



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Budget

Brussels, 2012

First Commission interim report on the implementation of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions 2012

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Introduction

This is the first Commission interim report on the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions in 2012.

It covers the 68 projects/actions adopted by the Budgetary Authority for the Budget 2012 as regards section III (Commission), focusing on the new 34 projects/34 actions and existing projects/actions for which additional commitment appropriations were approved (see summary table in introduction section). It identifies the authorising officers responsible for the implementation of these actions and outlines the plans for implementation (see Annex 1).

A second report will be transmitted with the Draft Budget (DB) 2013, as required by Article 49, point 6a 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 in 2013, but which still have payment appropriations.

Summary Table on Pilot projects

ABB Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2012 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
HEADING 1a				
02 02 16	ENTR	Pilot project — A Rare Earth Competency network for Europe	1.000.000	500.000
04 03 08	EMPL	Pilot project — Promoting protection of the right to housing	1.000.000	500.000
04 03 14	EMPL	Pilot Project — Social solidarity for social integration	1.000.000	1.000.000
04 04 16	EMPL	Pilot project — Health and Safety at work of older workers	2.000.000	1.000.000
12 02 03	MARKT	Pilot Project — Single Market Forum	1.200.000	600.000
12 02 04	MARKT	Pilot Project — Capacity building of end users and other non industry stakeholders for EU policymaking in the area of financial services	1.250.000	1.125.000
15 07 79	EAC	Pilot project - Knowledge Partnerships	1.000.000	750.000
32 04 18	ENER	Pilot Project — Energy security — Shale Gas	200.000	100.000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1a			8.650.000	5.575.000
HEADING 1b				
13 03 26	REGIO	Pilot project - Suburbs sustainable regeneration	500.000	500.000
13 03 30	REGIO	Pilot project - 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	2.000.000	1.000.000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1b			2.500.000	1.500.000
HEADING 2				
05 02 17 02	AGRI	Pilot Project — European farm prices and margins observatory	1.000.000	500.000
05 02 17 07	AGRI	Pilot Project — Measures against speculation with agricultural commodities	1.500.000	750.000
05 04 05 03	AGRI	Pilot Project — Exchange programme for young farmers	1.500.000	750.000
05 08 11	AGRI	Pilot Project — Exchanging best practice for cross compliance simplification	1.000.000	500.000
05 08 12	RTD	Pilot Project — Coordinate research on the use of homeopathy and phytotherapy in livestock farming	500.000	250.000
07 03 30	ENV	Pilot Project — Atmospheric precipitation – protection and efficient use of fresh water	1.500.000	750.000
07 03 32	ENV	Pilot Project — Long term impact of carbon neutral housing on waste water systems	1.500.000	750.000
07 03 33	ENV	Pilot Project — Marine litter recovery	1.000.000	500.000
07 03 34	ENV	Pilot Project — Availability, use and sustainability of water for the production of nuclear and fossil energy	500.000	250.000
07 03 35	ENV	Pilot Project — New knowledge for an integrated Management of Human Activity in the Sea	2.000.000	1.000.000

ABB Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2012 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
07 03 72	ENV	Pilot Project — Resource Efficiency in practice - closing mineral cycles	1.000.000	500.000
11 07 03	MARE	Pilot Project — Tools for a common governance and sustainable fisheries management: fostering collaborative research between scientists and stakeholders	1.500.000	750.000
17 03 11	SANCO	Pilot Project — Fruit and vegetable consumption	1.000.000	1.000.000
17 03 12	SANCO	Pilot Project — Healthy Diet and Ageing Population	1.000.000	500.000
17 03 13	SANCO	Pilot Project — Developing and implementing successful prevention strategies for Type 2 diabetes	1.000.000	500.000
17 04 01 02	SANCO	Pilot Project — Coordinated European Animal Welfare Network	1.000.000	500.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 2</i>			<i>18.500.000</i>	<i>9.750.000</i>
<i>HEADING 3a</i>				
18 03 16	HOME	Pilot Project — Rehabilitation of victims of torture	2.000.000	1.000.000
18 03 18	HOME	Pilot Project — Analysis of reception, protection and integration policies for unaccompanied minors in the EU	1.000.000	500.000
33 03 07	ENTR	Pilot project — Rapid and efficient enforcement of outstanding claims by small and medium-sized undertakings (SMU) operating across borders	2.000.000	1.500.000
33 03 08	JUST	Pilot project — European judicial training	1.500.000	750.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 3a</i>			<i>6.500.000</i>	<i>3.750.000</i>
<i>HEADING 3b</i>				
15 04 10	EAC	Pilot project — Economy of cultural diversity	750.000	375.000
15 04 51	ENTR	Pilot project — Development of the European "Creative Districts"	1.000.000	500.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 3b</i>			<i>1.750.000</i>	<i>875.000</i>
<i>HEADING 4</i>				
19 04 06	DEVCO	Pilot project - Civil Society Forum EU-Russia	400.000	200.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 4</i>			<i>400.000</i>	<i>200.00</i>
<i>HEADING 5</i>				
16 02 07	COMM	Pilot Project — "Connecting Europe"	1.000.000	500.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 5</i>			<i>1.000.000</i>	<i>500.000</i>
<i>TOTAL Pilot projects</i>			<i>39.300.000</i>	<i>22.150.000</i>

Summary Table on Preparatory actions

ABB Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2012 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
HEADING 1a				
02 02 08 04	ENTR	Preparatory action - Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis to cultural and industrial ones	2.000.000	1.000.000
02 02 08 05	ENTR	Preparatory action - Tourism and accessibility for all	1.000.000	500.000
02 02 10	ENTR	Preparatory action — Euromed innovation entrepreneurs for change	2.000.000	1.000.000
04 03 13	EMPL	Preparatory action — Your first EURES Job	3.250.000	2.125.000
04 04 17	EMPL	Preparatory action — Activation measures targeting young people - implementing Youth on the Move initiative	4.000.000	2.000.000
06 02 14	MOVE	Preparatory action — European transport information and booking interface across transport modes	1.500.000	750.000
15 02 33	EAC	Preparatory action — Preparatory action to cover costs of studies for specialising in ENP and for related academic activities, including setting-up the ENP Chair in the College of Europe Natolin Campus	3.500.000	1.750.000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1a			17.250.000	9.125.000
HEADING 1b				
13 03 28	REGIO	Preparatory action — Preparatory Action — Enhancing regional and local cooperation through the promotion of EU regional policy on a global scale	2.000.000	2.000.000
13 03 29	REGIO	Preparatory action — Preparatory Action — The definition of Governance model for the EU Danube Region - better and effective coordination	1.500.000	1.500.000
13 03 32	MARE	Preparatory Action — Atlantic Forum for the EU Atlantic Strategy	1.200.000	600.000
13 03 33	REGIO	Preparatory Action — Supporting Mayotte, or any other territory potentially affected, with the switchover to outermost-region status	2.000.000	1.000.000
13 03 34	REGIO	Preparatory Action — Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives	2.000.000	1.000.000
SUBTOTAL HEADING 1b			8.700.000	6.100.000
HEADING 2				
07 03 12	ENV	Preparatory Action — Future legal base on harmonised EU forest information	1.000.000	500.000
07 03 27	ENV	Preparatory action — BEST Scheme "Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of EU Outermost Regions and Overseas and Territories"	2.000.000	2.000.000
07 03 29	ENV	Preparatory Action — Development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe	1.000.000	1.000.000
07 03 71	ENTR	Preparatory action — RECAP: recycling at local scale of internal plastic scrap created by major EU polymer converting regions	1.500.000	750.000
07 13 03	CLIMA	Preparatory Action — Mainstreaming climate action and adaptation	5.000.000	3.750.000
17 03 14	SANCO	Preparatory action — Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): Research on the causes of high and improper antibiotic usage	1.000.000	500.000

ABB Nomenclature	DG Responsible	Heading	Budget 2012 (EUR)	
			C.A.	P.A.
32 04 19	ENER	Preparatory action — Cooperation Mechanisms implementing the RES Directive	500.000	250.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 2</i>			<i>12.000.000</i>	<i>8.750.000</i>
<i>HEADING 3a</i>				
18 03 17	HOME	Preparatory action — Enable the resettlement of refugees during emergency situations	3.000.000	1.500.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 3a</i>			<i>3.000.000</i>	<i>1.500.000</i>
<i>HEADING 3b</i>				
15 04 46	EAC	Preparatory action — Culture in external relations	500.000	250.000
15 04 66 03	EAC	Preparatory action — Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment	2.000.000	1.000.000
15 05 20	EAC	Preparatory action — European partnerships on Sport	4.000.000	2.000.000
16 05 07 01	COMM	Preparatory action — European year of citizens 2013	1.000.000	600.000
17 03 15	SANCO	Preparatory action — Creation of an EU network of experts in the field of adapted care for adolescents with psychological problems	1.000.000	500.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 3b</i>			<i>8.500.000</i>	<i>4.350.000</i>
<i>HEADING 4</i>				
19 08 01 06	DEVCO	Preparatory action — New Euro Mediterranean Strategy for youth employment promotion	1.500.000	750.000
19 11 05	ENV	Preparatory action — Strategic environmental impact assessment of the development of the Arctic	1.000.000	500.000
21 03 03	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Regional African CSO Network for MDG 5	2.000.000	1.000.000
21 05 01 09	DEVCO	Preparatory action — Enhanced health care for victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	2.000.000	1.000.000
22 02 09	ELARG	Preparatory action for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas	3.000.000	2.000.000
23 02 04	ECHO	Preparatory action — European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps	3.000.000	3.000.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 4</i>			<i>12.500.000</i>	<i>8.250.000</i>
<i>HEADING 5</i>				
16 02 06	COMM	Preparatory action — European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism	1.000.000	500.000
25 01 10	BEPA	Preparatory action — Inter-institutional system identifying long-term trends facing the Union	2.000.000	1.000.000
26 03 03	HR	Preparatory action — Erasmus public administration programme	600.000	300.000
<i>SUBTOTAL HEADING 5</i>			<i>3.600.000</i>	<i>1.800.000</i>
<i>TOTAL Preparatory Actions</i>			<i>65.550.000</i>	<i>38.375.000</i>

Implementation of Pilot Projects

Heading 1a

A Rare Earth Competency network for Europe (02 02 16)

1. Objective

The pilot project aims at establishing a Rare Earth Competency Network (ERECON) of excellence and interdisciplinary alliance. ERECON will aim at ensuring in depth understanding of the recycling and substitution of rare earth elements (REE), covering all aspects of the value chain, including exploration, extraction, and processing and refining, which are also relevant to the long-term supply to the EU. The proposal will cover the following key areas:

- recycling, including improved re-covering of REE (note single elements of the group of REE have different requirements) and capacities for refining, including collecting and sorting;
- substitution of REE for key applications (e.g. permanent magnets, advanced optical glasses);
- sustainable mining and mineral processing of REE (e.g. develop options with in the EU and its close neighbourhood; improve technological solutions including the handling of radioactive minerals and their process residuals).

The main deliverables of the ERECON project will include:

- Map of existing networks in the key areas;
- Build-up a network of excellence and interdisciplinary alliance;
- Thematic workshops¹;
- Exchange of best practices;
- Recommendations for the EU research.

2. Implementation

This pilot project will be implemented under a service contract following a tendering procedure to be launched in the second quarter of 2012.

Organisation: a pilot group will steer three groups of experts corresponding to the three key areas. A secretariat will support the pilot group and groups of experts and facilitate their operation. It will organise the workshops. The secretariat will also implement and run the website project and provide the expertise, local support and identification of existing networks in key areas.

3. Forecast for 2012

The signing of the contract is foreseen in the second half of 2012, for a total duration of 2 years.

The following milestones are foreseen under this contract:

2012: Start of preparatory work and ERECON secretariat;

¹ To be organised in order to a) serve to a better uptake of the findings and recommendations by a wider group of experts and stakeholders aiming to adopt and implement actions where appropriate and/or b) to exchange views with similar international groups where appropriate.

- 2013: Set-up of ERECON task force and expert groups; start of technical meetings, one or two specific workshops, launch of dedicated ERECON website and interim report;
- 2014: Continuation of meetings (technical and task force), preparation of final report with recommendations (including on research) and concluding conference.

Promoting protection of the right to housing (04 03 08)

1. Objective

This pilot project is intended to support active inclusion notably the prevention or reduction of homelessness and housing exclusion, promoting common recognition of fundamental rights.

In this context, provisions to protect the main private residence against seizure and to prevent the loss of rented housing by low-income families (for example where the property is mortgaged) should be seen in the framework of the wider right to housing assistance, as recognised by Article 34(3) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will include:

- analysis of Member States' laws protecting the main private residences of insolvent families against seizure where the property is mortgaged, and of the link between anti-eviction policies and a legally binding right to housing in countries which recognise this;
- study of the possibility of establishing a common minimum framework to limit seizure of the main private residence where this is the only housing occupied by the debtor; and
- where appropriate specific consideration of related issues of housing exclusion and homelessness and their extent for people faced by other dimensions of social exclusion.

The pilot project should build on existing work in the field, and it should also provide input into the relevant work of the European Commission and other European institutions.

Where it is possible the pilot project will aim to build on work carried out under the Open method of coordination on social protection and social inclusion (social OMC) in 2009's thematic year on homelessness and housing exclusion, including the scale of the problem, while taking into account Art. 34 (3) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU which "recognises and respects the right to social and housing assistance (...) in accordance with the rules laid down by Union law and national laws and practices".

The project will be designed so as to complement rather than duplicate other work the Commission is planning or has in hand in related areas notably studies on over-indebtedness and the protection of consumers in financial difficulty. In this way the distressing chain of events leading from over-indebtedness and financial difficulty to loss of the home will be covered.

Outputs envisaged are analysis of information collated in a seminar and a final report.

3. Forecasts for 2012

The calls will be launched and the parties selected in 2012.

Social solidarity for social integration (04 03 14)

1. Objective

This pilot project aims to support and promote the strengthening of an active inclusion strategy in the European Union, ensuring that all people have the resources necessary to lead a life in dignity, to further develop their human capital, and be able to participate actively in the labour market.

The pilot project will aim to create a network to facilitate the exchange of good practices between Member States, regional and local administrations, trade unions and associations on national minimum income schemes. The information collected and exchanged should also facilitate the drawing up of a study on possible common measures for a minimum income.

2. Implementation

More specifically, the pilot project will address the challenges Member States face when it comes to implementing adequate income support schemes for those most in need for it. As such, the project aims to discuss – among others - the problems of adequacy (e.g. the role of reference budgets), as well as, the effectiveness of minimum income schemes in combating poverty.

The call for tender for the pilot project to be funded up to a maximum of EUR 1 million, under the 2011 budget on budget article 04 03 14, has just been re-launched (tender n° VT/2011/100).² It should also provide input into the relevant work of the European Commission and other European institutions.

The successful project(s) will be selected in the course of 2012. Implementation of the relevant actions will start in 2012 and will be followed by the dissemination of the results.

In terms of expected outcomes, the project should enhance knowledge on the adequacy on minimum income across Member States. It is expected, that by the end of the project reference budgets for all Member States would be developed that could be potentially used as a benchmark for adequate income support. The project should also address the effectiveness of minimum income schemes in terms of moving people back to the labour market. Therefore, another outcome of the project should be a list of best practices (and institutional arrangements such as tax credits) that proves to be the most effective in moving people back to the labour market in the context of minimum income schemes.

3. Forecast for 2012

As explained above and in line with the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011, the Commission is still in the phase of implementing the pilot project that the EP requested in Budget 2011 to put in place.

In these circumstances, it has no sufficient retrospect yet and believes it is premature to consider any prolongation of the pilot project under the 2012 budget. It will, however, closely monitor the implementation of the pilot project that the EP requested in Budget 2011 and, at later stage during the budgetary year, consider if the 2012 appropriations could serve the purpose of the prolongation of the project, maybe with some re-designing depending on provisional results to be expected.

² A first call for tender has been launched in August 2011 (VT/2011/47). The call for tender received two applications. After careful consideration, the evaluation committee decided not to award the contract. In January 2012, the call was re-launched (VT/2011/100) under the 2011 budget. This contract is expected to be awarded in May 2012.

Health and Safety at work of older workers (04 04 16)

The Commission confirms the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011. It is still reflecting on the most appropriate delivery mechanism for this project and in particular on how to benefit from the expertise of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in Bilbao.

Single Market Forum (12 02 03)

1. Objective

The objective of the Pilot Project is the organisation of the annual Single Market Forum. The Single Market Forum is a joint effort between the Commission and the European Parliament to bring together European citizens, businesses, consumers and public authorities to improve coordination and better governance of the Single Market.

