03 16) on Victims of torture, under which altogether 11 projects were financed to date. The evaluation of the 2013 call for proposals is still on-going: the estimated number of projects to be financed is between 5 and 11.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable for 2014 implementation is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	First quarter 2014
Launching the Call for proposals	First Quarter 2014
Selection of proposals / award decision	Third quarter 2014
Signature of grant agreements	Third - fourth quarter 2014
Pre-financing payments	Third - fourth quarter 2014
Start of implementation of financed actions	Third - fourth quarter 2014

Heading 4

Preparatory action — Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension (19 05 77 02)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The objectives of the preparatory action as defined in the budgetary remarks are as follows. The preparatory action aims at increasing a broader transatlantic dialogue and cooperation involving Northern and Southern Atlantic countries in order to address common global challenges. The aim is to look into the feasibility of implementing common short and longer term goals in fields such as economic cooperation, global governance, development cooperation, climate change, security and energy. This pilot project should serve to strengthen a triangular dialogue, or even an extended Atlantic dialogue, as well as to promote the idea of a wider Atlantic Community.

2. Implementation

The Commission is currently considering the options for the implementation of the preparatory action, taking into account the elements detailed in its letter of executability of 25 October 2013.

Preparatory action — Enhanced health care for victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (21 02 77 13)

1. Objectives

Des crédits d'engagement ont été inscrits pour cette action préparatoire dans le cadre des budgets 2012, 2013 et 2014.

Les objectifs du projet seront les suivants:

Objectif global: Contribuer à l'amélioration de la prise de charge des victimes des violences sexuelles (VVS) dans les zones de conflit de la RDC

Objectif spécifique: Renforcement des capacités des centres de soins et des prestataires des soins de santé en matière de réparation de fistules génitales et de chirurgie gynécologique et obstétrique dans les zones de conflit de la RDC.

2. Implementation

Un avenant à la convention de financement signée en 2013 avec le gouvernement de la RDC sur la même thématique (contribution UE de EUR 3.500.000, budget 2012 et 2013, durée de 24 mois) semble être le mode d'exécution le plus approprié, étant donné que le nouveau projet propose une extension des activités en cours.

Il est prévu que le présent projet soit mis en œuvre en gestion centralisée directe par la Commission Européenne par l'intermédiaire de la Délégation de l'Union Européenne en RDC, dans le cadre d'une convention de financement conclue avec la RDC. Un avenant à la convention de financement qui existe avec le gouvernement est la meilleure façon d'assurer l'appropriation par l'administration nationale et la cohérence avec les politiques nationales de santé (plan national de développement sanitaire) et genre (stratégie nationale de lutte contre les violences liées au genre). Vue l'urgence et la nécessité de travailler avec des partenaires connaissant bien la zone d'intervention, la problématique de formation ainsi que de la prise en charge des victimes de violence sexuelle et capable de s'assurer l'intégration du système mis en place dans le système national de santé, la signature d'un contrat de subvention en attribution directe est proposée.

Les crédits de l'action préparatoire pour 2014 (contribution UE de EUR 2 millions) permettront d'enrichir les actions existantes en apportant un renforcement des infrastructures et équipements, en plus de continuer avec des activités de formation des prestataires des soins dans la réparation des fistules et la prise en charge chirurgicale des cas gynécologiques et obstétricaux. Ainsi, le nouveau projet visera des zones de santé non couvertes par les projets en cours. Ces zones devront être identifiées en fonction de des critères suivants: elles seront accessibles, situées à proximité des zones d'insécurité, et accuseront un risque élevé de violences sexuelles à cause des déplacements de la population.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

Avenant à la convention de financement (2013/24-175): juillet 2014.

Signature du contrat de subvention (VVS 2014): septembre 2014.

Preparatory action — Building resilience for better health of nomadic communities in post crises in the Sahel region (21 02 77 19)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The overall objective of the project is to build capacity of health workers to provide quality services targeted to the specific needs of nomadic or geographically dispersed communities , with a particular emphasis on maternal and child care, vaccination, nutrition and reproductive health,

Using the health service delivery as an example, the preparatory action will 1) analyse the current situation in the context of post crises in Northern Mali and Northern Niger, the existing difficulties (physical, financial, cultural...) to adequately provide this service, the best practices developed in specific cases (including mobile service delivery but maybe also best practices on resilience building and linking relief rehabilitation and development) and the capacities/resources of the different public and non-public actors involved. Throughout this baseline study phase, special attention should be put on mapping existing health capacities and initiatives, but also establishing an actor's typology. 2) provide recommendations to develop and extend the mentioned best practices, in the framework of local/national post-crisis initiatives to improve social conditions in these geographical areas, that can be supported by EU assistance 3) in close collaboration with local authorities, professional and community health workers, initiate a pilot phase to reinforce capacities to address nomadic groups health needs in sustainable terms.

