



Brussels, 5.2.2013
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 5.2.2013

**adopting the PERICLES annual work programme 2013 serving as a financing decision
for 2013**

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adopting the PERICLES annual work programme 2013 serving as a financing decision for 2013

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001¹ establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles' Programme), and in particular Articles 2, 3 and 12 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 2001/924/EC of 17 December 2001 extending the effects of the Decision establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles' Programme) to the Member States which have not adopted the euro as the single currency², and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 2006/849/EC of 20 November 2006 amending and extending Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the Pericles Programme)³, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 2006/850/EC of 20 November 2006 extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Decision 2006/849/EC amending and extending Decision 2001/923/EC establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles' Programme)⁴, and in particular Article 1 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁵ (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation') , and in particular Article 84 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the financial rules applicable to the general

¹ OJ L 339, 21.12.2001, p. 50.

² OJ L 339, 21.12.2001, p. 55.

³ OJ L 330, 28.11.2006, p. 28.

⁴ OJ L 330, 28.11.2006, p. 30.

⁵ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

budget of the Union⁶ (hereinafter referred to as the 'Rules of Application') , and in particular Article 94 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 84 of the Financial Regulation and Article 94 of the Rules of Application, the commitment of expenditure from the budget of the European Union shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution;
- (2) In accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation, an annual work programme should be adopted for grants;
- (3) The 2013 work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 94(2) and (3) of the Rules of Application, this Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation;
- (4) In accordance with Article 188 of the Rules of Application, the annual work programme specifies the legal basis, the objectives and the schedule of calls for proposals with the indicative amount and the results expected;
- (5) This Decision covers any interest due for late payment under Articles 92 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 966/2012 and 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1268/2012;
- (6) The Commission is required to define the term "substantial change" in accordance with Article 94(4) of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1268/2012 to ensure that any substantial change to this Decision shall follow the same procedure.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The annual work programme, described in the Annex, for Pericles is adopted. It shall constitute a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Union is set at EUR 1 000 000, to be financed from the budget line 24 02 02 of the annual budget of the Union for 2013.

The appropriations may also finance the payment of default interest in accordance with Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 966/2012.

⁶ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Article 3

Cumulative changes not exceeding 20% of the total amount are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the work programme.

The Authorising Officer by delegation may adopt such changes in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and of proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 5.2.2013

For the Commission
Algirdas ŠEMETA
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Annual work Programme for the implementation of the Pericles Decision: work programme 2013

1. BASIC ACTS

Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting⁷ (the "Pericles" Programme), extended by Council Decision 2006/849/EC⁸.

Council Decision 2001/924/EC of 17 December 2001 extending the effects of the Decision establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the "Pericles" Programme) to the Member States which have not adopted the euro as the single currency⁹.

Council Decision 2006/849/EC of 20 November 2006 amending and extending Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles' Programme)¹⁰.

Council Decision 2006/850/EC of 20 November 2006 extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Decision 2006/849/EC amending and extending Decision 2001/923/EC establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles' Programme)¹¹.

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The Programme is implemented and coordinated in close cooperation by the Commission (OLAF) and the Member States. Coordination covers initiatives taken by other bodies, in particular the European Central Bank (ECB) and Europol.

- The basic act defines the objectives of the Programme in Article 2¹². In particular, the remit of the Programme is described in Article 2 (2) of the basic act and shall basically include:
- awareness raising;
- encouraging closer cooperation;
- promoting training activities;
- expanding general knowledge, in particular of relevant EU and international law
- exchange of information.

⁷ OJ L 339, 21.12.2001, p.50.

⁸ OJ L 330, 28.11.2006, p. 28.

⁹ OJ L 339, 21.12.2001, p. 55.

¹⁰ OJ L 330, 28.11.2006, p. 28.

¹¹ OJ L 330, 28.11.2006, p. 30.

¹² Art. 2 Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001.