2. Implementation

In 2011 the Single Market Forum took place in Krakow, Poland from 2-4 October 2011. It was organised jointly by the European Parliament, the Polish Government (holding the Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers in the second half of 2011) and the European Commission. The conference brought together around 1200 citizens, businesses, consumers, representatives of the Member States (including at regional and local level), national parliaments, stakeholders, journalists and European institutions. All participants were invited to share their experiences and ideas on the functioning of the Single Market.

The Krakow Forum involved presentations of some real-life stories from citizens and businesses, selected in the framework of the EU-wide competition "Tell us your story", aimed at highlighting challenges faced by citizens and businesses in the European Union's Single Market. A series of workshops on key areas of the Single Market followed. The Single Market Forum in Krakow concluded with a declaration that highlighted areas for improving the functioning of the Single Market.

3. Forecast for 2012

For 2012, the Single Market Forum will coincide with the 20th Anniversary of the Single Market. It is therefore planned to also look back at past achievements, to reach out to people and to debate new initiatives to stimulate growth in the Single Market when gathering European citizens, businesses, consumers and public authorities during the week from 15 to 20 October 2012. Furthermore, it is also planned to involve young adults born 20 years ago ("Generation 1992") to obtain their views on the Single Market.

Capacity building of end users and other non industry stakeholders for EU policymaking in the area of financial services (12 02 04)

1. Objective

This pilot project aims to enhance the capacity of civil society and non-industry stakeholders to actively participate in Union policymaking in the area of financial services, with a view to providing policymakers with a counterweight to the financial services industry 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.

2. Implementation

The pilot project will be implemented through an open call for grant proposals which will result in operating grant agreements with awarded applicants.

3. Forecast for 2012

The goal of the project is to promote the involvement of end-users and non-industry stakeholders in EU policy making in the area of financial services, in particular through the production of expertise (e.g. conduct of research and studies, responses to consultations, participation in conferences, seminars, etc.) in that area and its sharing both with its members and the larger public (through e.g. issuing of publications, posting of information on internet website, the organising of conferences or seminars, etc). The concrete expected outcomes will depend on the submitted and later awarded work programmes.

The objective would be to have the grant agreements signed by 30/04/2012.

Indicative timetable for the grant procedure:

Date	Activity
16/12/2011	Launch of call for proposals following adoption of the financing decision
31/01/2012	Deadline for applicants to submit their proposals
31/03/2012	Evaluation and award decision
30/04/2012	Signature of grant agreements
31/05/2012	First pre-financing payments

Knowledge Partnerships (15 07 79)

1. Objective

The integrated approach advocated in the Europe 2020 Strategy involves the development of synergies and combined actions between research, innovation and education policies (so-called "knowledge triangle"). In this perspective "knowledge partnerships" are explicitly mentioned in the EU 2020 Strategy, under the flagship initiative Innovation Union ("To promote knowledge partnerships and strengthen links between education, business, research and innovation, including through the EIT").

Many efforts have been devoted at EU level to strengthening the relations between research and innovation and between research and education. The EU has also showed political determination to enhance relations between business and academia, e.g. as one of the core elements of the modernisation agenda for universities and in the context of the European Higher Education Area. But the concrete implementation so far has been less structured and systematic, leaving the relation between education and innovation somehow as the neglected link of the knowledge triangle.

The University-Business Forum has opened a dialogue between the two worlds about how they can work more closely together and has shown that there is an appetite on both sides for partnership focused on education, with a view to ensuring that education delivers high-level and highly valued skills, underpinned at all times by high levels of adaptability, entrepreneurship and creative and innovative capacities.

Building on both these initiatives, the pilot project would propose to fund "Knowledge Partnerships". These are structured partnerships bringing together businesses and higher education institutions to strengthen and develop Europe's innovation potential, via the provision of a comprehensive set of joint activities, involving new learning and teaching methods, the design and delivery of new multidisciplinary curricula and innovative courses, and the promotion of entrepreneurial attitudes. Knowledge Alliances aim at facilitating the sharing of knowledge between higher education and companies and embody a truly two-way process: universities and business joining forces to boost their innovation potential.

The 2012 appropriations are intended to cover the second and final year of the pilot project on knowledge partnerships.

2. Implementation

The pilot project is a continuation of the action initiated under the 2011 budget. The call for proposals launched in 2011 (EAC/19/2011) met with huge interest. More than 90 proposals had been submitted; given the overall budget available in 2011 (EUR 1 million) and the average budget of the proposals, three projects were selected for co-funding.

The pilot project in its second year (under budget 2012) will be implemented via a call for proposals, which will be published during the first half of 2012 in view of funding additional Knowledge Alliances for the set-up of further structured partnerships between higher education and business.

These structured partnerships should provide value to the higher education institutions, the professors, researchers and students, and to the companies.

- Higher Education Institutions: These cooperation projects on pan-european level should support higher education institutions in further developing innovative learning environments and in strengthening their role as innovation actors in the regional, national and global eco-environments.
- Professors, researchers and students should get more entrepreneurial and innovative enabling them to creatively respond to a complex and rapidly changing environment. Students in all fields should emerge from their education with in-depth knowledge of specific research issues as well as with high levels of T-shaped skills, ensuring high employability, adaptability and entrepreneurial, creative and innovative attitudes.
- Companies: In addition to having access to students with the right mix of knowledge, skills and competences, the cooperation with higher education institutions and the increased flow of knowledge should support companies in assuring the professional development of its staff and in developing the companies' innovation capacity.

These projects, together with the ones contracted under the 2011 pilot call will help preparing the roll-out of the Knowledge Alliances, foreseen as a specific action line in the Commission's proposals of the Erasmus for All programme.

3. Forecast for 2012

The duration of the actions implemented under the Pilot Project will cover a period between 12 months up to a maximum of 18 months.

The calls for proposals will be published during the first half of 2012. The awarded projects are expected to start their work during the 4th Quarter 2012 and to be completed in 2014.

Energy security — Shale Gas (32 04 18)

1. Objective

In accordance with the budgetary remarks as adopted by the EP, the overall objective of the pilot project is to emphasise the importance to start a citizens' dialogue and information campaign on shale gas before industrial production begins. Such dialogues should include national authorities, local communities, the general public, businesses and NGOs. Planned activities could include public hearings, conciliations, or other new methods of public consultation in the areas of shale gas development and within national capitals.

Informing and consulting citizens early on, especially on regional and local level, is of prime importance for public acceptance of utilising possible shale gas reserves in EU Member States. This pilot project shall test the feasibility and usefulness of a closer interconnection of public debates on Member State and/or regional level with ongoing EU efforts and activities (e.g. studies).

Planned activities are therefore a series of joint Commission/Member State public hearings in regions with current or concretely planned shale gas exploration projects preceded by online consultations.

2. Implementation

Call for proposals addressed to Member States.

3. Forecast for 2012

Indicative timetable:

March: Preparation of call for proposals

April: Publication of call for proposals

July: Closure of call for proposals

September/October: Evaluation, negotiations and conclusion of the grant agreements

Heading 1b

Suburbs sustainable regeneration (13 03 26)

1. Objective

The objective of this pilot project is to examine promotion of social integration in deprived areas of European cities through urban regeneration, especially housing interventions, supported by European Cohesion Policy.

The project, initiated under the 2011 budget, will be implemented through the financing of a study focused on integrated and sustainable regeneration in highly populated deprived areas with a strong need of regeneration interventions in the built environment. Within selected operational programmes financed by the European Regional Development Fund specific regeneration actions will be identified for detailed analysis.

The study will be a review of existing practices in selected regeneration actions, especially housing interventions, in several EU Member States (desk research, literature review, case studies). The study will draw conclusions and recommendations for urban regeneration projects. The action will envisage the possibility to transmit the results of the analysis on a larger scale.

2. Implementation

The pilot project included in the Budget in 2011 was implemented as follows: in total EUR 473.875 (of EUR 500.000) was committed at the end of 2011 following an open call for tenders and the contract was signed end of 2011.

The European Parliament has proposed an additional EUR 500.000 for 2012. However, given the fact that the implementation of the 2011 pilot project is ongoing and the results of the study will only be available end of 2012, the Commission decided not to launch any additional action within the 2012 budget as it appears premature to have additional appropriations before the first results are being evaluated. This is in line with position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011.

3. Forecast for 2012

The forecast for 2012 concerning the implementation of the study under the 2011 Pilot project is foreseen as follows:

- An inception report within 1 month from the validation by the Steering Committee of the methodology, work plan and case studies;
- First interim report within 3 months, including the results of the desk research and literature review, and initial fiches for the case studies;
- Second interim report within 7 months, with the elaborated case studies;
- Draft synthesis report within 9 months and presentation of materials;
- Final synthesis report no later than 11 months.

The duration of the contract is foreseen end 2012.

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 30)

As was the case under the 2011 budget, the Commission, in assessing how to best implement this pilot project, proposes to have a joint implementation of the pilot project on budget line 13 03 30 and the preparatory action on budget line 13 03 29. For details of this joint implementation please refer to the dedicated section on preparatory actions below.

Heading 2

European farm prices and margins observatory (05 02 17 02)

In line with the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011, the Commission considers the ideas suggested in the pilot project to be already addressed by the following activities: In 2009, the Commission has put online a "food price monitoring tool" bringing together price information at farm, factory and retail level for a number of products. Coverage of this tool and presentation of the data to users have been significantly enhanced over time. Further perspectives are discussed in a specific working group (platform) of the High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain which was established by the Commission in 2010 (Commission Decision 2010/C 210/03 of 30/07/2010). Workshops have been held in February and October 2011 aiming at gathering experience and identifying key issues to further develop the functionalities of the tool.

The High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain, including its platform on the food price monitoring tool, will draw its conclusions by the end of 2012. The Commission is currently examining the possibility for introducing input prices into the tool following the European Parliament resolution 2011/2114/INI) of 19 January 2012.

The Commission considers that, since the ideas suggested on this pilot project are already covered by the initiatives outlined above, it would not be possible to use the appropriations foreseen for 2012 on this budget line.

Measures against speculation with agricultural commodities (05 02 17 07)

In line with the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011, this pilot project overlaps with different work streams in progress concerning the oversight of the agricultural commodities.

The work in progress on this subject falls under a broader context:

- Follow-up of the October 2009 Communication "A better functioning food supply chain in Europe" (COM (2009) 591): Among the envisaged actions, this Communication announces actions to improve the transparency along the food chain, including for agricultural commodity derivatives. The latter constitute essential tools in order to cope with the volatility of the prices.
- In February 2011, the Commission adopted a broader Communication on Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials (COM (2011) 25). As announced in that Communication, further work is undertaken to deepen the understanding of developments on spot and derivative markets.

For the derivatives, the proposals referred to in the above-mentioned Communications are part of the broader package on financial instruments:

- Legislative proposal on the European market infrastructures for the derivatives: in September 2010, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council which will improve safety and transparency of the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives markets (including the derivatives on agricultural commodities). The proposal was accompanied by an impact assessment. These derivatives will have to be cleared through one multilateral clearing house ("Central Clearing Counterparty") and declared to a central referential ("Trade Repository").
- Review of the directive for markets in financial instrument (MiFID) and of the Directive for Market Abuse (MAD): The Commission tabled legislative proposals accompanied by 2 impact assessment studies in October 2011. The MiFID recast includes proposals to improve the transparency and the oversight of commodity derivatives. Within this framework specific measures will be envisaged in order to give to the regulators the necessary tools to tackle excessive price volatility in derivative markets on commodities. The effectiveness of the market abuse legislation will be strengthened, in particular by extending its scope beyond the markets regulated and to the over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives.
- Appropriate impact assessments, including commodity-specific elements, will also be carried out for implementing rules for the above-mentioned Regulations.

The volatility in prices and farmers' incomes is also an issue considered in the proposals and impact assessment relating to the Common Agricultural Policy by 2020, also adopted by the Commission in October 2011.

An EU research project on volatility of agricultural commodity markets is included under the 7th Framework Programme as part of the cooperation work programme for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology (call closed, selection process on-going).

Moreover, the Commission actively contributes to the follow-up of the G-20 action plan on food security and price volatility. This includes the establishment of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), an initiative in which the EU is actively participating. Improving the quality of data will enhance efficient price formation. The EU will also participate in the Rapid Response Forum.

The Commission considers that, since the ideas suggested on this pilot project are already covered by the initiatives outlined above, it would not be possible to use the appropriations foreseen for 2012 on this budget line.

Exchange programme for young farmers (05 04 05 03)

1. Objective

This pilot project is intended to facilitate the establishment of exchange programmes for young farmers, which would allow for exchanges of best practice in farm management, in particular in relation to the challenges facing European agriculture, in order to aid in the development of Europe's rural areas.

2. Implementation

This pilot project will take the form of a study which will map all existing exchange schemes in the EU and will also examine several non-European schemes. By identifying the best practices as regards implementation, administrative capacity, publicity and information etc, Member States will get an invaluable insight necessary for setting up their exchange programmes. These programmes can be co-funded by the European Agricultural Fund or Rural Development (EAFRD) in the programming period 2014-2020 and will provide an opportunity for young farmers to experience at first hand the diverse agricultural realities in the Union by spending time on farms mostly based in a different Member State. This exchange of knowledge and experience among Europe's young farmers would further equip them to meet the demands of European consumers, to contribute to food security and to address other challenges facing European agriculture such as the use of renewable energies, biodiversity loss and carbon storage.

3. Forecast for 2012

A global commitment of EUR 1.5 million for this study was made in 2011 using the available 2011 commitment appropriations. The technical specifications for this study are under preparation and the contract will be signed in 2012.

The study is expected to last for 23 months from the date of the signature of the contract. The payments for the study will be made during 2013-2015, but it is impossible to predict the exact amounts and their timing at present as these will be known when the contract is signed. At this stage, no difficulties are foreseen.

The Commission is still considering how to make use of the additional commitments foreseen in 2012.

Exchanging best practice for cross compliance simplification (05 08 11)

In line with the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011, within the Commission (in particular in DG AGRI with the support of Joint Research Centre (JRC)), different platforms already exist where a lot of exchanges of best practices take place.

- A "simplification" group has been set up at horizontal level for all issues especially for Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) and cross compliance.
- More specifically, an expert group has been created for dealing with cross compliance issue, concerning control methods, calculation of sanctions, based on Member States experts' proposals.
- In practical terms, different workshops on more technical issues, as regards Good agriculture environmental condition (GAEC) implementation (including exchange of best practice) by Member States and as regards IT and imagery technologies are also organised.

The Commission considers that, since the ideas suggested on this pilot project are already covered by the initiatives outlined above, it would not be possible to use the appropriations foreseen for 2012 on this budget line.

Coordinate research on the use of homeopathy and phytotherapy in livestock farming (05 08 12)

1. Objective

This pilot project intends to coordinate research on the use of homeopathy and phytotherapy in livestock farming, in line with the motion for a resolution on antibiotic resistance in which the European Parliament called for the use of antibiotics in livestock farming to be reduced and for alternative methods to be used; such methods include the use of homeopathy and phytotherapy.

2. Implementation

In line with the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011, the Commission underlined that the 2012 Cooperation work programme for theme 2 "*Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology*" already addresses the push towards research on the use of homeopathy and phytotherapy in livestock farming.

In particular, in its 2012 call for proposals *KBBE-2012-6*, the topic *KBBE.2012.1.4-04 "Improved management practices and alternative treatments to improve animal health in organic farming systems"* is aiming at an integrated approach to replacing allopathic medication and establishing a biological production. The call *KBBE-2012-6* with deadline 15 November 2011, has already been evaluated and a proposal has been retained for the relevant topic.

In order to facilitate the implementation of this pilot project -which serves the same purpose as the one of call- and to make the best possible use of appropriations, the Commission intends to reinforce the Cooperation work programme for theme 2, through an *a hoc* financing decision linking call *KBBE-2012-6* to budget item 05 08 12.

3. Forecast for 2012

Contract negotiations will be opened in March for signature of contract June/July 2012. The project will run for 4 years.

Atmospheric precipitation – protection and efficient use of fresh water (07 03 30)

1. Objective

The aim of the project is to provide reliable scientific bases, plausible means of methodology for implementation, protection and efficient use of fresh water derived from atmospheric precipitation.

As mentioned in the Executability letter of 27 October 2011, as the project focuses on the Carpathian and the Danube regions only, the Commission considers that its scope is already largely covered by the Preparatory Action "Climate of the Carpathians", for which the implementation is still ongoing. Nevertheless, the Commission envisages expanding the geographical scope of the pilot project.

2. Implementation

This pilot project will be implemented through a call for tender for a service contract providing:

- A detailed assessment of impacts, costs and benefits of natural water retention measures;
- The further development and maintenance of a catalogue of measures and case studies, to be integrated into WISE (Water Information System for Europe);
- Targeted meetings with operators and stakeholders to discuss indicators;
- Contributions to the 2015 River Basin Management Plans.

3. Forecast for 2012

Before launching the tender procedure, the Commission would like to wait for the results of the natural water retention measures (NWRM) study that is being implemented currently.