N.B. At this early stage, mobile service delivery has been identified as one of the possible pilot actions from which best practices on resilience building and LRRD can be expected. UNICEF has already been involved on this issue, with a "multipurpose approach" while other NGOs are running or looking for opportunities to run such projects in the north of Niger.

The project may not be able to incorporate all the points mentioned in the budgetary remarks. The level of insecurity in both Northern Mali and Northern Niger means that the action will be tailored to the specificities and prevailing conditions.

2. Implementation

Given their fragile situations, both Niger and Mali can use flexible procedures This can facilitate the implementation of the preparatory action that will otherwise follow the EU budget financial/contractual procedures.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

A more detailed Concept Note will be developed during the first semester of 2014 on the basis of which the most appropriate implementation modality will be determined, including the organisation that would assume the implementing responsibility. This note will be based on consultations with different actors in the north of Mali and Niger (public/local authorities, community leaders, NGOs and international agencies...). The Financing Decision is envisaged for the second half of 2014, followed at the end of 2014 / early 2015 by contracting and start of implementation.

Preparatory action — Socio-economic reintegration of children and female sex workers living at mines in Luhwindja, South Kivu Province, eastern RDC (21 02 77 20)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The prevalence of child labour and of prostitution (involving both women and girls) in Luhwindja's mines is clearly indicative of the level of poverty in the area.

The overall aim of this project is to help improve living conditions for the inhabitants of Luhwindja chiefdom, with special emphasis being placed on providing the young people who have given up their studies to work in the mines with the guidance they require.

Special attention will be paid to the sex workers (women and girls) living at the mines, most of whom contract HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases at an early age, and to the issue of unwanted pregnancies.

There will also be close cooperation with local and national authorities, local communities and other development stakeholders (donors, UN agencies, private sector bodies and NGOs).

2. Implementation

Given the difficulty of access to the area in which the actions will take place and the focus of the project in children as well as women, an organisation with special knowledge on the field should be selected for the implementation. Acknowledging the urgency of the situation and to ensure the rapid start-up of the project, the implementation will be done through a Contribution Agreement with UNICEF.

3. Forecast for 2014 – timetable

The indicative timetable of implementation for 2014 is as follows:

ACTION	DATE
Adoption of the Commission financing decision	October 2014
Signature of agreement with UNICEF	November 2014
Pre-financing payment	December 2014

Preparatory action — Building and strengthening local partnerships to develop social economy and to establish social enterprises in Eastern Africa (21 02 77 21)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

The project aims to support the development of social enterprises in two East African countries by strengthening their capacities and by creating improvements in their operating environments. The latter will cover (i) institutional and organisational aspects, (ii) partnerships and linkages, and (iii) research and learning.

While a diversity of partnerships is envisaged, the project may not be able to incorporate all the forms mentioned in the budgetary remarks (diaspora communities in Europe; social economy actors in the new Member States; partnerships in different European countries; transnational local partnerships; links between cities, towns and villages).

2. Implementation

The project will primarily be implemented in Kenya and Ethiopia, while linking the social economy initiatives in these countries with appropriate experiences and social economy actors from elsewhere.

At this stage it is envisaged that the project will be implemented through an EU Member States development agency (preference) or alternatively through an International Organisation.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

A more detailed Concept Note will be developed during the first quarter of 2014 on the basis of which the most appropriate implementation modality will be determined. The Financing Decision is envisaged for the second or third quarter of 2014, followed by contracting (third quarter) and start of implementation (fourth quarter).

Preparatory action — Asset recovery to Arab Spring countries (21 03 77 05)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action for the first year under the 2014 Budget.

As diversity and complexity of national legislations in requested states and limited legal expertise and institutional capacities in requesting states remain major obstacles in the field of asset recovery to Arab Spring countries in transition, it is of crucial importance to offer substantial legal and technical assistance to Southern Mediterranean partner countries concerned.