3. BUDGET & FINANCING

The total reference appropriation for implementing the Programme was EUR 5 million for the period 2002-2006; the Programme was renewed and extended for the period 2007-2013 with a budget allocation of EUR 7 million.

The amount of appropriations allocated under Article 24 02 02 of the budget of the European Union is EUR 1 000 000 in 2013. The assistance in the context of this Programme will take one of the following forms:

- Grants for specific projects proposed by the National Authorities following calls for proposals, the details of which are described below. It is planned to allocate EUR 700 000 to grants;
- Service contracts concerning the organisation of seminars and workshops, as well as the conduct of studies. It is planned to allocate EUR 300 000 to these measures organised by the Commission (OLAF). As an indication, it is estimated that 5 contracts will be concluded with a private company as part of the framework contract signed with the Commission for the organisation of conferences, trainings and workshops initiated by the Commission and taking place both in the Member States and in third countries.

The EU's financial support takes the form of:

- grant agreements with a maximum co-financing rate of 80% (contribution of the EU in relation to the total costs incurred for the action);
- procurement.

4. PRIORITIES FOR 2013

The priorities to implement the actions of the Programme for 2013 are the following¹³:

- maintaining emphasis on Member States which are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits;
- strengthening the framework for the protection of the euro in South Eastern Europe and the candidate country Turkey;
- a consolidation of regional cooperation in North Eastern Europe;
- a continuation of the Programme relating to South America;
- a targeted use of the Programme in vulnerable regions of Africa and the Mediterranean region.

5. ACTIONS THROUGH WHICH THE PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED

The Programme, in accordance with the priorities set out in point 4, will be implemented based on Article 3 of the basic act¹⁴ by the following measures:

¹³ The priorities of the Programme have been endorsed by the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG) on 14 November 2012 (as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001.

5.1. Strengthening cooperation

- Building up and strengthening regional cooperation in ‘at risk’ areas.
- Supporting cooperation in cross-border operations.
- Supporting third countries in establishing homogeneous and effective frameworks (legislation, procedures, and offices) for the protection of money against counterfeiting.
- Developing and strengthening mechanisms, and the exchange of information, for protecting the euro outside the Union by strengthening the role of the National Central Offices mainly with respect to the centralisation of information and the establishment of effective exchange of information with third Countries, Member States and European Institutions.
- Promoting convergence of training activities between National Authorities with similar penal structures and methods of investigation.
- Promoting closer cooperation between national experts working in the same field or in different specialisations by creating, maintaining and expanding a network of correspondents at national and international level.

5.2. Training

- Training trainers in the mechanisms for protecting the euro, including legislation, cooperation, investigation methods and security features of euro notes and coins.
- Contributing to the practical and tactical training of police, judicial, financial and other specialists in combatting counterfeiting, with regard to the analysis of counterfeits, judicial cooperation and to the applicable legislation.

5.3. Awareness raising

- Raising awareness of the EU dimension of the protection of the euro and the need for close cooperation between competent authorities, placing emphasis on sensitive areas, acceding countries and those at risk countries not yet covered by previous actions.
- Promotion of general knowledge of legislation on the protection of the euro and of the authorities competent in the field for the legal, technical and operational aspects, both within the EU and in third countries.
- Increasing awareness among staff concerned with the security features of the euro.
- Publications of best practices and relevant experience.

5.4. Technical, scientific and operational assistance:

- Supporting the establishment and/or the functioning of national competent authorities specialised in the fight against currency counterfeiting.

¹⁴ Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001.

- Providing technical, operational and scientific support in the prevention and repression of euro counterfeiting.
- Improving technical facilities for the protection of the euro, including databases, detection tools and early warning systems.
- Conducting research activities to enhance the protection of the euro.
- Financial support for cooperation in cross-border operations when such support is not available from other European institutions and bodies.