This study will allow, inter alia, the identification of possible actions at EU level in the forthcoming Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water.

The indicative timetable for the implementation of the related appropriations would be the following:

Timetable for the implementation of the PP	
- financing decision and global commitment	Second half of 2012
- publication date for the call for tender	First half of 2013
- finalisation of the service contract	Second half of 2013

Long term impact of carbon neutral housing on waste water systems (07 03 32)

1. Objective

This pilot project aims at contributing to the reduction of energy consumption of housing by exploring the application of water saving/ efficiency approaches.

The budget remark, as adopted by the European Parliament, specifies that the pilot project aims at implementing demonstration projects with a view to assessing the long term impact of carbon neutral housing on waste water systems.

2. Implementation

In line with the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011, the funds finally allocated for this pilot project (EUR 1.5 million) are not sufficient to financially support several demonstration sites in 7 Member States, as proposed in the budgetary remarks, and to reach the stated objective of drawing lessons on the mid-term potential impacts of current energy saving policies on the urban water cycle. Such an objective would be rather achieved by financing activities of this magnitude under the LIFE+ Programme.

The Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+) identifies, among the specific objectives of LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance the contribution "to the development and demonstration of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments" including for the priority areas of climate change, environment and health and quality of life, and natural resources and wastes. Moreover, in its Annex 1, the "demonstration of innovative policy approaches, technologies, methods and instruments" is explicitly mentioned under the "measures eligible for funding".

3. Forecast for 2012

Therefore, in conformity with the joint conclusions of the Conciliation Committee dated 19 November 2011 stating that "when a pilot project or a preparatory action appears to be covered by an existing legal basis, the Commission may propose the transfer of appropriations to the corresponding legal basis in order to facilitate the implementation of the action", it is planned to transfer the related appropriations to Article 07 03 07 (LIFE+ Programme).

The Commission will proceed to a transfer of the appropriations envisaged for this pilot project to the LIFE+ Programme (budget article 07 03 07) in the first quarter of 2012.

Marine litter recovery (07 03 33)

1. Objective

According to the budgetary remarks, as adopted by the European Parliament, this pilot project aims at contributing to the achievement of a good environmental status for EU coastal and inland waters by using innovative collection and recovery system and, in particular, by engaging the fishing community in special trips to collect floating marine debris and recyclers in the assessment of the recycling potential of recovered waste.

After discussion with the European Parliament, the pilot project will be focused in particular on assessing the three existing forms of 'Fishing for Litter'. The organisational, economic and environmental aspects linked to this type of fishing will be taken into consideration.

The project will gather existing best practices and legal background for the different types of fishing for litter. It will aim at identifying what has been collected on each fishing trip, what gear has been used, where it has been collected and, if possible, the source of the litter (from land, from fishing, from other sea-users).

Regional workshops in the four regional seas of Europe will gather further information, stimulate discussion and promote best practices by the relevant stakeholders.

Relevant stakeholders to be involved are, amongst others, local, regional and national authorities, fishermen, port authorities, waste managers, plastic producers and NGOs. During these awareness and training workshops, the organisational, economic and environmental aspects will be addressed.

The potential of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) to support these programmes and the proportion that can be recycled or used for energy recovery will be explored.

The ultimate aim of the project is to have the best environmental and sustainable 'Fishing for Litter' practices identified or in place in all four regional seas by working with responsible organisations that will take this up and bring these best practices further.

2. Implementation

For the implementation of this pilot project, the Commission will conclude one or more service contract(s).

3. Forecast for 2012

Timetable for the implementation of the PP	
- financing decision and global commitment	June 2012
- publication date for the call for tenders	July 2012
- finalisation of contracts	End 2012 / beginning 2013
- duration of contracts	maximum two years (2012- 2014)

Availability, use and sustainability of water for the production of nuclear and fossil energy (07 03 34)

1. Objective

According to the budgetary remarks, this as adopted by the European Parliament, pilot project is aimed at investigating the issues linked to the availability and use of cooling water for energy production.

In particular it intends to provide a detailed picture of the vulnerability of the energy/water system, including an inventory of power plants and its vulnerability to floods, droughts, heat waves, etc.

The water-energy nexus is being addressed in the forthcoming Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water.

Moreover, to provide for a detailed framework for the establishment of vulnerability indicators and water resources management targets for the energy sector, this pilot project will have to build on past EU-wide assessments (ClimWatAdapt), on the current work on water balances at sub-catchment level and the on-going modelling of scenarios for sustainable management of water resources.

2. Implementation

One or more call(s) for tenders for service contract(s) will be launched to provide:

- A detailed and spatially explicit inventory of power plants and their vulnerability to floods, droughts, heat waves, to be integrated into water balance and modelling tools;
- Targeted meetings with operators and stakeholders to discuss indicators;
- Contribution to 2015 River Basin Management Plans.

3. Forecast for 2012

The proper definition of the work to be undertaken by the contractor calls for the results of the on-going assessments supporting the above mentioned Blueprint (to be concluded in September 2012).

Therefore, the indicative timetable for the implementation of the related appropriations will be the following:

Timetable for the implementation of the PP	
- financing decision and global commitment	Last quarter of 2012
- publication date for the call for tenders	Last quarter of 2012
- finalisation of the service contract	Second half of 2013

New knowledge for an integrated Management of Human Activity in the Sea (07 03 35)

1. Objective

The purpose of this pilot project is to develop a new concept and decision-making tools for integrated environmental monitoring to support management of human activities in EU marine waters.

The project should develop integrated monitoring strategies in selected pilot regions, based on existing sampling across various disciplines (physical, chemical, biological) and scope the potential for joint programmes (within and between Member States).

It should aim to develop strategic approaches to the integrated monitoring of pressures from human activities and their effects on the environment stemming from different environmental legislation.

The pilot project should demonstrate a practical way in which current effort could be redeployed to more efficiently use existing resources (e.g. multi-use of existing monitoring platforms) and thus promote resource efficiency.

Developing integrated monitoring tools and programmes at sea-region scales will serve to meet objectives for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), particularly contributing to Member State's requirements to develop monitoring programmes by 2014. The outcomes of the pilot project (strategies, tools) should be transferable to other EU regions.

2. Implementation

A call for proposals for action grants will be launched in the first half of 2012 as soon as the financing decision is adopted.

Proposals should focus on a particular MSFD region or sub-region from northern regions (Baltic, Atlantic) or southern regions (Black Sea, Mediterranean).

3. Forecast for 2012

The indicative timetable for the implementation of the related appropriations will be the following:

Timetable for the implementation of the PP	
- financing decision, global commitment	First half of 2012
- publication date for the call for proposals	First half of 2012
- finalisation of the grant agreements	Second half of 2012 / early 2013
Duration of projects supported	Maximum 2 years (2013- 2014).

Resource Efficiency in practice - closing mineral cycles (07 03 72)

1. Objective

According to the budgetary remark, as adopted by the European Parliament, the project seeks to investigate and promote improved techniques of resource efficiency on farms through: recycling of raw materials, processing animal manure into renewable energy, fine-tuning the fertilisation of plants and crops by looking at new and innovative ways of managing resources more efficiently and close the mineral cycles on farm.

The Commission has undertaken significant work on this issue in the past, notably with a conference in 2011 in the Netherlands on manure processing and a subsequent study (ENV.B.1/ETU/2010/0007 – Manure processing activities in Europe, ongoing). Results of this study will be available soon and could form the basis for developing the new project.

Closing NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) cycles is highly relevant to the implementation of the Nitrates Directive, as well as the Water Framework Directive, National emissions ceilings (NEC) Directive and climate change policy. Innovation in this area can help farmers contributing to the set ambitious environmental targets while maintaining/increasing competitiveness. The pilot project can also help contribute to the ongoing work on the sustainable use of phosphorus.

The work will focus therefore on analysing the current situation and identifying the possible options for improving the management of the resource and closing mineral cycle on farm and will seek to produce results that are applicable at the farm level.

2. Implementation

One call for tender for a service contract will be launched for two basic tasks:

1. A state of play study on: nutrient concentrations (N, P) in soil and water in the EU, aimed at identifying saturated regions; the effects of intensive agriculture on water/air/soil/biodiversity/climate in saturated areas; the analysis of the possibility of transfer of manure (following varying levels of processing) to non saturated areas where there would be greater demand/better price; the processing techniques in saturated areas (including biogas installations); possible options for increasing manure use efficiency on farms (focus on application techniques/new technologies/timing of applications).
2. Dissemination and education stage. The contractor would take the results from the state of play study – what the situation is now, what would need to be done to reach a satisfactory environmental situation, what could be done with what costs and benefits, breaking this down for some of the key regions concerned.

3. Forecast for 2012

The indicative timetable for the implementation of the related appropriations will be the following:

Timetable for the implementation of the PP	
- financing decision (possibly followed by a global commitment)	First half of 2012
- launch of the open call for tenders	First half of 2012
- signature of the service contract	Second half of 2012

Tools for a common governance and sustainable fisheries management: fostering collaborative research between scientists and stakeholders (11 07 03)

1. Objective

The objective of this pilot project is to foster collaborative policy-oriented research in the fisheries sector involving scientists and stakeholders, particularly fishermen, at the geographical level of sea-basins and fisheries and aiming at

- improving the scientific knowledge underpinning decisions on fisheries management strategies and options, and
- increasing the understanding by stakeholders, particularly fishermen, of the scientific process and results, contributing then to increase the acceptability of management measures.

2. Implementation

The first step is to identify which type of actions would be most useful in the context of the ongoing reform process to ensure more collaborative research between scientists and stakeholders. There are many challenges to deal with (such as lack of trust, different ways to communicate, sea-basin specificities) and many issues in the context of the reform that require cooperation between scientists and fishermen (selectivity and mitigating measures on by-catches, reporting data, etc). This requires narrowing down to avoid loss of focus. Interest for such projects needs to be confirmed still, because the pool of potential recipients of funding is relatively limited.

Such actions may cover:

- collection of data by stakeholders, beyond the current obligations made to stakeholders and Member States through the Data Collection Framework;
- building of fisheries geographical information systems at sea-basins level by stakeholders entities with the support of scientists;
- design of gears following research and development frameworks with the support of scientists to improve selectivity patterns, including
 - trial in test hull basins, and
 - technological trials of fishing gears on board of professional vessels;
- design of standardized campaigns to be carried out on professional fishing vessels to collect data on catch composition, species distribution patterns, to be used by scientists.
- scientific follow-up of possible spatial and temporal management measures initiated by stakeholders.

The pilot project will be implemented through calls for tenders and/or calls for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2012

The indicative planning foresees in 2012:

- Definition of the terms of reference
- Launch of the call
- Signature of contracts/Award decision

Fruit and vegetable consumption (17 03 11)

1. Objective

This pilot project 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 and stimulate demand in the fruit and vegetables market.

2. Implementation

The financing decision is under preparation. In parallel, work on the definition of the actions is being carried out in order to define how to implement this pilot project, which might be linked to the pilot project on healthy diet and ageing population (17 03 12).

3. Forecast for 2012

July 2012: Adoption of the financing decision, followed by launch of call for tender.

Healthy Diet and Ageing Population (17 03 12)

1. Objective

The pilot project aims at underlining the importance of a correct and healthy diet with a focus on the ageing population.

This project also seeks to provide parents and children with information on nutrition. In this regard, it will focus on the early years of life, and could therefore cover prenatal nutrition, breastfeeding, and childhood nutrition.

2. Implementation

The financing decision is under preparation. In parallel, work on the definition of the actions is being carried out in order to define how to implement this pilot project, which might be linked to the pilot project on Fruit and vegetable consumption (17 03 11).

3. Forecast for 2012

July 2012: Adoption of the financing decision, followed by launch of call for tender.

Developing and implementing successful prevention strategies for Type 2 diabetes (17 03 13)

1. Objective

The overall project goal is to identify and develop best practices for the prevention of type 2 diabetes.

2. Implementation

The financing decision is under preparation. In parallel, work on the definition of the actions is being carried out in order to define how to implement this pilot project, which will need to entail to focus on specific priority activities within the proposed action to bring them in line with the proposed budget.

3. Forecast for 2012

The adoption of the financing decision, followed by launch of call for tender is foreseen in July 2012.

Coordinated European Animal Welfare Network (17 04 01 02)

1. Objective

Informal contacts have been established with the author of this pilot project, to seek views on the way the pilot project could be implemented.

Because of the limited budget and the temporary nature of the project, it was agreed that it will mainly focus on the core aspects of the EP 2010 resolution³ on 5 May 2010. It was underlined that new Member States, in particular, should be involved in the project.

The main scope of the project would be to develop a coordinated network to provide assistance to the Commission, the Member States and stakeholders regarding:

- Assessing animal welfare standards on the basis of the latest scientific knowledge;
- Coordinating an EU system for testing new techniques;
- Training and education.

Emphasis should be given to the implementation of the current EU legislation, in particular in the context of future animal based indicators.

2. Implementation

After preliminary discussion, it seems that the pilot project could be implemented through a grant (to be confirmed).

The call for proposals will be developed and published first half 2012 with the aim of signing the agreement/contract before the end of 2012.

3. Forecast for 2012

1. To adopt the financing decision and to publish the call before July 2012.
2. To sign the grant agreement or the contract by the end of 2012.
3. To deliver the results by the end of 2013.

³ P7_TA(2010)0130

Heading 3a

Rehabilitation of victims of torture (18 03 16)

1. Objective

The main objective of this pilot project is to help victims of torture (EU or non-EU citizens) present in the Union.

The pilot project will cover the following actions:

- to create rehabilitation centres for victims of torture or to support the existing ones by providing funds for their rehabilitation costs (premises, therapeutical staff, administrative staff, etc.) and their other activities (prevention, advocacy, training, legal support, etc.),
- to provide access to multidisciplinary support and counselling, including physical and psychotherapeutic treatment, psycho-social counselling, legal services, and socio-economic support to the victims,
- to support international networking between rehabilitation centres (within and outside the Union) in order to build capacities, support the exchange of good practices among specialists, allow peer supervision as a means of prevention of vicarious trauma, etc.,
- to support activities which aim to empower torture victims themselves and, in general, to support the ability of torture victims to integrate into society in European countries.

2. Implementation

The intention of the Commission is to issue a call for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2012

The goal is to have this pilot project being implemented by the end of 2012 and no particular difficulties are foreseen. In 2012, it is planned develop the work programme (Q2), followed by a call for proposals. The intention is to award the grants before the end of 2012.

Analysis of reception, protection and integration policies for unaccompanied minors in the EU (18 03 18)

1. Objective

The aim of this pilot project is to identify good practices on prevention, reception, protection and integration policies for unaccompanied minors.

The pilot project should contribute to the implementation of the 2010 Commission Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014) and actions specified thereof:

- identifying prevention actions and policies vis-à-vis the group to which the unaccompanied minors belong (e.g., asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, children who enter illegally into the Union) and/or the country or region of origin,
- identifying best practices on child reception and protection, and in particular on issues such as procedures at first encounter, legal representation, appointment of a guardian, access to and adequacy of reception facilities, initial interviews, education and medical care,
- identifying good practices in specific measures and procedural guarantees for unaccompanied minors in the Union,
- evaluating the various experiences of combating the phenomenon of missing children and identifying best practices,
- identifying best practices on restoring family unity and reintegration of unaccompanied minors in their countries of origin.

2. Implementation

Currently the Commission is exploring the options for this pilot project. There are two options being considered: calls for proposals or direct action with specialised International organisations experienced in these activities; or a combination of the two depending on the action. Discussions are on-going and will be developed into a work programme.

3. Forecast for 2012

The goal is to have this pilot project being implemented by the end of 2012 and no particular difficulties are foreseen. The outcome would be to contribute to the specified actions listed in the 2010 Commission Action Plan. In 2012, it is planned develop the work programme (Q1). In the third quarter, either the call will be issued and be in process of evaluation, or in case of direct award, the grants should be agreed.

Rapid and efficient enforcement of outstanding claims by small and medium-sized undertakings (SMU) operating across borders (33 03 07)

1. Objective

The general objective of the project is to improve the financial situation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) operating in their home Member State and across borders by supporting the in managing and enforcing outstanding claims.

In line with the budgetary remarks, SMEs and entrepreneurs will be helped to optimise their business procedures by improving access to information and dissemination on credit and claims management and by raising awareness on the legal instruments available.

2. Implementation

In 2011, implementation of the pilot project was carried out through a call for proposals for the organisation of training seminars on credit and claims management.

The preparation of the 2012 implementation is ongoing and the choice of implementation mode will depend on final decision for the 2012 activities (existing framework contract, call for tenders and/or call for proposals).

3. Forecast for 2012

Schedule:

- Preparation and launch of the financing decision laying out implementation in February 2012;
- Elaboration of the call for tenders and/or call for proposals during the first semester 2012;
- Award of the contract(s) in Q4/ 2012;
- Implementation continuing in 2013.