This preparatory action, based on existing EU initiatives supporting Egyptian and Tunisian authorities engaged in the recovery of misappropriated assets stolen by former dictators and their regimes, aims to strengthen EU action in this field through capacity-building as well as promoting cooperation and expertise and information sharing between requesting and requested states, and the revision of national legislations as appropriate.

This preparatory action covers start-up costs for and finances annual running costs of this support mechanism.

Informal contacts have been taken by Commission services with the European Parliament to discuss the state of play and the possible options for the implementation of the preparatory action.

2. Implementation

Indications have already been given in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013 that the action concerned may be implemented under an existing legal basis, the ENI regulation. The programming document for the Regional Neighbourhood South for 2014 already foresees other actions in the sector of Justice and Security. These actions, including this one for asset recovery, will be proposed for funding in July 2014 and contracted by September/October 2014.

This action will be implemented as a grant or a contribution agreement with the most appropriate institution capable of assuring the highest legal and technical advisory mechanism aimed to assist national and international investigators, prosecutors, lawyer and other experts from relevant EU member States, other European and non-European countries.

3. Forecast for 2014 - timetable

The Financing decision is expected to be adopted in July 2014. The contribution agreement signature is foreseen in September/October 2014 and the first payment in November 2014.

Heading 5

Preparatory action — European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism (16 03 77 01)

1. Objectives

Commitment appropriations were voted for this preparatory action under the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Budgets.

The objective of the preparatory action is described as follows in the budgetary remarks of the 2014 Budget: *"This preparatory action for European research grants for journalists is intended to facilitate and develop serious cross-border journalistic research at Union level. Calls for tender will be organised with a view to selecting common investigation projects involving journalists from at least two Member States, with a cross-border or European dimension resulting from a national, regional or local perspective. The results of the journalistic investigation selected will be published in at least all the Member States involved."*

2. Implementation

The Commission expressed several reservations in the Executability letter of 25 October 2013 and provided arguments to substantiate its decision not to implement the grant schedule for the cross-border investigative journalism as follows:

"Taking into account the institutional calendar of the year 2014, the Commission fears that the implementation of an operational scheme such as the one foreseen in the amendment would present risks in terms of cost-effectiveness and sustainability.

There is a clear risk that the administrative and technical overhead cost for the action would exceed what is considered sound financial management. 20% of direct costs of an operation are normally considered to be the maximum acceptable overhead (re e.g. ESF Regulation (Article 11.3(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006)). The draft study financed under the 2012 Preparatory Action states that an appropriate scheme would necessarily have 33% overhead costs due to the allocation of numerous relatively small grants through an external intermediary organization to be entrusted with securing journalistic freedom as well as the administration of the scheme.

In addition, the EP Conference of Committee Chairs has requested the Commission not to submit any new legislative proposals for the remainder of this legislature. Moreover, while it would be theoretically feasible to adopt a basic act either in co-decision procedure or consent procedure (unanimity if based on TFEU article 352) before 31.12.2014, it hardly seems feasible in a year when a new Parliament will be elected in May and the Commission will be in "caretaker mode" as of spring 2014 (before the new Commission takes up office in November). The Commission considers that such circumstances affect the sustainability of the action."

In 2014 the Commission will proceed with the completion of actions financed under previous years' commitment appropriations, in particular the final balance payment of the feasibility study on European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism.