6. TARGET GROUPS

The measures shall target the following groups:

- Staff of services responsible for detecting and combating counterfeiting, in particular police forces and tax administrations, depending on their specific duties at national level.
- Staff of the intelligence services at national level.
- Representatives of the national central banks, issuing institutions and other financial intermediaries (especially as regards the obligations of financial institutions).
- Representatives of the commercial banks (in particular as regards the obligations of financial institutions).
- National law officers and members of the judiciary (judges at criminal courts and prosecutors) and other legal experts specialising in this field.
- Customs officials.
- Any other group of specialists concerned (e.g. retailers, casinos, bureaux de change, chambers of commerce and industry or comparable structures acting as relays for SMEs, tradesmen and carriers).

Participation in the Programme shall be open to candidate countries and third countries.¹⁵

7. ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

All requests for financing must be submitted to the Commission (OLAF) under the conditions specified in the basic act and in accordance with the calls for proposals. The Commission (OLAF) selects the projects submitted by the Member States on the basis of the following criteria:

a. Eligibility criteria

- Eligible actions may be proposed by the competent national authorities of the Member States¹⁶ or by the Commission. To be eligible for co-financing,

¹⁵ Article 7 Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001.

¹⁶ As defined in Article 2(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001 laying down measures necessary for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (OJ L 181, 4.7.2001, p. 6).

measures must have a transnational character involving at least two Member States.

- a Member State may present one or, exceptionally, two projects a year relating to workshops, meetings and seminars. Projects in connection with staff placements, exchanges or assistance may also be presented. Where more than one proposal is presented by one Member State in the same year, coordination is carried out by the competent national authority¹⁷.

b. Selection criteria¹⁸

- capacity of the organiser to successfully implement the project, in particular with regard to its experience in training;
- financial capacity to complete the proposed action.

c. Award criteria

- compliance with the Programme's objectives as defined in point 4;
- compatibility with work being carried out or planned as part of EU action in the field of combating currency counterfeiting;
- European dimension, including in particular aspects that relate to cooperation with the ECB and Europol;
- complementarity with previous, current or future projects;
- the intrinsic quality of the project in terms of its conception, organisation, presentation and objectives;
- cost-effectiveness ratio;
- the impact of the anticipated results on the attainment of the Programme's objectives.

8. EXPECTED RESULTS

- higher capacity of the national experts to address issues related to counterfeiting of the euro;
- strengthening of the cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in the area of the protection of the euro against counterfeiting, both inside and outside the EU;
- improve knowledge on the legislation concerning the protection of the euro;
- harmonisation of the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- improving cooperation within the European Union and its relations with third countries.

¹⁷ As indicated in Article 12(3) third paragraph of Council Decision 2001/923/EC of 17 December 2001.

¹⁸ As indicated in Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of its Rules of Application.

9. PROCEDURE AND TIME LIMITS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Grant applications, together with a detailed description of the measure and supporting documents, should be submitted to the Commission (OLAF) in accordance with the call for proposals to be published by the Office.

One call for proposals with two deadlines will be published in the first quarter of 2013.

Projects will be examined by the evaluation committee set up for that purpose, which will meet to assess the proposals and communicate its opinion to the authorising officer responsible, according to the timetable laid down below.

The evaluation committee will hold two evaluation sessions in order to examine the applications received by the deadlines indicated in the call for proposals. It is the intention to indicate two deadlines¹⁹ for submission of applications: one in the second quarter for an estimated budget of EUR 350 000 and one in the third quarter for an estimated budget of EUR 350 000. The evaluation committee will take into account the priorities listed in point 4.

In case the proposals received are not sufficient in number or in quality to allow for the allocation of the full EUR 700 000, a second call for proposals will be launched in the fourth quarter.

Indicative deadlines for submission of proposals are:

- First call, first deadline: April 2013,
- First call, second deadline: September 2013,
- Second call, if appropriate, November 2013²⁰.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the evaluation procedure. Selected applicants will be invited to conclude a written grant agreement.

¹⁹ More than one deadline is necessary to optimise the coordination between actions and to take into account urgent emerging threats.

²⁰ Should the budget for grants be exhausted after the first call, this second call will not be launched.