European judicial training (33 03 08)

1. Objective

The main objective of this pilot project is to fulfill the goal of building a European judicial culture.

The pilot project will cover the following actions, which will be adapted to the level of development of European judicial training and cooperation between stakeholders of each legal profession:

- Identification of best practices to bring training in national legal systems and traditions as well as in European Union law and judicial cooperation procedures to judges and prosecutors at local level and to promote the dialogue and coordination between EU judges and prosecutors;
- Identification of best practices to bring training in national legal systems and traditions as well as in European Union law and judicial cooperation procedures to lawyers;
- Identification of best practices to bring training in national legal systems and traditions as well as in European Union law and judicial cooperation procedures to court staff;
- Improvement of the cooperation between the European Judicial Training Network and its members with judicial training providers and with the European level professional organisations such as the European Network of the Councils for the Judiciary, the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts, the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions and the Network of the General Prosecutors of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the EU;
- Promotion of exchanges of best practices between legal professions.

2. Implementation

The actions will be implemented by the Commission through contracts awarded pursuant to an open call for tender. The available budget for procurement should allow between 3 to 6 contracts lots to be financed depending on the individual amounts.

3. Forecast for 2012

Publication of call for tender:	Q2 2012
Deadline for submission of proposals:	Q3 2012
Commitments and contracting	Q4 2012

Heading 3b

Economy of cultural diversity (15 04 10)

1. Objective

The objective of the pilot project is to create an "open laboratory" to test innovative approaches to deal with content for innovation and digital sharing and distribution as a "way to explore new business models respecting diversity" in the production and distribution chain. It should contribute to the emergence of innovative business models making use of information and communication technologies (ICT) based technologies to finance, produce, make available, disseminate or monetise cultural contents, paving the way for an improved access to culture and culture literacy via on-line applications and promotion of cultural diversity in the digital environment.

In mid December 2011, informal contacts have been established with the author of this pilot project and the Commission presented its intentions as to implementation, and got a positive reaction.

2. Implementation

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

3. Forecast for 2012

The coming 2012 year will be devoted to the preparation, follow-up and completion of the decisional process and the procurement procedures. The indicative timetable is as follows:

End March	Adoption of the Work Programme by the Commission
May-June	Publication of the open call for tenders
August	Evaluation of the received offers
September	Contract award
October	Signature of the contract
November–December	Contract start / Kick-off meeting / pre-financing

Difficulty in finding a contractor with the right profile and ability to carry out the various tasks foreseen could be an issue.

Development of the European "Creative Districts" (15 04 51)

1. Objective

The pilot project Development of the European « Creative Districts » aims at demonstrating the transformative potential of creative industries for the renewal of traditional industrial regions in order to contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

2. Implementation

Implementation is foreseen through an open call for proposals with a two-stage procedure:

The first stage will consist of the submission of a short and concise concept note where applicants shall explain their vision for, and concept of the foreseen action. The concept notes will be evaluated against a specific set of criteria.

The second stage shall include the submission of a full proposal with a detailed description of the proposed overall strategy and of the specific activities of the action. A maximum of five applicants with the highest scores for the evaluation criteria for stage one will be invited to submit full proposals based on the initial concept note. Two grants will be awarded.

3. Forecast for 2012

Publication of call for proposals: 16/03/2012 (stage 1); 29/06/2012 (stage 2)

Deadline for submission of proposals: 16/05/2012 (stage 1 – concept notes); 17/08/2012 (stage 2 – full proposals)

Signature of grant agreements: 30/11/2012

Starting date of actions: 01/12/2012

The actions will run for 24 months and be closely associated, and coordinated with the ongoing actions under the European Creative Industries Alliance and the work of the European Service Innovation Centre to be set up in the second half of 2012.

Heading 4

Civil Society Forum EU-Russia (19 04 06)

1. Objective

The objective is to establish regular and systematic contacts between civil society and non governmental organisations (NGOs) in Russia with counterparts in the Member States. The forum would give the European and Russian civil society actors an opportunity to raise their voice on topics of common interest.

2. Implementation

The Commission takes the the opportunity of this report to clarify the position expressed in the Executability Letter of 27 October 2011. The Commission has indeed always been supportive of the idea which is now proposed for the second consecutive year.

In designing the implementation of this project under the 2011 budget, EUR 0.4 million will be contracted soon as a direct award to an NGO consortium led by a Czech NGO 'DEMAS'.

The project has been devolved to the EU Delegation in Moscow which is currently finalising the contract with DEMAS. The leading NGO DEMAS has *de facto* been already leading the NGO consortium since the EU-Russia Summit of March 2011 (without EC funding). It was thus agreed that DEMAS had a *de facto* monopoly allowing it to implement the first year of the Forum. DEMAS is currently finalising the details of its contractual agreements with the other EU and Russian NGOs which will be part of the consortium.

The 2011 funding will last for 18-24 months (as per Action Fiche).

3. Forecast for 2012

Given that there is no retrospect yet on how the 2011 commitment appropriations will be implemented, the Commission believes it is premature to consider, at this stage, further funding of the project. Depending on and if the 2011 funds are utilised in a satisfactory manner, the Commission could consider supporting new funding for 2013.

Heading 5

"Connecting Europe" (16 02 07)

1. Objective

This Pilot project aims at refocusing the Union's communication strategy towards social networks, internet and mobile services. Its objective are to improve access to information on Union policies, to involve European citizens in sharing their Union experience and to involve European citizens in the Union's decision making process.

With this Pilot project, the intention is to invest in a new joint media strategy on access to information and communication by the three main Union institutions.

2. Implementation

The Commission believes it would be preferable to change the title of this Pilot Project in order to avoid confusion with other Commission initiatives. It is therefore proposed to name it "Share Europe Online".

The Commission would have considerable difficulty in carrying out at central level a project on social media "aiming at investing in a joint new media strategy on access to information and communication by the three EU institutions", because interacting with citizens needs proximity.

3. Forecast for 2012

In order to make first steps in this direction, the Commission suggests implementing projects at national and local levels in some Member States. The EP Offices and the Representations of the Commission will be invited to experiment new ways of using social media in communicating on EU affairs.

Implementation of Preparatory Actions

Heading 1a

Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis to cultural and industrial ones (02 02 08 04)

1. Objective

The main aim of this preparatory action is to promote the diversification of the supply of tourism products by exploiting the potential for growth of transnational thematic tourism products and services.

The Commission wishes to support and promote – both with the EU and in long-haul markets - Pan-European thematic tourism products, as foreseen in its latest Communication on tourism (COM 352(2010)), and to facilitate the creation and development of new transnational cooperation projects, especially in the field of cultural and industrial heritage preservation and promotion.

Other specific objectives are:

- to facilitate the networking among the main tourism stakeholders and public authorities and the launch of joint initiatives for the creation, development or promotion of transnational thematic tourism products;
- to facilitate integration of SMEs from the cultural, tourism, agricultural sectors;
- to support transnational cultural or industrial themes and products which help to foster a greater sense of European identity.

These objectives are fully in line with those set by the Budgetary Authority in the budgetary remarks.

2. Implementation

A call for proposals will be launched in the first semester 2012 in order to support transnational cooperation projects aiming at creating, developing and promoting thematic tourism products. The budget allocated to this action is of EUR 700 000.

Promotional ad-hoc events (fairs, seminars, video, expositions, etc.) on European cultural and industrial heritage Routes will be organised both in 2012 and 2013 using existing Framework Contracts of the Commission. The maximum budget for this action is of EUR 300 000. In particular, most of the budget will be used to finance the editions 2012 and 2013 of the fair "*Carrefours d'Europe*" (the first to be held in Pavia (IT) in June 2012 and the second in a place and at a date still to be defined).

The European Commission and ETC (European Travel Commission), on behalf of its member National Tourism Organisations, signed a Joint Declaration on 6 October 2011, agreeing to work jointly to maintain Europe's position as the world's leading tourist destination. An ad hoc grant of EUR 1 million will be allocated to support cooperation and collaboration with the ETC which will focus on the implementation of activities the following areas: promotion of 'Destination Europe' in long-haul markets, development and promotion of pan-European cultural routes/thematic itineraries and tourism products, collaboration on digital marketing activities through the *visiteurope.com* portal, the 'Destination Europe' brand, joint presence at events, Research and Best Practice.

3. Forecast for 2012

Goal	Timetable	Expected outcomes	Potential difficulties
<p>Creating, developing and promoting thematic tourism products.</p>	<p>Specifications of the call to be prepared by end of February.</p> <p>Call to be published beginning of April.</p> <p>Foreseen deadline for submission of proposals: beginning of June</p> <p>Evaluation: June – August</p> <p>Signature of the contract: October - November 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and reinforcement of transnational tourism products; • Contributing to the economic growth of European regions; • Creating clusters among SMEs and joint initiatives of different thematic tourism routes; • Facilitating networking among stakeholders from the tourism and cultural sectors; • Promoting European values and traditions giving more visibility to European cultural, natural and industrial heritage. 	<p>Potential overlapping with other EU initiatives has to be carefully analysed and detected.</p>
<p>Promoting pan-European thematic tourism products, with a special emphasis on the European cultural and industrial heritage.</p>	<p>Fair "Carrefours d'Europe" 2012</p> <p>Specifications for framework contracts to be drafted in January-February.</p> <p>Several Contracts to be signed in February-April</p> <p>Event: June 2012</p> <p>Fair "Carrefours d'Europe" 2013</p> <p>Specifications for framework contract to be ready in September- October</p> <p>Contract to be signed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting European values and traditions giving more visibility to European cultural, natural and industrial heritage. • Raising awareness among European citizens about the European values; • Raising awareness among regional authorities about the important contribution of cultural and industrial tourism to the regional economy; • Creating clusters among SMEs and joint initiatives of different thematic tourism routes; • Facilitating networking among stakeholders from the tourism and cultural sectors; 	<p>The envisaged fairs are very complex; the results will therefore also depend on external factors not under Commission control (other co-organisers like the hosting municipality and the hosting country; the coordination of the many different tasks made by the contractor, etc.).</p> <p>The participation of qualified stakeholders (tour operators, cultural and tourism associations and businesses) is a crucial element as well.</p>

	in November 2012 Event: first semester 2013		
To add value to and enhance the promotional activities of Member States, other public authorities and the European tourism industry	Specification of the ad hoc grant ready by end of February. Signature of the grant agreement end latest at the ETC Board meeting - in April 2012). Implementation of activities May – December 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint promotion of Europe in long-haul markets, and a distinctive European brand, which differentiates 'Destination Europe' from other international regions. Raising the profile of Europe as a tourist destination and increasing international tourist demand for European destinations and bringing new visitors to Europe. 	Cooperation between European tourism authorities and main industry stakeholders. Support for the joint promotion of Europe in international tourism markets.
Supporting the promotion of pan-European thematic tourism products, the 'visiteurope.com' portal and the promotion of Europe as a whole in overseas markets.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing digital marketing activities through the "visiteurope.com" destination portal. • Increasing the pan-European content (such as thematic transnational products, routes and cultural corridors) on the 'visiteurope.com' portal. • Joint Commission and ETC promotional activities at major events or large-scale tourism fairs and exhibitions. • Research activities to improve European tourism marketing and business development in international long haul and emerging markets. 	Encouraging cooperation between European tourism authorities and main industry stakeholders to support the promotion of European and transnational tourism products.

Tourism and accessibility for all (02 02 08 05)

1. Objective

In line with the adopted budgetary remarks as adopted by the European Parliament, the preparatory action will have 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

The action will be implemented via 3 calls for tender, a call for proposals and the use of existing framework contracts.

3. Forecast for 2012

During the 2nd quarter of 2012: launch of a **call for tender** , with the view to "map" the target demand, establish a clearer demographic profile, and gather information on needs and expectations of disabled travellers (e.g how often they travel, how long, where they stay, spending habits, difficulties they face...). It is also necessary to extend this survey to disabled tourists coming from outside the EU (BRIC, USA, Canada, Japan).

During the 2nd quarter of 2012: launch of a **call for tender**, with the view to carry out a "performance check" of the supply of tourism services for disabled people in Europe. The focus will be on all services in the tourism supply chain (information, booking, transport services, accommodation, catering, entertainment, attractions etc..) This information is a prerequisite for identifying priority interventions.

During the 2nd quarter of 2012: launch of a **call for tender**, with the view to map the skills and staff training needs to improve accessibility and safety for all. This information is a prerequisite to put in place a better match between demand and offer of training, and eventually contribute to the development of a "culture of care" in the tourism supply chain.

During the 2nd quarter of 2012: launch of a **call for proposals**, with the view to foster and reward efforts and excellence in accessible tourism. The purpose is to institute a yearly award to private or public operators which make accessibility as a key priority in their promotional offer and commit to continuously improve on accessibility.

Make use of **framework contracts** to raise awareness and sensitize the public opinion and stakeholders. The objective is to promote accessibility in tourism by launching "marketing" and information actions, thus maximising the favourable momentum offered in 2012 by the London Paralympics Games and the launch of the 2013 European Year for Citizens. Additionally we want to ensure visibility in all those major events both at European, national or regional level that can have an impact on tourism and tourists. Seminars, promotional material (videos, brochure, stands).

At this stage, no difficulties are foreseen.

Euromed innovation entrepreneurs for change (02 02 10)

1. Objective

Cette action vise à renforcer la croissance et la compétitivité des jeunes entrepreneurs, et les réseaux d'investissement et d'innovation de l'Europe et de 4 pays méditerranéens associés (Égypte, Liban, Tunisie, Maroc), afin de produire des acteurs de premier plan sur des marchés à fort potentiel.

2. Implementation

Les systèmes de soutien à l'innovation dans les 4 pays associés montrent des faiblesses en matière de compétences nécessaires au sein des organisations de soutien opérationnel aux petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) et entrepreneurs innovant comme les organisations de *cluster* et de réseaux d'entreprises, services de conseil aux entreprises, chambres de commerce. Au niveau européen des réseaux d'experts professionnels ont développé des modules de formation et des outils avancés sur base de matériaux standardisés visant à améliorer la capacité de gestion des organisations de clusters et de réseaux d'entreprises et à renforcer la capacité des PME en matière de management de l'innovation à travers des services améliorés d'aide au management de l'innovation. Cette action vise donc à faciliter l'utilisation de ces outils et renforcer les compétences d'acteurs locaux dans les 4 pays associés autour des axes suivants :

1. Formations au cluster management et à l'internationalisation des PME à travers les réseaux d'entreprises et les clusters, mises en œuvre par subvention. Budget indicatif alloué : EUR 475 000.
2. Formations au management de l'innovation, mises en œuvre par subvention. Budget indicatif alloué : EUR 825 000.
3. Événements de partenariat sur la coopération de clusters et l'internationalisation des PME. L'objectif est de renforcer l'internationalisation des PME par une coopération plus étroite entre clusters, entreprises et réseaux d'investissement d'Europe et de 4 pays méditerranéens associés, dans des domaines stratégiques comme les industries IT/médias et les industries créatives, énergie/environnement, agro-alimentaire et tourisme. Budget indicatif alloué: EUR 700 000.

3. Forecast for 2012

La conclusion des conventions avec les réseaux européens est prévue pour mars / avril 2012 avec le début immédiat des activités.

Le lancement de l'appel d'offres pour les événements de partenariat est prévu pour mars 2012 avec le début des activités au 2ème semestre 2012.

Your first EURES Job (04 03 13)

1. Objective

"Your first EURES job" (hereinafter referred to as 'YfEj') is a new job mobility action based on the workers' freedom of movement as set out in the Treaties (Art 45 of the TFEU) which aims to help address youth unemployment. It is moreover one of key actions of the Europe 2020 flagship Communication "*Youth on the Move*"⁴ and the recent communication "*Youth Opportunities Initiative*"⁵. The target groups are young people and employers (all businesses, SMEs in particular).

YfEj will provide information, job search, job matching and financial support to both young jobseekers aged 18-30 willing to work in another EU Member State and businesses (SME in particular) recruiting young European mobile workers and providing them with an integration programme. YfEj can in particular enhance youth labour mobility and the number of job placements across Europe given the fact of being a targeted market-based facility designed to help young people and employers to fill in open bottleneck vacancies in accordance with economic needs.

The name "Your first EURES job" refers to the *very first job opportunity* offered in another Member State to any jobseeker/job changer with the support of this new preparatory action. It is called EURES because it is planned that it will become part of EURES⁶.

2. Implementation

In 2011, a total budget of EUR 4 million (commitment appropriations) has been allocated by the EU budgetary authority (with EUR 2 million under payment appropriations). A call for proposals was launched in the second half of 2011, after approval of the corresponding Financing Decision. Implementation of activities by selected organisations has started (end of January 2012). It should result in around 2000 job placements.