DG responsible and contact persons

A. *Pilot projects*

Line	Heading	Responsible DG	Contact Person
Heading 1a			
02 02 77 16	Pilot project — on the Future of Manufacturing	ENTR	Mr J. BARREIRO HURLE
04 03 77 15	Pilot project — Feasibility and added value of a European unemployment benefit scheme	EMPL	Mr G. LEJEUNE Mr O. BONTOUT
06 02 77 05	Pilot project — The role of rolling stock in European interoperability	MOVE	Ms S. PROUT
09 04 77 01	Pilot project — Open Knowledge Technologies: Mapping and validating knowledge	CNECT	Mr J. PELEGRIN
09 04 77 02	Pilot project — Connected for health: Wellbeing and Healthcare Solution in an Open Access FTTH Networks	CNECT	Ms A. RATOI
09 04 77 03	Pilot project — REsearch (Research Excellence Innovation Framework) — Enhancing the competitiveness of the European Research Area by increasing communication among researchers, citizens, industry and policy makers	CNECT	Mr J. COTTA
Heading 1b			
13 03 77 13	Pilot project — Cohesion Policy and the synergies with the research and development funds: the "stairway to excellence"	REGIO	Ms T. KRAUSOVA
Heading 2			
05 08 77 10	Pilot project — Agropol: development of a European cross-border Agribusiness Model Region	AGRI	Mr E. MARKAKIS Ms M. KNOPF
05 08 77 11	Pilot project — Agroforestry	AGRI	Mr E. MARKAKIS Ms M. KNOPF
07 02 77 22	Pilot project — Biodiversity protection through a results-based remuneration of ecological achievements	ENV	Mr M. L. MAIER Mr V. KOVACEVIC
07 02 77 26	Pilot project — Creation of South East European regional centre on advanced recycling of electric and electronic waste	ENV	Ms M. IVANICA
07 02 77 27	Pilot project — Resource efficient use of mixed wastes	ENV	Mr G. WOLFF
11 06 77 07	Pilot project — Bringing a network of marine protected areas established or to be established under national and international environmental or fisheries legislation into service, with a view to enhancing the production potential of EU Mediterranean fisheries on the basis of maximum sustainable yields and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management	MARE	Mr F. BIAGI
11 06 77 08	Pilot project — Support measures for small-scale fishing	MARE	Mr R. ATAIDE DIAS

Line	Heading	Responsible DG	Contact Person
17 02 77 03	Pilot project — Your Europe Travel (YET) Application for mobile Devices	SANCO	Ms A. FOKKEMA
17 03 77 12	Pilot project — Reducing health inequalities: building expertise and evaluation of actions	SANCO	Mr P. ROUX
17 03 77 13	Pilot project — Developing evidence based strategies to improve the health of isolated and vulnerable persons	SANCO	Mr P. ROUX
17 04 77 03	Pilot project — Developing best practices in animal transport	SANCO	Ms K. QUINTEROS
17 04 77 04	Pilot project — Farmhouse and Artisan Cheesemakers' European Network – Project involving the production of European guidelines for proper hygienic practice	SANCO	Mr K. KOSTENZER
32 02 77 06	Pilot project — Techno-economic models for district heating networks with multiple inputs	ENER	Mr P. HODSON
34 02 77 02	Pilot project — Making efficient use of EU climate finance: using roads as an early performance indicator for REDD+ projects	CLIMA	Mr M. BUCKI Mr S. KAY
Heading 3			
09 02 77 02	Pilot project —Implementation of the Media Pluralism Monitoring Tool	CNECT	Mr M. TOMASZEWSKI
09 02 77 03	Pilot project — European Centre for Press and Media Freedom	CNECT	Mr M. TOMASZEWSKI
15 04 77 07	Pilot project —Fostering European integration through culture by providing new subtitled versions of selected TV programmes across all Europe	EAC	Ms B. WALTON
16 02 77 01	Pilot project — New narrative on Europe	COMM	Mr J. ANDREU ROMEO
16 02 77 05	Pilot project — The promise of the EU	COMM	Mr J. ANDREU ROMEO
17 03 77 08	Pilot project — European Prevalence Protocol for early detection of Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Europe	SANCO	Mr A. MONTERRAT
17 03 77 09	Pilot project —Promotion of self-care systems in the European Union	SANCO	Ms K. STEIG
18 02 77 02	Pilot project — New integrated mechanisms for cooperation between public and private actors to identify sports betting risks	HOME	Ms V. OUTLA
33 02 77 08	Pilot project — Knowledge platform for professionals dealing with female genital mutilation	JUST	Ms M. PARMANTIER Ms A. GALAND
33 02 77 09	Pilot project — Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening their involvement in the monitoring of National Roma Integration Strategies	JUST	Ms D. PIPPIDOU Mr M. SERPIERI
33 03 77 04	Pilot project — Raising awareness of children to be aware of their rights in judicial procedures	JUST	Mr A. URBANIK Mr G. LANZKE
Heading 4			
21 02 77 15	Pilot project — Strategic investment in sustainable peace and democratisation in the Horn of Africa	DEVCO	Mr F. GARRIDO RUIZ
21 02 77 16	Pilot project — Strengthening veterinary services in developing countries	DEVCO	Ms L. GUALDI
21 02 77 17	Pilot project — Corporate Social Responsibility and access to voluntary family planning for factory workers in developing countries	DEVCO	Ms. M. LIPPONEN

Line	Heading	Responsible DG	Contact Person
21 02 77 18	Pilot project — Investing in sustainable peace and community rebuilding in the Cauca area - Colombia	DEVCO	Ms G. SCHOUTENS

B. Preparatory Actions

Line	Heading	Responsible DG	Contact Person
Heading 1a			
02 02 77 08	Preparatory action — Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis on cultural and industrial products	ENTR	Ms Iulia ALUAS Mr E. PHILIPPART
02 02 77 09	Preparatory action — Tourism and accessibility for all	ENTR	Ms A. CORRERA
04 03 77 09	Preparatory action — Information centres for posted workers and migrant workers	EMPL	Ms Marzena MATYJA
04 03 77 14	Preparatory action — Social innovation driven by social business and young entrepreneurship	EMPL	Ms L. CATANA
04 03 77 16	Preparatory action — Micro credit to specifically combat youth unemployment	EMPL	Mr M. PETRIK
06 02 77 06	Preparatory action — General aviation - Statistics and key figures	MOVE	Ms E. MAIRE
12 02 77 03	Preparatory action — Single Market Forum	MARKT	Ms N. STEFANOWICZ
12 02 77 05	Preparatory action — Capacity building for end users and other non-industry stakeholders in connection with Union policy-making in the area of financial services	MARKT	Ms I. SMIRNOVA
15 02 77 09	Preparatory action — E-Platform for Neighbourhood	EAC / DEVCO	Mr V. BORRELLI Ms E. VALENTINY
Heading 1b			
13 03 77 12	Preparatory action — Towards a common regional identity, reconciliation of nations and economic and social cooperation including a Pan-European Expertise and Excellence Platform in the Danube macro-region	REGIO	Ms E. NUSSMUELLER
13 03 77 14	Preparatory action — A regional strategy for the North Sea Region	REGIO / MARE	DG REGIO – Mr V. RODRIGUEZ SAEZ DG MARE – Mr H. SIEMERS, Mr M. BALLU
13 03 77 15	Preparatory action — World cities: EU - third countries cooperation on urban development	REGIO	Mr R. LOPEZ SANCHEZ
13 03 77 16	Preparatory action — The actual and desired state of the economic potential in regions outside the Greek capital Athens	REGIO	Mr M; PRZEOR Ms T. KRAUSOVA
Heading 2			
05 08 77 06	Preparatory action — European farm prices and margins observatory	ESTAT	Mr B. FELDMANN
05 08 77 09	Preparatory action — Union plant and animal genetic resources	AGRI	Mr E. MARKAKIS Ms M. KNOPF
11 06 77 06	Preparatory action — Guardians of the Sea	MARE	Mr F. LAMPLMAIR Ms K. JURADO
17 03 77 11	Preparatory action — Fruit and vegetable consumption	SANCO	Mr P. ROUX
17 03 77 14	Preparatory action — Healthy diet: early years and ageing population	SANCO	Mr J. PINTO ANTUNES
Heading 3			

Line	Heading	Responsible DG	Contact Person
15 04 77 06	Preparatory action — Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment	EAC	Mr E. JOLY
16 02 77 04	Preparatory action — European Civil Society House	COMM	Ms S. BEERNAERTS
16 03 77 05	Preparatory action — Share Europe Online	COMM	Mr L. POHLEN
17 03 77 15	Preparatory action — European study on the burden and care of epilepsy	SANCO	Ms A. NILSSON
18 03 77 09	Preparatory action — Funding for the rehabilitation of victims of torture	HOME	Mr M. SCHIEFFER
Heading 4			
19 05 77 02	Preparatory action — Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension	FPI	Mr G. MILLER
21 02 77 13	Preparatory action — Enhanced health care for victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	DEVCO	Ms N. BALLESTEROS MENENDEZ
21 02 77 19	Preparatory action — Building resilience for better health of nomadic communities in post crises in the Sahel region	DEVCO	Mr A. DEMOOR
21 02 77 20	Preparatory action — Socio-economic reintegration of children and female sex workers living at mines in Luhwindja, South Kivu Province, eastern RDC	DEVCO	Ms N. BALLESTEROS MENENDEZ
21 02 77 21	Preparatory action — Preparatory Action: Building and strengthening local partnerships to develop social economy and to establish social enterprises in Eastern Africa	DEVCO	Mr W. OLTHOF
21 03 77 05	Preparatory action — Asset recovery to Arab Spring countries	DEVCO	Mr P. ASSELBERGHS
Heading 5			
16 03 77 01	Preparatory action — European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism	COMM	Mr P. CATTOIR