For 2012, the budgetary authority has voted a total budget of EUR 3 250 000 (commitment appropriations). The Commission is currently preparing a second YfEj call for proposals, in accordance with the action description of budget line 040313. It should lead to some 1500 additional job placements.

Under the Youth Opportunities Initiative, the Commission has in December 2011 proposed to extend the YfEj scheme to altogether 5000 placements. For this reason, the Commission intends to implement a third call for proposals in 2012. This period will be used as a further testing phase to provide for YfEj to become a "targeted job mobility scheme" as from 2014, in the frame of the EURES strand of the future EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI). The draft PSCI programme is a component of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 currently under negotiation with the European Parliament and the Council.

As announced in the Commission communications '*Youth on the Move*' and '*An agenda for new skills and jobs*'⁷, YfEj is deemed to be included in the EURES activities. However, this can only happen after the EURES legal basis has been modified to integrate the new scheme and the corresponding implementation rules. The future PSCI legal basis (including the EURES strand) should be in force as from 2014.

⁴ COM(2010) 477 final, dated 15/09/2010

⁵ COM(2011) 933, dated 20/11/2011

⁶ EURES is a co-operation network between the European Commission and the Public Employment Services (PES) of the EEA Member States and other partner organisations. Switzerland also takes part in EURES co-operation. More info: <http://eures.europa.eu>

⁷ COM(2010)682/3, dated 23/11/2010

3. Forecast for 2012

YfEj overarching goals are, on the one hand, to contribute to fill bottleneck vacancies with available youth workforce at EU level and, on the other hand, to foster youth job mobility across the EU-27 Member States.

To achieve those goals, the 2012 YfEj call for proposals will thus support and finance:

- EU labour market organisations – public, private or third sector employment services – experienced in transnational job matching and job placement activities
- the placement of young European mobile jobseekers abroad
- part of the costs borne by the employers (SMEs) with the young mobile worker's integration programme

Legal and natural persons (i.e. SMEs and young people) will be the end-recipients of YfEj financial support which will take the form of flat-rate financing.

Indicative timetable for the main steps concerning the 2nd wave (1500 job placements)

Approval of the YfEj financing decision: February 2012

Launch of the call: March 2012

Conclusion of the evaluation process: July 2012

Legal and financial commitments: August 2012

Start of activities: September 2012

Expected outcomes

As mentioned above, for 2012 (2nd call for proposals) the expected result should be the job placement of at least 1500 young people in other EU Member States than their country of residence throughout the duration of selected projects (12 months).

Potential difficulties

A negative factor that might hinder the smooth implementation of the preparatory action could be the difficulty to find sufficient job openings for young European mobile workers (lack of labour demand) if Europe goes into deeper economic downturn in 2012.

Activation measures targeting young people - implementing Youth on the Move initiative (04 04 17)

1. Objective

The preparatory action will support Member States and labour market actors in setting up Youth Guarantees ensuring that young people are either in a job, education or (re-)training within four months of leaving school.

2. Implementation

- Through a call for tender: investigation and collection of the experience of existing projects in EU countries where something comparable to the European Youth Guarantee is in force;
- Through a call for proposals and possibly call for tender: based upon the best practices collected launching of 2-3 pilot measures in Member States to establish a Youth Guarantee locally. Part of the action will be the designing of alternative programmes at local level for early school leavers to develop their skills and, in this context, put a special focus on the networking between relevant stakeholders (companies, schools, employment services, youth welfare services) as one important measure to improve the integration of young people into labour market.

3. Forecast for 2012

- Investigation and collection of existing experiences to be finalised before the end of 2012.
- Selection of pilot projects to be carried out before the end of 2012 with the start of the implementation by early 2013 at the latest.

European transport information and booking interface across transport modes (06 02 14)

1. Objective

The stated aims of the preparatory action are in line with the contention in the White Paper "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area –Towards a Competitive and Resource Efficient Transport System" that when abroad, the travel experience should be as easy as for local travellers. The White Paper's vision is for seamless door-to-door mobility for all passengers, thanks to the "the development and use of intelligent systems for interoperable and multimodal scheduling, information, online reservation systems and smart ticketing".

The preparatory action needs to take full account of the rapidly evolving transport traveller information and ticketing sectors, as far as new strategies are being introduced into the marketplace and consumer needs are changing.

The preparatory action would include a study akin to impact assessment that would advise on the future role that the EU takes to facilitate the White Paper's vision and test out the 'Subsidiarity', 'Proportionality' and 'European Added Value' for Commission involvement in the roll out of integrated, multimodal travel information and smart ticketing. The study would fully assess how the market is evolving and identify whether a 'business as usual' strategy would result in the market delivering integrated travel information and ticketing. The Preparatory Action would, furthermore include a regional, cross-border trial in the field of multi-modal journey planning with integrated booking, pricing tool, ticketing and modelling for travellers with special needs.

2. Implementation

A 'call for tender' is foreseen .

3. Forecast for 2012

The preparatory action would be started in 2012. Given that the issue of multimodal transport information and ticketing is on the 2014 Commission Work Programme, the Commission intends also to initiate an impact assessment during 2012 that would consider future legislative action.

Preparatory action to cover costs of studies for specialising in ENP and for related academic activities, including setting-up the ENP Chair in the College of Europe Natolin Campus (15 02 33)

1. Objective

The new enhanced European Neighbourhood Policy necessitates preparing future interlocutors coming from European and neighbouring countries, i.e. personnel for EU-ENP-related jobs. They should be fully and professionally acquainted with the substance and spirit of Union policies, law and institutions and the Union *acquis*. That requires a focused and sophisticated offer, which can be delivered only by a highly recognised academic institution such as the College of Europe which already specialises in this field. The two campuses of the College of Europe are best placed to offer tailor-made programmes and other educational modules.

This preparatory action will cover the costs of studies for students from European Neighbourhood countries, from EU Member States and for related academic activities as well as for the functioning of the ENP Chair at the College of Europe Natolin Campus.

Objectives:

- to support students from European Neighbourhood countries and from the EU Member States unable to cover their study costs or acquire funding from their own country. The objective is to allow them to study at the College of Europe in order to increase the number of professionals "*fully and professionally acquainted with the substance and spirit of EU policies, law and institutions and the *acquis communautaire**" and thus to expand the students' professional capabilities and enable them to deal with the EU policies and ENP policies to encourage the emergence of a new generation of professionals with an excellent knowledge of Europe, its policies and the European Institutions.
- to support the functioning of the ENP Chair in Natolin. The activities of the Chair would correspond to the current and emerging policy interests held by the EU in the neighbouring regions and would also complement and build upon the College of Europe current teaching and research activities in this important area. The Chair will aim to facilitate the development of teaching on the theory and practice of EU neighbourhood policies towards its Eastern and Southern neighbours through an interdisciplinary approach.

The holder of the Chair will engage in research focusing on European Neighbourhood Policy and leading to academic publications. He/she will coordinate the research activities of the two senior research fellows dealing respectively with Eastern and Southern neighbors. He/she will be responsible for the supervision of master's theses dealing with the European Neighbourhood Policy and will be involved in additional activities linked to the Chair (e.g. conferences, seminars, guest lectures).

Foreseen results:

- to enable students in both Campuses to study for a Master's Degree in European Studies and ENP policies during the academic year 2012 – 2013 and to test the feasibility and usefulness of a specific scholarship scheme for students coming from the European Neighbourhood countries to enrol in the quality academic action-programmes of the College of Europe and for the students of EU Member States to specialise in ENP policies.
- the development of other educational modules.

- the functioning of the ENP Chair in Natolin.

2. Implementation

Two action grants will be given to the designated beneficiary of the preparatory action, (one for each campus) on the basis of flat-rate financing for the cost of the studies and the reimbursement of part of the actual eligible costs of the other related academic activities awarded to the College of Europe in both Campuses Bruges and Natolin, as well as part of the eligible cost for the functioning of the ENP Chair in Natolin. The publicity and selection of students' costs are covered by the preparatory action.

No call for proposal is foreseen since the direct award of this grant to the College of Europe is justified, on the basis of Article 168(1)(f) of the Implementing Rules, stating that the Commission can decide to award grants without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, high degree of specialisation or administrative power.

3. Forecast for 2012

It is expected a Financing Decision from the Commission by end March and the signature of the contracts by May 2012. In the meantime, the beneficiary will have to provide the Work programme.

Heading 1b

Enhancing regional and local cooperation through the promotion of EU regional policy on a global scale (13 03 28)

1. Objective

The international dimension of regional policy has matured considerably over the course of the last years (2009-2011), due in large part to the additional opportunities for new and innovative forms of cooperation with countries outside the EU afforded by the resources provided by the European Parliament.

This preparatory action aims at pursuing these efforts and will seek to demonstrate once again the added value of the EP's commitment to this area of activity in promoting internationally the EU model of development.

The Commission's objectives for the preparatory action are in line with the budgetary remarks although it shall be reminded that the main focus of the preparatory action will be to support current policy dialogues with main strategic partners (Brazil, China, Russia) and support the implementation of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) to bring real help to these countries in their efforts to improve public policy in regional development, and regional and local governance issues. As requested in the budgetary remarks and following previous discussions in the EP, the scope of activities will be widened to ultra-peripheral territories and regions, as well as to exchanges activities on urban development.

By promoting the EU cohesion policy as a success story through a number of regional dialogues, the EU will use these actions to exemplify and advance its values, fundamental principles, organisational structures and policies on a global scale.

2. Implementation

In 2012, the preparatory action will be implemented, as in 2011, through the use of Framework Contracts, call for tenders or grants. The actions supported will include the organisation of events, training programmes, information activities, study visits, networking and studies.

The first priority in 2012 will be the implementation of the Eastern Partnership through dialogues on regional policy and contribution to the Pilot Regional Development Programmes (PRDP) process.

The second priority will be to build on the successful, established dialogues (Brazil, China, Russia, Chile), particularly in such fields as place-based policy design and strategic planning, integrated approaches to development and multi-level governance.

Finally, priority will be also given to the exchange of experience with other partners involving representatives from EU regions on selected key issues, reflecting both third countries' main challenges and the requests and interests showed by EP, EEAS, international organisations and EU regions and cities participating in previous cooperation activities, namely: sustainable urban development, cross-border cooperation, innovation and regional insertion of outermost regions and peripheral territories.

3. Forecast for 2012

Most of the actions (either use of a framework contracts or the launch of procurement procedure) will start on the 1st and 2nd quarter of 2012. All specific and direct contracts are expected to have been signed by end 2012.

The actions supported will include the organisation of events, training programmes, information activities, 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 2012:

Studies and technical assistance

- Technical assistance in improving statistical base at regional level of regional capacity in Ukraine and Contribution to the Strategy for Regional Development in Georgia;
- Russia: Study on integrated development plans in former single-industry towns;
- Follow up cross-border cooperation in Latin America and West Africa;
- Regional innovation strategies in Latin America, namely Chile.

Information seminars (studyvisits and seminars)

A number of seminars and training programmes could be supported to be held in main partner countries on topics such as: strategic and governance issues, information systems, monitoring, evaluation, regional innovation systems and clusters, sustainable urban development, cross-border cooperation, audit, etc.

A number of programme exchanges could take place, namely on urban development with Japan, China and Latin America or on governance and cross-border cooperation.

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 into other languages, information and communications products.

The definition of Governance model for the EU Danube Region - better and effective coordination (13 03 29)

1. Objective

Work on a governance model, the development of a regional identity, and the establishment of economic and social cooperation in a practical way to encourage reconciliation and excellence in the Danube Region, can be usefully addressed together. As last year, the Commission thus proposes to have a joint implementation of the pilot project 13 03 30 (see dedicated section on pilot project above) and of the preparatory action.

The objective is to facilitate a governance system for the EU Strategy for the Danube Region which is stable, effective, inclusive and innovative. It will be achieved through:

- Assistance to the Priority Area Coordinators: The Strategy will be implemented through eleven thematic Priority Areas, each of which will be coordinated by two Danube countries or regions. Priority Area Coordinators will be supported in activities that could include the following, for example:
 - Improve the capacity of the Priority Area Coordinators, including their work to communicate the Strategy's aims and its achievements;
 - Support cooperation and the exchange of experience through the organisation of thematic meetings and steering groups;
 - Establish a Danube Investment Framework to assist project owners in developing project proposals, and facilitate the coordination between different funding sources;
 - Encourage a bottom up approach to implementation, through the involvement of civil society, regional stakeholders and citizens in the implementation phase with the aim to promote people's mutual understanding;
 - Base the Strategy's implementation on the latest, cutting edge knowledge by involving regional and international experts;
 - Implement one (or possibly more) flagship project(s) able to demonstrate the added value of the Strategy through economic cooperation (these projects to provide innovative solutions to overall societal challenges, such as climate change, are based on an integrated approach and latest research, e.g. the development of a prototype of new ships or the establishment of a Danube Region Innovation Fund).

2. Implementation

The 2011 budget has been implemented jointly through grants to the Priority Area Coordinators, which hold a *de facto* monopoly position in the Strategy work. The Priority Area Coordinators are national or regional public bodies. Their appointment is based on an agreement by all countries involved in the Strategy. The volume of the budget was intended to finance technical assistance actions as well as to implement specific projects (New ship technology to reduce their environmental impact; Danube Research and Innovation Fund; Support the reconciliation of people through education and training; and Danube Investment Framework).

All legal and budgetary commitments regarding the 2011 Budget were concluded by end 2011. The implementation of the actions is ongoing till end 2012 or in some cases later.

3. Forecast for 2012

The Commission will further provide assistance to the Priority Area Coordinators and therefore, the 2012 budget will be distributed amongst them in the form of direct grants in order to pursue longer term objectives.

Atlantic Forum for the EU Atlantic Strategy (13 03 32)

1. Objective

Based on the Communication from the Commission "Developing a Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Ocean Area" (COM(2011)782), the Atlantic Forum should identify the priority actions and projects to be proposed for future funding and that would contribute to the creation of sustainable jobs and growth in the Atlantic area, through the involvement of the Atlantic Member States, local authorities and other interested parties. The Forum will gather ideas for concrete action from the local level that will then be reviewed and refined through a transparent process involving all relevant stakeholders. Agreed priority actions and projects would then be endorsed through the publication of an Action Plan which should help to inform discussions on partnership contracts and operational programmes. Whilst the identification of Atlantic-specific projects cannot prejudge final decisions on disbursement of funding, well-thought-out, ready-to-roll projects with genuine political and community support that can add real value to the Atlantic economy will certainly be in a strong position.

2. Implementation

It is considered that the foreseen actions are covered by Regulation (EU) 1255/2011 of 30 November 2011 establishing a Programme to support the further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy. Therefore, in conformity with the joint conclusions of the Conciliation Committee dated 19 November 2011 stating that "when a pilot project or a preparatory action appears to be covered by an existing legal basis, the Commission may propose the transfer of appropriations to the corresponding legal basis in order to facilitate the implementation of the action", The Commission has proposed on 1st February 2012, through DEC 1/2012, to transfer the related appropriations to Article 11 09 05 (IMP Programme). The action will be implemented through service contracts.

3. Forecast for 2012

The European Commission will begin preparations for the Forum by visiting the five Atlantic Member States in February and March 2012 to meet representatives from central government and regional representatives. The aim of these meetings will be to encourage Member States to begin work on identifying priority actions and potential projects that could be included in a draft Action Plan.

Based on input received from Member States, the Commission will prepare a consultation document for interested parties by summer 2012. The consultation should run until September 2012. A dedicated website on the Atlantic Forum will be set up to facilitate communication and document sharing between stakeholders.

Concurrently with this consultation process, the Commission will organise, in cooperation with the Member States and the European Parliament, a series of stakeholder events that will aim to refine and review the proposals for priority actions and projects in the consultation paper.

The Forum process will be inclusive. It will be given political leadership by a high level group representing the five Atlantic states, the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee and the Commission. Input and ideas will be sought from all relevant stakeholders – regional and local actors, the business community and national decision-makers.

Following the outcome of the consultation process, the Commission will prepare an Action Plan, which will identify actions and projects to be proposed for EU funding in 2014-2020. A reporting mechanism will be put in place so that it will be possible to determine, by 2020, the extent to which the priority actions and projects identified by the Action Plan have been set in motion, and to understand what the added value of these projects has been to the Atlantic area.

Supporting Mayotte, or any other territory potentially affected, with the switchover to outermost-region status (13 03 33)

1. Objective

The objective pursued by this preparatory action "supporting Mayotte with the switchover to outermost-regions status" is to provide assistance to the national administration of Mayotte in its preparation to become an "outermost-region" by 2014.

2. Implementation

A financing decision must be adopted by the European Commission and a grant agreement will be signed in 2012 between the European Commission and the French authorities which will be the beneficiaries of the grant. The implementation of the project will last until 2014.

3. Forecast for 2012

The European Commission will award a grant to the French administration (ASP) in order to assist Mayotte to take the status of outermost-region. The project will indicatively consist of the following actions:

- Organising general information meetings and first trainings of local staff in Mayotte,
- Carrying out studies *ex-ante* evaluation so as to produce an analysis of the area and provide support for local actors in order to lay down a regional strategy and programme priorities,

Supporting the setting up of a Europe unit to managing, following up and monitoring future operational programmes.

Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives (13 03 34)

1. Objective

The objective of this preparatory action is to provide help and support for elected local and regional representatives in the Union:

- to encourage multilateral cooperation between territorial and local and regional institutions on a political level;
- to stimulate common research and exchange of ideas on the problems they encounter on a regular basis by means of on-the-spot training and the sharing of experience;
- to promote the exchange of best practices on sustainable, integrated regional, local and urban development;
- to improve capacity-building with respect to the implementation of structural funds and application of European Union guidelines and legislations.

The preparatory action is thus a tool to enhance the learning and experience of elected local and regional representatives, and to increase the capacity of local and regional councils in regard to the application of concepts, democratic principles and strategies.

2. Implementation

The Commission will only partially implement this preparatory action for the reasons which have already been presented to the European Parliament, notably the fact that a pilot project is currently taking place in the context of the URBACT programme, and because the Commission considers that a thorough evaluation of this project should be carried out before committing significant additional resources.

The Commission also considers the funding of individual mobility of elected local and regional representatives to be a risk at a time of economic crisis and scarce resources at local, regional and national level. The difficulty in ensuring and demonstrating clearly the European added-value to such mobility by comparison to bilateral cooperation has also been underlined. Therefore, the Commission expresses reservation on funding individual mobility on the basis of bilateral cooperation between local and regional authorities and will investigate other ways to address the underlying objectives of such mobility.

Following suggestions of the Presidents of the EP Regional Development Committee and of the Committee of the Regions, the Commission will set aside part of the allocated funds to support the organisation of a general training session on the European Union and its relationships with local and regional authorities. Therefore, this preparatory action will only be partly implemented, via the organisation of these training sessions in the Committee of the Regions and through a series of workshops and sessions during the Open Days 2013.

3. Forecast for 2012

Depending on the calendar of the training to be organised by the Committee of the Regions, funds will be allocated either in 2012 or early 2013.

Heading 2

Future legal base on harmonised EU forest information (07 03 12)

1. Objective

According to the budgetary remarks as adopted by the European Parliament, the preparatory action shall contribute to maintaining an EU level system and collection of comparable and harmonised forest information to serve as a basis for the provision of policy relevant information on forests in the European Union as required under international obligations and key action 8 of the Forest Action Plan (COM 2006 final) in preparation for an upcoming Regulation on harmonised EU forest information.

More specifically, this preparatory action will collect quantitative and qualitative forest data related to climate change, air pollution, biodiversity, and forest condition, including soil condition and carbon sequestration, based on existing trans-nationally harmonised monitoring methods and standards, preferably for large scale and intensive monitoring plots, ensuring continuity of data series where possible. The action shall aim at collecting representative forest information throughout European Union.

As already underlined in the Executability letter of 27 October 2011, the Commission would like to point out that:

- there is currently no EU level system of comparable and harmonised forest information except for forest fires;
- it is not possible to collect a vast range of information, across the whole EU, within the proposed order of magnitude of appropriations. Nor would a one off exercise of this kind be of any practical use.

The Commission is currently reflecting on the possible way forward on having coherent EU forest information and monitoring, based on the results of the public consultation on the Green Paper on forest protection and information, on the Council Conclusions on forest protection from June 2010 and on the EP's report from May 2011.

It is therefore important to first identify which information is needed at EU level and the EU policy requirements in the framework of the Forestry Strategy review in order to best use EU funding and resources and to make optimal use of existing infrastructure.

It is then preferable to focus this Preparatory Action on the identification of information to be collected and on the appropriate methodology.

2. Implementation

The appropriations will be used for the implementation of two lines of action:

- 1) The improvement of the information systems in the forests in the Mediterranean area. This is the real weak spot in the EU at the moment, and the work would aim at identifying the gaps and what would be needed to fill them.
- 2) The improvement of the co-operation between the two main primary collectors of forest data, the National Forest Inventories and the ICP system. This would involve substantial and detailed methodological work which is crucial to the success of the future EU forest information system and will have to be performed by a neutral party.

The Commission is at present assessing different options for implementing the two action lines, involving the Joint Research Centre (JRC) - and/or launching specific call for tenders.

As the JRC is a clear pole of expertise on forest, its involvement in this preparatory action is considered crucial, in particular for the second line of action, taking into account its expertise, credibility and neutrality. The form and scope of its involvement are still under definition.

3. Forecast for 2012

Discussion with the JRC will be carried out in February/March 2012.

The adoption of the financing decision is expected in the first half of 2012.

In case of need, a global commitment will be done as soon as possible after adoption of the financing decision.

The finalisation of the relationship with the JRC and/or the launching of the call(s) for tenders will be done in the second half of 2012.

BEST Scheme "Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of EU Outermost Regions and Overseas and Territories" (07 03 27)

1. Objective

The objective of the preparatory action is to provide further means to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

2. Implementation

In the first year of implementation of this preparatory action (2011), an open call for proposals was launched: it attracted 42 proposals, out of which 8 proposals were awarded with a grant.

In 2012, further projects will be launched to implement and showcase BEST. Projects may include: nature conservation measures including designation and management of nature conservation sites; measures which facilitate the cohabitation of biodiversity conservation and human activities; measures which contribute to the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services and maintain and develop social and sustainable economic activities which benefit local communities; development and use of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation and implementation of green infrastructure; networking, education and capacity building activities.

The preparatory action will be implemented by way of a call for proposals for the total amount of appropriations in the 2012 Budget (EUR 2 million).

3. Forecast for 2012

The procedure for the adoption of the financing decision has already been launched. The adoption is expected by February 2012.

The below table shows the expected timetable of the call for proposals:

Timing of call for proposals :	
- publication date	First quarter of 2012
- closing date	Second quarter of 2012
- finalisation of grant agreements	Last quarter of 2012

Development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe (07 03 29)

1. Objective

This project is intended to develop prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe.

The preparatory action follows a pilot project implemented in the years 2009-2010 and a preparatory action voted under the 2011 budget.

2. Implementation

In 2012 the intention is to continue the identification and development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe.

These activities started in 2009 and led to finance the following.

- in 2009, a call for tender to identify a contractor to assist in the identification of possible pilot initiatives, in the definition of the conditions for their completion and their evaluation;
- in 2010, a call for proposals to support the development of concrete pilot initiatives on innovative technologies, techniques or practices to contribute to the exchanges of good practice and innovation at the local level;
- in 2011, a service contract to provide a link between the pilot basins and EU-wide water and ecosystem accounts and a call for proposals for developing a holistic approach to water management with a view to halting desertification in 5-6 selected pilot river basins

The next phase of the preparatory action will include:

- a call for proposals to identify actions aimed at halting desertification in 5-6 selected pilot river basins by developing water accounts allowing for sustainable management of the water resources;
- a service contract to provide a link between the pilot basins and EU-wide water and ecosystem accounts and further develop the methodology for building water accounts at the river basin level.

The call for proposals as well as the service contract will build on experience from the 3 year of previous actions.

3. Forecast for 2012

It is considered necessary to build on the findings of the Blueprint for Europe's waters, which will be adopted in November 2012, and to get the final results of the ongoing contracts/grants to increase the value for money of this year appropriations.

The below table shows the indicative timetable for the implementation of the PA:

Timetable for the implementation of the PA	
- financing decision and global commitment	Last quarter of 2012
- publication date for the call for proposal and the service contract	by last quarter of 2013
- closing date	Second quarter of 2013
- finalisation of grant agreements and the service contract	Third quarter of 2013

RECAP: recycling at local scale of internal plastic scrap created by major EU polymer converting regions (07 03 71)

1. Objective

The recycling of plastics waste has increased substantially in recent years. However, whilst the recycling of 'pure' plastic waste streams (i.e. those made up mainly or predominantly of a single material) is rather well developed, there are still substantial problems to overcome as far as the recycling of mixed plastics is concerned, which are reflected in low recycling rates. At the same time, the use of mixed plastics is becoming more and more popular because of their superior use phase characteristics. In order to address these problems, this preparatory action is aimed at increasing the recycling of mixed plastics waste (post production and in addition also post consumption). It is expected to develop techniques and procedures for decreasing the quantity of unrecycled plastics waste to a minimum and at opening new markets for recycled plastics while not jeopardising the current single material recycling streams (e.g. for PET bottles, PE films or PVC building materials).

2. Implementation

The project will be carried out over a period of 32 months following an open call for tender; the contract is expected to be signed in the 3rd quarter of 2012.

Hereunder a detailed list of the deliverables/milestones of the project:

- Inception report (end of month 3): Statistical data and qualitative descriptions regarding the current situation in relation to the recycling of mixed plastics waste, analysis of future trends in plastics recycling, recommendations for future markets.
- Interim report 1 (end of month 5): Identification of existing and emerging technologies to sort and recycle mixed plastics waste.
- Interim report 2 (end months 8): Identification of existing and future markets
- Interim report 3 (mid month 18): Engineering phase for the implementation of a plastics sorting and recycling line using mixed plastics waste, including the relevant technical plans and specifications
- Semi-industrial scale model pilot installation (mid month 24): demonstration to the steering group
- Conference: month 28 or 29
- Draft Final Report (mid month 30): Shall take information obtained during of the conference into account

Final report: end of month 32.

3. Forecast for 2012

The prior information notice (PIN) is expected to be published in February 2012. The open call for tender will be published in spring 2012 and the contract is expected to be signed in the 3rd quarter of 2012.

A potential difficulty could be the absence of bids with sufficient quality and/or passing all exclusion criteria.

Mainstreaming Climate Action and Adaptation (07 13 03)

1. Objective

Taking into account that Climate action is one of the central pillars of the 'Europe 2020 Strategy' and in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation and the Inter-Institutional Agreement, the Commission proposed to create under the 2011 and 2012 budget a preparatory action for 'Mainstreaming Climate Action and Adaption' that was adopted by the Budget Authority.

Achieving the EU '20/20/20' climate goals is acknowledged as a headline target in the 2020 Strategy. The move to a low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient economy, the magnitude and cross-cutting nature of the climate change challenge and its relevance for EU's economic recovery, competitiveness, growth and creation of 'green' jobs requires that climate action is appropriately presented in all Community policies via mainstreaming and that adaptation measures to climate change will reduce the European Union's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

This preparatory action is intended:

- to support the work needed to underpin the Union's commitment on integration of climate action and adaptation. In the Communication on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) adopted on 29 June 2011, 'A Budget for Europe 2020', the Commission intends to increase the proportion of climate mainstreaming to at least 20% of the future EU total budget, with contribution from different policies in particular in the cohesion policy; the common agriculture policy, research, development and innovation; energy and transport; external relations. Assistance in the monitoring of the implementation of the mainstreaming objective is required.
- to fund studies and modelling supporting impact assessments to prepare future policy instruments such as the tabling of an 'EU strategy for adaptation to Climate Change' package by 2013 and supporting the transition towards a low carbon economy/society by 2050.
- to develop and implement innovative support mechanisms (such as the implementation of the 'NER 300' programme – revenue from monetising 300 million ETS allowances from new MS to fund carbon capture and storage and renewable energy projects in collaboration with the European Investment Bank) and to develop low carbon and adaptation policies and strategies, including possible new financial instruments to fully exploit the potential of new technologies.
- to support the development and review of indicators that would measure efficiency and effectiveness of mitigation actions, adaptation measures, mainstreaming, reduced risk exposure and reduced vulnerability to Climate Change. Adaptation standards could be designed/reviewed to assess climate resilience of infrastructure and investments in the EU. The monitoring of mainstreaming will require the further development and application of tracking methodologies of climate related expenditure ('Rio markers').

Policy Achievements 2011:

- On 8 March 2011 the Commission has adopted the Roadmap for transforming the European Union into a competitive low carbon economy by 2050. The Roadmap describes the cost-effective pathway to reach the EU's objective of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% of 1990 levels by 2050.

- The Commission Communication of 29 June 2011 on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) emphasized the need to further mainstream climate action in the future EU Budget and the sectoral proposals "to ensure that climate related expenditure represents at least 20% of the total budget"
- The development work on "CLIMATE-ADAPT: the European Climate Adaptation Platform" (new name of the Adaptation Clearinghouse) has entered phase 2. The release of this knowledge database is planned for March-April 2012. It will be hosted by the European Environment Agency in Copenhagen.

Budget implementation 2011

The available budget of EUR 5 million was contracted up to 99,62 % in 2011 which is a successful implementation. The execution rate in terms of payments remained below 50% as 2011 was the first year of implementation of this preparatory action and the contracts resulting from open calls for tender were signed rather late in the year. Hence the requests for first instalments by the contractors were submitted towards the very end of 2011 or not at all and will be paid in early 2012.

2. Implementation

The preparatory action in 2012 will focus on:

- studies
 - a) supporting the transition towards a competitive low carbon economy including possible new financial instruments to fully exploit and promote the potential of innovative technologies and processes especially in relation to energy efficiency and renewable investments,
 - b) contributing to sustainable agriculture such as analysis of options for resource-efficient agriculture and forestry production;
- support services and studies in relation to mainstreaming of climate mitigation and adaptation in Union agricultural, rural development, research and innovation, transport and energy, external action, cohesion policies and benchmarking, monitoring and reporting on the integration of climate into these major financial instruments following the Communication on the Multi-Annual Financial Perspectives 2014-2020 (June 2011);
- analyses and studies to prepare the impact assessment and assess the policy options in support of the design of an EU Strategy for Adaptation to climate change (2013) as a follow up to the White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change (2009);
- further development and implementation of the climate change impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation Clearing House mechanisms to collect scientific data and cases to build a sound knowledge base, to assist in decision making and drafting of adaptation plans at all levels and to contribute to a greater level of coordination among the relevant sectoral policies and among different institutional levels.

The Commission Decision C (2011) 7187 concerning the adoption of a financing decision in the Climate Action policy area for 2012 was adopted on 12 October 2011 and covers this preparatory action.

The procurement of studies and services, economic and scientific modelling, indicators and methodologies and analyses will be done through calls for tender and occasionally via administrative

arrangements with the JRC. In total 11 procedures are planned, the technical terms of reference for these calls are being drafted.

3. Forecast 2012

The open calls for tender will be launched in the first two quarters of the year. Contracts will be signed throughout 2012 and first results should be available by mid 2013. Final payments expected by mid-2014.

Building on the positive experience of 2011, no major implementation problems in terms of commitment appropriations are expected. Careful monitoring of the implementation of the contracts will have a positive bearing on the execution of payment appropriations in 2012.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): Research on the causes of high and improper antibiotic usage (17 03 14)

1. Objective

This action is intended to:

- study the issue of the inappropriate use and sale of antimicrobial agents with or without prescription throughout the chain. The action will seek to better evaluate the reasons for the inappropriate use of antibiotics, assess the level of antibiotics sold without prescription in the target countries (including the countries where the enforcement of legislation is poor), identify the reasons for such high levels of sales without prescription, assess whether there is enough information reaching the relevant actors, identifying their motives, incentives, practices and the perception of the overall threat of antimicrobial resistance and make recommendations on how to best address this situation,
- contribute and lead to a comprehensive and integrated Union policy against AMR.

2. Implementation

The financing decision is in preparation. The implementation of this preparatory action will imply thorough surveys in the groups to which this preparatory action is addressed, in-depth discussions and the identification of study-cases in each key Member State.

3. Forecast 2012

July 2012: Adoption of the financing decision and launch of the requested calls for tenders / proposals and / or signature of service contracts.

Cooperation Mechanisms implementing the RES Directive (32 04 19)

1. Objective

In the framework of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 140, 5.6.2009, p. 16), which sets national targets for the share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption, a new mechanisms were proposed for achieving the national targets cost effectively.

These mechanisms, which introduce flexibility for Member States on a voluntary cooperation basis, refer to statistical transfers between Member States (Article 6), joint projects between Member States (Articles 7 and 8), joint projects between Member States and third parties (Articles 9 and 10) and joint support schemes between Member States (Article 11).

This preparatory action aims to examine all the conditions for the successful implementation of these cooperation mechanisms and their interaction with other mechanisms or national support schemes, and to develop specific guidance or other framework for the operation of this mechanism. Priority can be given to the application of the mechanism to Member States with limited cross-border network capacities as well as in areas that exhibit high potential for specific renewable energy sources projects.

2. Implementation

The action will be implemented through a call for tender.

3. Forecast 2012

The tender specifications and an invitation to tender will need to be prepared and published. The evaluation of the tenders need to be prepared and undertaken and the contract need to be drawn up and signed before the end of the year.

The outcome of the study will be guidelines, templates and examples of cooperation mechanisms in line with the above objective.

Heading 3a

Enable the resettlement of refugees during emergency situations (18 03 17)

1. Objective

This preparatory action aims to support the resettlement of refugees in emergency conditions that are not covered by the current European Refugee Fund (ERF) rules.

To the extent possible, the following actions are envisaged by this preparatory action:

- to support persons already recognised as refugees by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and ERF falling victim to natural disasters, armed attacks, etc.,
- to support emergency action in the case of groups of refugees, identified as priorities according to ERF and UNHCR rules, who are under armed attack, that have been victims of a natural disaster, or that face other conjunctures of extreme vulnerability and of a life-threatening nature,
- to fund rapid resettlement procedures of the Member States in conditions replicated from the routine resettlement activities funded by the ERF,
- to guarantee financing for emergency procedures without disruption of the ongoing ERF resettlement procedures,
- to provide, where needed, extra financial support during emergencies to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to its liaison organisations in the Member States and at Union level,
- to strengthen the activities of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) as a focal point during these emergency procedures.

2. Implementation

The intention of the Commission is to award grants directly to UNHCR and to those Member States who are willing and interested in partaking in resettlement operations. These actions will be carried out to the possible extent in close cooperation with EASO.

3. Forecast for 2012

The goal is to have the implementation of this preparatory action launched by the end of 2012 and no particular difficulties are foreseen at this stage.

In 2012 it is planned to develop the work programme (Q1) and by the Q3/Q4 the grants should be agreed and be in implementation.

Heading 3b

Culture in external relations (15 04 46)

1. Objective

This preparatory action aims at supporting ongoing policy reflection and development on strengthening the role of culture in external relations and to nurture future work.

In order to deliver on this objective, the preparatory action is foreseen to be implemented through a call for tenders that will be published in the first half of 2012.

The call will cover a consultation and analysis process with bilateral and multilateral interviews, as well as workshops. This process should be able to give definitions on basic concepts (from public diplomacy to cultural cooperation) and draw conclusions and recommendations identifying areas of strong EU added value on a geographical basis which are meaningful from the point of view of EU instruments. Focus should be placed on countries/regions which represent a clear priority for the EU's external action: European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries (East and South), emerging countries, industrialised countries and cover different types of countries.

In mid December 2011 the Commission presented its intentions as regards implementation to author of this preparatory action, and got a positive reaction.

2. Implementation

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

3. Forecast for 2012

2012 will be devoted to the preparation, follow-up and completion of the decisional process and the procurement procedures. The indicative timetable is as follows:

End March	Adoption of the Work programme by the Commission
May-June	Publication of the open call for tenders
August	Evaluation of the received offers
September	Contract award
October	Signature of the contract
November–December	Contract start / Kick-off meeting / pre-financing
Potential difficulties	None

Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment (15 04 66 03)

1. Objective

The objective of the preparatory action "Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment" is to provide information on the degree of complementarities between the different platforms of distribution available to European films: cinema release, VOD, DVD and, potentially, television. This preparatory action will test the impact of a simultaneous or semi-simultaneous release on all available platforms of distribution and in several territories. At the same time, the preparatory action has three complementary and mutually reinforcing objectives:

- Improve the conditions of circulation for European films within the European Union
- Increase and expand the global audience for European films,
- Inform markets and public authorities on the improvements of the complementarity between the different distribution supports.

2. Implementation

The preparatory action will be implemented through an open call for proposals.

3. Forecast for 2012

End of March	Adoption of the Work Programme by the Commission
April	Publication of the call for proposals
June-September	Evaluation of the proposals received
Mid-October	Award decision
November	Signature of grant agreements
December	Pre-financing payments

European partnerships on Sport (15 05 20)

1. Objective

This preparatory action will prepare for activities in the field of sport to be covered by a programme under the future Multiannual Financial Framework. It will test the feasibility and usefulness of existing ideas and concepts, aiming at creating a European dimension in sport.

This new "Preparatory Action - European Partnerships on Sport " builds on the priorities set in the Communication "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" of January 2011, the Resolution of the Council on an EU Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014 of May 2011, the Communication "A Budget for Europe 2020" of June 2011 and the proposal from the Commission for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing "Erasmus for All", the Union programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport, adopted on 23 November 2011. A number of actions foreseen in these new policy documents go beyond the experience and scope of the previous preparatory actions in the field of sport (2009-2011), which were based on the 2007 White Paper on Sport. They therefore require testing in terms of feasibility and usefulness.

The preparatory action - European partnerships on Sport will focus on testing the feasibility of financing actions through the compulsory use of third-party funding. This type of actions is foreseen in article 12 (2) of the Commission's proposal for the Regulation establishing "Erasmus for All", which states that "the sport activities supported shall, where appropriate, leverage supplementary funding through partnership with third parties such as private undertakings".

The preparatory action will test as a priority new activities in areas which have not yet been covered by earlier funding initiatives in the field of sport, such as the fight against match-fixing, the promotion of physical activity supporting active ageing, awareness-raising about effective ways of promoting sport at municipal level, and trans-frontier joint grassroots sport competitions in neighbouring regions and Member States.

The preparatory action will also finance studies, conferences and seminars to be organised in the field of sport so as to create a basis for future EU partnerships, in particular the realisation of a feasibility study on a possible mobility programme facilitating the exchange of athletes enrolled at universities.

2. Implementation

The preparatory action "European partnership on Sport" will be implemented through a call for proposals to select the beneficiaries of grant and through call for tenders to select contractors which will carry out the studies and conferences.

3. Forecast for 2012

Timetable:

Call for proposals is planned to be published in May; deadline for submission: end of July; evaluation September-October; signing agreements (expected number: 23): November-December.

Calls for tenders are planned to be launched in May/June. In the case of restricted procedure (expected number 1), evaluation of bids in June/July, signing of contracts in July/August. In the case of open procedure (expected number: 2), evaluation of bids in September-October; signing of contracts: November-December.

European year of citizens 2013 (16 05 07 01)

1. Objective

The purpose of the preparatory action in 2012 is to lay the groundwork for a successful European Year of Citizens 2013 that will require good public awareness, communication with citizens at national, regional and local level and engagement with them. Therefore the preparatory action will focus mainly on the development and launching of the information and communication campaign and the co-ordinated mobilisation of all stakeholders in line with the objectives of the 2013 European Year.

2. Implementation

This appropriation is intended to cover the following measures at European level:

- the launch of an information and communication campaign to disseminate the key messages of the upcoming European Year of Citizens;
- the development of the European Year of Citizens website.

3. Forecast for 2012

The Commission adopted on 11 August 2011 a proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year of Citizens 2013 (COM(2011)489). This proposal is now being discussed in the European Parliament and in the Council, with a view to be adopted in co-decision in May this year.

The financing decision will be prepared in parallel with a view to be able to sign the contracts as soon as the Decision on the Year is taken by the co-legislators.

Creation of an EU network of experts in the field of adapted care for adolescents with psychological problems (17 03 15)

1. Objective

This appropriation is intended to cover the creation of a European Union network of experts that will promote and sustain innovative and adapted care structures for adolescents with psychological problems. It will collect, exchange, develop and share experience, knowledge and best practices in this field. The network must be seen as a follow-up action to the European Mental Health Pact and the series of conferences organised by the Commission in this field.

2. Implementation

The financing decision is under preparation. In parallel, work on the definition of the actions is being carried out in order to define how to implement this preparatory action.

3. Forecast for 2012

July 2012: Adoption of the financing decision, followed by launch of call for tender

Heading 4

New Euro Mediterranean Strategy for youth employment promotion (19 08 01 06)

1. Objective

While acknowledging the relevance of promotion of youth employment in Southern Mediterranean, this preparatory action needs to be further clarified. The Commission is currently in contact with the Budget Authority, and in particular with those in the European Parliament who proposed the action in order to have a clearer view on how to move forward with this action

2. Implementation

The European Commission is currently identifying the main axes on how to develop and implement this preparatory action.

3. Forecast for 2012

Further clarify the objective to be attained. A feasibility study will possibly be launched at first.

Strategic environmental impact assessment of the development of the Arctic (19 11 05)

1. Objective

This preparatory action is intended to carry out a Strategic Impact Assessment in the Arctic. The aim is to increase awareness about the Arctic and its changing political, economic and environmental landscape, the impact of the EU policies as well as about Impact Assessments (IA) and their importance as a tool and a channel to put together information for the use of decision- and policymakers and the related legal processes.

According to the budgetary remarks as adopted by the European Parliament, this Strategic Impact Assessment would be implemented as a networked undertaking, by leading Arctic communication and research centres and universities within and outside the EU. It would also create a bridge to facilitate two-way information exchange between the EU institutions and the Arctic stakeholders and foster EU-civil society contacts.

In the opinion of the Commission, the focus of the preparatory action requires further definition, in particular on the scope of the strategic impact assessment and the link between implementation of the assessment and the further objective of advancing 'the future establishment of an EU Arctic Information Centre'.

Initial discussions with the author of the project have confirmed that the intention was not to focus the project only on the environmental impact.

2. Implementation

The Commission is assessing different options for the implementation of the preparatory action.

Taking into account the scope of the action as indicated in the budgetary remarks, the implementation - either through the award of grant(s) or service contracts - remains to be determined in the light of the outcome of the inter-service discussions.

As soon as the focus of the action will be defined, the Commission will identify in detail the way to proceed.

3. Forecast for 2012

The indicative timetable for the utilisation of the related appropriations will be the following:

Timetable for the implementation of the PP	
- financing decision and, if necessary, global commitment	First half of 2012
- award procedure	Second half of 2012
- finalisation of the grant agreement(s)/service contract	First half of 2013

Regional African CSO Network for MDG 5 (21 03 03)

1. Objective

This “preparatory action” is intended to support the establishment of an East-African regional network of Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5) organisations, bringing together existing national CSO (civil society organisations) platforms of advocacy and service-delivery organisations from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Being aware of the need for improvement of maternal and reproductive health in the previously mentioned East African countries, the Commission agrees on the relevance of this action, which also could contribute to reinforce both civil society and the overall democratic process.

However, the project should be carefully prepared to allow for an adequate choice of possible activities and a balanced approach to the various national circumstances and interests. The modalities for the management of the intended regional network will have to be carefully designed.

The amount of EUR 2 million is relatively high considering the type of activities foreseen. The Commission will therefore pay special attention to the preparation process, and all along the implementation, in order to make the most out of the project.

2. Implementation

Taking into account the objectives to be achieved and the diversity of the actors, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and CSO platforms involved, it is recommended to envisage a call for proposal for the implementation of this action.

3. Forecast for 2012

In a first step, the action will be designed in close cooperation with the EU Delegations in the 5 targeted countries by June 2012. Most of these Delegations are already managing CSO projects linked to MDG5.

By September 2012, launching of procedures for the management of the project will take place.

Enhanced health care for victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (21 05 01 09)

1. Objective

Le projet visera à offrir une offre de soins pour les victimes des violences sexuelles (VVS) dans un certain nombre de provinces particulièrement concernées. Le projet devra durablement contribuer à la capacité de la prise en charge des VVS et du système de santé en général. Les critères suivants seront appliqués (sous réserve de validation) dans le choix des zones de santé cibles de l'action: zone de santé stable, accessible située à proximité des zones d'insécurité, zone pour laquelle le risque de violences sexuelles est élevé, zone de convergence des déplacements de la population, zone de santé avec un pré-requis d'appui antérieur possédant un panel d'un minimum des formations sanitaires fonctionnelles.

Objectif général : « Améliorer la qualité de la prise en charge médicale et psychosociale des victimes de violence sexuelle (VVS) ».

Objectif spécifique 1 (OS1) : « Améliorer l'accessibilité et la disponibilité des services de prise en charge médicale des VVS ». dans les zones de santé concernées. Par zone de santé nous entendons une entité fonctionnelle constituée à la fois d'un réseau de formations sanitaires (FOSA) de premier contact et d'un Hôpital Général de Référence (HGR).

Objectif spécifique 2 (OS2) : « Améliorer la qualité des soins de base et de première référence de la prise en charge (PEC) médicale et psychosociale des VVS »

Objectif spécifique 3 (OS3) : « Renforcer la gestion (supervision, coordination, monitoring) de la lutte contre la VS à tous les niveaux du système de santé ».

L'approche est intégrée, elle comprendra des formations au personnel médical mais ne se limitera pas à cet objectif. Ce point constitue un écart par rapport au descriptif proposé dans le commentaire budgétaire.

Les formations envisagées seront à la fois théoriques et pratiques, spécialisées pour le niveau de référence et plus générales pour les services de base. Elles pourront combiner études, stages, échanges inter-établissements, avec une formation pratique sur le terrain et concerner aussi bien les praticiens spécialisés, chargés de prendre en charge les victimes de séquelles (chirurgie gynécologique, réparation des fistules...) que le personnel des services de base chargé des premiers soins aux victimes, du dépistage des complications et/ou des séquelles et de leur référence aux services spécialisés. L'approche prendra aussi compte l'impossibilité de retirer le personnel médical de ses fonctions de manière prolongées et la difficulté d'identifier des intervenants et partenaires de qualité dans les zones concernées du fait de leur instabilité politique et sécuritaire.

2. Implementation

Le projet sera mis en œuvre en gestion 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. Vu l'urgence et la nécessité de travailler avec des partenaires connaissant bien la zone d'intervention et la problématique de la prise en charge des victimes de violence sexuelle, des conventions de subvention seront signés sans appel à proposition.

Afin d'assurer l'appropriation par l'administration nationale et la cohérence avec la stratégie nationale de lutte contre les violences liées au genre, une convention de financement sera signée avec le gouvernement ou bien alternativement, un avenant à une convention existante sur une thématique semblable sera signée.

3. Forecast for 2012

La convention de financement (ou avenant) avec le gouvernement de la RDC sera signé pour le milieu de l'année. Le(s) contrat(s) sera (ont) signé(s) pour la fin 2012 et un déboursement de EUR 500 000 en 2012 est prévu.

Preparatory action for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas (22 02 09)

1. Objective

To launch a number of actions aiming to rehabilitate cultural heritage sites affected by war-related actions, involving several ethnic and religious communities. It is intended that the actions to be launched will raise the awareness of cultural diversity in the Western Balkans, build confidence and support local education and development of restoration knowledge and skills of high cultural quality.

2. Implementation

Under the 2012 budget, this preparatory action enters its third year of implementation.

In order to implement 2010 preparatory action, a call for proposals was launched on 5 April 2011 with a financial envelope of EUR 2 250 000 (published in the DEVCO website under the reference EuropeAid/131266/C/ACT/MULTI) addressing the following activities:

- At institutional level: improvement of legal and regulatory environment, capacity development at local and regional level, development of indicators and benchmarks.
- At educational level: development of curricula, mobility schemes for cultural professional students and educators.
- At socio-economic level: holistic protection of cultural heritage and its territorial implication, development of tourist activities around cultural goods, network activities, awards and contests, crafts and skill preservation, cultural heritage related economic activities, development and application of economic models
- At cross cultural level: culturally based social inclusion examples, cross cultural tolerance and understanding and strategic approaches to tackle those, cooperation for restoration, cross cultural media campaigns.

In all these activities particular attention will be paid to different ethnic and religious groups and at the same time cooperation amongst them, both within the Western Balkans and other areas including network activities with EU Member States organisations.

Following the call for proposals 8 projects were selected. Contracting was finalised and the implementation is ongoing.

As regards the preparatory action of 2011, the Commission awarded a grant to the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) to be implemented by the RCC Task Force for Culture and Society (TFCS) to assist the beneficiaries (public authorities of the Western Balkans, civil society organizations and other bodies involved in rehabilitation of heritage) in launching preparatory actions aiming to rehabilitate cultural heritage sites affected by war-related actions, involving several ethnic and religious communities. Actions will be proposed by the national administrations with the assistance of international experts and implemented by the RCC TFCS through the award of procurement contracts. The RCC TFCS will pay special attention to the selection of the sites to ensure its diversity, feasibility, success and visibility.

3. Forecast for 2012

Several approaches have been tested, after two years of a pilot project and one year of preparatory action, for the restoration and preservation of monuments in the Western Balkans:

1. the restoration of sites through grants implemented by EU Delegations (and the ECLO) in Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro
2. the restoration of sites through grants implemented by EU Delegations in joint implementation with an international organisation (Croatia),
3. a restricted call for proposals for public institutions and NGOs and
4. Direct grant to a specialised regional organisation (RCC TFCS).

Therefore, in order to analyse the impact of these activities, an evaluation will also be launched in 2011-2012.

For 2012, the budgetary authority has further allocated EUR 3 million for this preparatory action in its final year. In order to implement it, contacts are being undertaken with the Council of Europe to explore a transfer of know-how from the cultural heritage restoration experience in the Western Balkans (Ljubljana Process⁸) to the Caucasus region (Kyiv Process⁹).

At the current stage the Commission believes the need for restoration of cultural heritage in conflict areas is sufficiently covered by the IPA without the need of an additional legal base to address it.

⁸ Process jointly managed by the EU and the Council of Europe for the preservation and rehabilitation of cultural heritage in the Western Balkans

⁹ The Council of Europe has launched in 2009 a similar initiative to the Ljubljana Process , the "Kyiv Process" for the Black Sea countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)

European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (23 02 04)

1. Objective

The creation of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC) was put forward by the Greek presidency of the EU in 2003. Its creation was also mentioned in a provision of the EU Constitution. In 2006 the focus was on getting greater involvement of youth: after a study carried-out on behalf of the Commission, it was considered that it was not appropriate to proceed further with such a development.

In the last years there has been a growing interest among Europeans in giving a contribution in crisis situations, both inside and outside the EU. Partner organisations, especially in the civil protection field, have approached the Commission at several occasions by asking to respond to this growing interest and the related needs.

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU, art.241.5) foresees the establishment of the EVHAC through a Regulation. Though current legal base for humanitarian aid (Council regulation (EC) 1257/96 of 20 June 1996) does not expressly foresee the creation of EVHAC, it does not exclude to undertake preparatory and feasibility studies for humanitarian operations.

2. Implementation

In 2010, the Commission undertook a review of existing voluntary schemes, with particular focus on the use of volunteers in the fields of humanitarian aid and external assistance. The results of the review provided the basis for a consultation of stakeholders, who were involved at several stages in the process. A dedicated Conference was also organised on the 30th of September in Brussels.

Based on the information gathered in 2010, the Commission adopted a Communication on the 23rd of November, presenting the existing situation of volunteering (including needs and gaps), as well as the conditions for the EVHAC to make a positive contribution to the humanitarian aid operations of the Union.

In 2011, a first preparatory action of EUR 1 million was implemented.

A public on-line consultation ran between February and May. 126 contributions were sent: over 80% of respondents find that the Voluntary Corps will provide a positive contribution to the humanitarian aid and civil protection sectors.

Following a call for proposals 3 projects have been selected: Save the Children (started in July 2011), Red Cross France (due to start in October) and Voluntary Sending Overseas (from January 2012).

Through the projects some 85 European volunteers are selected, trained and deployed in third countries, with particular focus on prevention/preparedness and support to local capacities.

An Impact Assessment has been carried-out. It looks at potential economic and social impacts (including costs and benefits) and gives an appreciation of its added value.

3. Forecast for 2012

The objectives of the 2012 preparatory action is to support EC work in preparing the legislative proposal while building on the stakeholders demand and further exploring concrete features of EVHAC.

This second preparatory action will be implemented (EUR 3 million) testing additional dimensions for the Corps, such as the Civil Protection dimension; crisis response through volunteers with technical expertise; and further exploring issues such as a participation of companies (business) in the Corps. The corresponding call for proposals was published in January 2012.

- The Commission's impact assessment report is expected to be adopted early 2012.
- The Commission plan to adopt a Regulation setting-up the EVHAC in the first semester of 2012. The preparatory phase will continue in 2012, while preparing the legislative proposal and further testing operational features of EVHAC

The launch of the regulation shall be accompanied by a European conference together with the official and public launch of the final name (summer 2012).

EVHAC will stay in the making even once the legislative proposal will be elaborated (concrete operational modalities to be further refined while learning by doing). Elaborating lessons learned while preparing the concrete implementation of the Corps and scaling up actions tested so far will be a key issue for the 2013 preparatory work.

Heading 5

European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism (16 02 06)

1. Objective

The budgetary comment adopted in the 2012 budget foresees that 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 tenders would 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 would be published in at least all the Member States involved.

For this purpose, a feasibility study should be set-up in order to find new ways to launch this project. The study must look at ways in which independent, critical journalism can be funded by the EU, while ensuring the independence of information.

2. Implementation

The first call for proposals, under the 2010 budget, was cancelled mid-December 2010 following contacts between the Commission and the European Parliament as it was expressed options for implementing the pilot project needed to be further explored.

As regards the implementation under the 2011 budget, in its second year as pilot project, DG COMM took the opportunity to explain, at the meeting of the EP Committee on Budgets of 13 April 2011, the reasons for which it had not been able to implement the pilot project as such.

However, given the importance that the European Parliament attaches to this theme, it agrees that other models should be investigated through a feasibility study. Therefore it is proposed to initiate this study. In line with the budgetary comment, such study is a pre-condition before the Commission envisages any further action.

3. Forecast for 2012

As regards the implementation, the Commission will consider either a framework contract or launching an "ad-hoc" call for tender according to the draft specifications. It should be noted that only a maximum of 50 % of the budget foreseen is estimated necessary for funding for the study.

Inter-institutional system identifying long-term trends facing the Union (25 01 10)

1. Objective

The overall goal of the preparatory action (PA) will be to have in place by the end of 2014 a fully-functioning 'European Strategy and Policy Analysis' System' (ESPAS), involving all relevant Union institutions. The Commission will be responsible for the coherent implementation of the preparatory action under an inter-Institutional governance system in accordance with the rules governing the management of preparatory actions.

The PA will continue and develop the pilot project (PP) on the same subject undertaken by the Commission in 2010-2011, which was designed to explore the possibility of establishing 'an inter-institutional system identifying long-term trends on major policy issues facing the European Union'. The PA reiterates the commitment to establish such an inter-institutional system. For this purpose, the PA will build on work already undertaken, notably a report on global trends and their implications for the Union, during the PP. It will continue the process of developing an effective capacity for the provision of independent, high quality, inter-institutional analysis and advice on key trends confronting policy-makers within the EU system. Such a system will provide regular in-put to the EU institutions to nourish long-term and medium-term strategic thinking. Furthermore, it will include exploring in detail the design of specific mechanisms for promoting consistent and coherent working cooperation between officials in the various institutions devoted to forward policy thinking, reaching out to academics and other stakeholders to provide a broad perspective.

2. Implementation

The ESPAS' work programme for the years 2012-14 will aim at identifying practical means of tracking and analysing, on an inter-institutional basis: i) major long-term trends and prospects affecting the European Union, both at domestic and international levels, over the coming decades; and ii) the resulting policy challenges and choices which may confront decision-makers in the Union's institutions during the 2014-2019 institutional cycle.

The 2012-2014 work programme will be built around three main components:

1) networking, 2) the production of 'ESPAS Reports', and 3) outreach activities of various kinds (i.e. organisations of events, study visits, management of dedicated website

In addition to the above, 4) an (ex post) evaluation of the Preparatory Action will be carried out.

3. Forecast for 2012

The finalisation of the work programme and the adoption of the related financing decision is expected by end of March.

Most of procurement procedures will start on the 2nd quarter of 2012. All specific and direct contracts are expected to have been signed by end 2012.

Erasmus public administration programme (26 03 03)

1. Objective

This is the second year of this preparatory action, which in turn follows two years as a pilot project. The objectives remain unchanged since the outset and are as follows:

- strengthen knowledge and understanding of the EU institutions and decision-making procedures and policies;
- foster administrative cooperation between Member States and the EU institutions and thereby contribute to a richer mutual understanding;
- give participants the opportunity to establish contacts and set up networks both among themselves and with officials of the EU institutions, which will be useful to all sides in their professional lives;
- promote mutual understanding among Member State administrations themselves.

2. Implementation

The preparatory action will continue to be implemented through the organisation of two-week long training programmes for young civil servants dealing with EU questions in Member State administrations at national, regional and local level to help them learn about EU decision-making procedures and thereby reinforce links between the institutions and national administrations.

A maximum of 65 participants will be selected for each session, in accordance with an informal quota system per Member State with the possibility of allocating some additional places to those Member States who are preparing for the rotating Presidency in the near future.

These programmes contribute to meeting the objectives of the preparatory action by:

- offering presentations by staff of all the EU institutions and other bodies;
- organising training sessions relating to various aspects of the work of the EU, especially its decision-making procedures;
- allowing participants to spend a short period of time (job shadowing) in one of the EU institutions or other bodies, preferably in an area linked to their field of activity.

3. Forecast for 2012

A financing decision is being adopted by the Commission. Once adopted, planning of this year's sessions will get underway and it is anticipated that three editions of the training programme will take place before the end of the year with the fourth being organised in February or March of 2013. There is no intrinsic difficulty in executing the preparatory action. The goal will be the same as in the past: 90% satisfaction rate among participants and a similar rate as regards their assessment of the programme's relevance to their day-to-day work.

A second survey will be sent to past participants to judge the impact of this initiative over time.

Annex 1: DG responsible and contact persons

A. *Pilot projects*

Line number	Heading	DG Resp.	Contact Person
Heading 1a			
02 02 16	Pilot project — A Rare Earth Competency network for Europe	ENTR	S. LORENZ-MEYER
04 03 08	Pilot project — Promoting protection of the right to housing	EMPL	K. DENCH Kevin/ A. MESZARO/S
04 03 14	Pilot Project — Social solidarity for social integration	EMPL	I ANYOLOS
04 04 16	Pilot project — Health and Safety at work of older workers	EMPL	J MONIER
12 02 03	Pilot Project — Single Market Forum	MARKT	R. WEIN
12 02 04	Pilot Project — Capacity building of end users and other non industry stakeholders for EU policymaking in the area of financial services	MARKT	P. PELLE
15 07 79	Pilot Project — Knowledge Partnerships	EAC	P. BAUR
32 04 18	Pilot Project — Energy security — Shale Gas	ENER	M. SCHUETZ
Heading 1b			
13 03 26	Pilot Project — Suburbs sustainable regeneration	REGIO	M. HAAPAKKA
13 03 30	Pilot Project — 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	O. BAUDELET
Heading 2			
05 02 17 02	Pilot Project — European farm prices and margins observatory	AGRI	M. KNOPF / E MARKAKIS
05 02 17 07	Pilot Project — Measures against speculation with agricultural commodities	AGRI	M. KNOPF / E MARKAKIS
05 04 05 03	Pilot Project — Exchange programme for young farmers	AGRI	M. KNOPF / E MARKAKIS
05 08 11	Pilot Project — Exchanging best practice for cross compliance simplification	AGRI	M. KNOPF / E MARKAKIS
05 08 12	Pilot Project — Coordinate research on the use of homeopathy and phytotherapy in livestock farming	RTD	G. VLAHOPOULOS
07 03 30	Pilot Project — Atmospheric precipitation – protection and efficient use of fresh water	ENV	J. DELSALLE / E ACHILLEOS
07 03 32	Pilot Project — Long term impact of carbon neutral housing on waste water systems	ENV	A. NAM
07 03 33	Pilot Project — Marine litter recovery	ENV	L. DE VREES
07 03 34	Pilot Project — Availability, use and sustainability of water for the production of nuclear and fossil energy	ENV	J. DELSALLE / L. LATALA
07 03 35	Pilot Project — New knowledge for an integrated Management of Human Activity in the Sea	ENV	D. CONNOR
07 03 72	Pilot Project — Resource Efficiency in practice - closing mineral cycles	ENV	L. SAMARELLI
11 07 03	Pilot Project — Tools for a common governance and sustainable fisheries management: fostering collaborative research between scientists and stakeholders	MARE	E. BIANCHI
17 03 11	Pilot Project — Fruit and vegetable consumption	SANCO	P. ROUX / K. VOLMICH

17 03 12	Pilot Project — Healthy Diet and Ageing Population	SANCO	P. ROUX / K. VOLMICH
17 03 13	Pilot Project — Developing and implementing successful prevention strategies for Type 2 diabetes	SANCO	P. ROUX / K. VOLMICH
17 04 01 02	Pilot Project — Coordinated European Animal Welfare Network	SANCO	A. GAVINELLI
Heading 3a			
18 03 16	Pilot Project — Rehabilitation of victims of torture	HOME	S. SIGNORE
18 03 18	Pilot Project — Analysis of reception, protection and integration policies for unaccompanied minors in the EU	HOME	S. SIGNORE
33 03 07	Pilot project — Rapid and efficient enforcement of outstanding claims by small and medium-sized undertakings (SMU) operating across borders	ENTR	M. VIGLIAROLO-DEL COLOMBO
33 03 08	Pilot project — European judicial training	JUST	E. CRETIN / M. BROWN
Heading 3a			
15 04 10	Pilot project — Economy of cultural diversity	EAC	S. PASQUA
15 04 51	Pilot project — Development of the European "Creative Districts"	ENTR	L. BAHL POULSEN
Heading 4			
19 04 06	Pilot Project — Civil Society Forum EU-Russia	DEVCO	L. VUORI
Heading 5			
16 02 07	Pilot Project — "Connecting Europe"	COMM	B. WORINGER

B. Preparatory Actions

Line number	Heading	DG Resp.	Contact Person
Heading 1a			
02 02 08 04	Preparatory action - Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis to cultural and industrial ones	ENTR	V. IZZO / J. RUSSEL
02 02 08 05	Preparatory action - Tourism and accessibility for all	ENTR	A ORRERA
02 02 10	Preparatory action — Euromed innovation entrepreneurs for change	ENTR	S. SCHADE / C. GUICHARD
04 03 13	Preparatory action — Your first EURES Job	EMPL	A. SANTOS
04 04 17	Preparatory action — Activation measures targeting young people - implementing Youth on the Move initiative	EMPL	B. DEGEN
06 02 14	Preparatory action — European transport information and booking interface across transport modes	MOVE	J. BERRY
15 02 33	Preparatory action — Preparatory action to cover costs of studies for specialising in ENP and for related academic activities, including setting-up the ENP Chair in the College of Europe Natolin Campus	EAC	E. VALENTINY
Heading 1b			
13 03 28	Preparatory Action — Enhancing regional and local cooperation through the promotion of EU regional policy on a global scale	REGIO	R. LOPEZ SANCHEZ
13 03 29	Preparatory Action — The definition of Governance model for the EU Danube Region - better and effective coordination	REGIO	O. BAUDELET
13 03 32	Preparatory Action — Atlantic Forum for the EU Atlantic Strategy	MARE	M. KING
13 03 33	Preparatory Action — Supporting Mayotte, or any other territory potentially affected, with the switchover to outermost-region status	REGIO	J.-P. TILLY
13 03 34	Preparatory Action — Erasmus for elected local and regional representatives	REGIO	C. HERMANT-DE CALLATAY
Heading 2			
07 03 12	Preparatory Action — Future legal base on harmonised EU forest information	ENV	E. SCHULTE
07 03 27	Preparatory action — BEST Scheme "Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of EU Outermost Regions and Overseas and Territories"	ENV	K. ZAUNBERGER
07 03 29	Preparatory Action — Development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe	ENV	H. FAEGERMANN
07 03 71	Preparatory action — RECAP: recycling at local scale of internal plastic scrap created by major EU polymer converting regions	ENTR	M. SCHMAHL
07 13 03	Preparatory Action — Mainstreaming climate action and adaptation	CLIMA	R. VAN HORENBEEK / A CYNDECKA
17 03 14	Preparatory action — Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): Research on the causes of high and improper antibiotic usage	SANCO	N. SAFRANY / J.-F. RYAN
32 04 19	Preparatory action — Cooperation Mechanisms implementing the RES Directive	ENER	T. HOWES
Heading 3a			
18 03 17	Preparatory action — Enable the resettlement of refugees during emergency situations	HOME	B. WORINGER
Heading 3b			

15 04 46	Preparatory action — Culture in external relations	EAC	G. MIKITA
15 04 66 03	Preparatory action — Circulation of audiovisual works in a digital environment	EAC	E. COCQ / E. JOLY
15 05 20	Preparatory action — European partnerships on Sport	EAC	M. RYNKOWSKI
16 05 07 01	Preparatory action — European year of citizens 2013	COMM	B. WORINGER
17 03 15	Preparatory action — Creation of an EU network of experts in the field of adapted care for adolescents with psychological problems	SANCO	P. ROUX / K. VOLMICH
Heading 4			
19 08 01 06	Preparatory action — New Euro Mediterranean Strategy for youth employment promotion	DEVCO	M. IBANEZ MENDIZABAL
19 11 05	Preparatory action — Strategic environmental impact assessment of the development of the Arctic	ENV	J. REYNOLDS
21 03 03	Preparatory action — Regional African CSO Network for MDG 5	DEVCO	E. FERET
21 05 01 09	Preparatory action — Enhanced health care for victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	DEVCO	J.-P. DECKENS
22 02 09	Preparatory action for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas	ELARG	R. NELSON
23 02 04	Preparatory action — European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps	ECHO	P. CHARLIER
Heading 5			
16 02 06	Preparatory action — European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism	COMM	B. WORINGER
25 01 10	Preparatory action — Inter-institutional system identifying long-term trends facing the Union	BEPA	E. PETERS
26 03 03	Preparatory action — Erasmus public administration programme	HR	H. COUSIN

