

## **Measure TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Rational**

The measure covers the provision of technical assistance (TA) and supports costs associated with implementation of the Programme.

Technical assistance measure provides the resources required for effective management and implementation of this Programme. It will be used for actions related to the preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control activities of programme assistance only.

Overall the objectives of this measure are to cover preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, administrative support, information and communication, networking, and control and audit activities.

The technical assistance measure may also be used to support actions for the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries and actions to reinforce the capacity of the national authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use the funds.

These actions may concern preceding and subsequent programming periods.

### **General and Specific objectives:**

The general objective is to support economic, social and territorial development, with a view to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through the development of physical capital in the country.

Specific objectives: The aim of this measure is to assist in particular in implementation and monitoring of the programme and its possible subsequent modifications. In support of this aim, the objectives include:

- providing support for the monitoring of the programme;
- ensuring an adequate flow of information and publicity;
- supporting studies, visits and seminars;
- providing support for external expertise;
- providing support for the evaluation of the programme;
- providing support for the future implementation of a National Rural Development Network.

### **Linkage to other IPARD measures in the programme and national measures**

This measure will provide coverage of technical assistance needs for all the measures of the programme.

In particular the support under this measure will complement the implementation of measures “Advisory services” and “Improvement of training” before they are included in the Programme

i.e. before their implementation starts, by supporting actions for the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries and actions to reinforce the capacity of the beneficiaries to administer and use the funds (trainings, advisory support etc.).

This measure is well suited for an implementation in close connection with the measure “Implementation of local development strategies - LEADER approach” once it is included as part of this Programme, as it will support activities for acquisition of skills and animating the inhabitants of LAG territories. This shall be done via organising meetings, holding seminars, trainings and capacity building of the potential LAG members and inhabitants of LAG territories, supporting information and promotion activities regarding the LEADER method, including networking activities, support identifying and setting up LAGs, supporting the preparation of local development strategies, territorial analysis, studies, consultation and expert support, etc..

The scope of aid granted under this measure will not overlap with the scope of aid granted under the national support schemes for agriculture and rural development.

### **Final recipient**

Support is received exclusively by the Managing Authority - the MAFWE - and the related payments are effected by the Managing Authority. The beneficiary of activities under this measure is the Managing Authority as described under section 11.1. “Description of the Operating Structure (Managing Authority and IPARD Agency) and their main functions” of this Programme.

### **Common eligibility criteria**

Eligible expenditure is based on real costs which are linked to the implementation of the co-financed operation and must relate to payments effected by the recipient, supported by receipted invoices or accounting documents of equivalent probative value.

Eligible expenditure shall be reported in the context of the annual report. The expenditure may be based also on flat rate amounts (such as per diem), in accordance with the terms and rates applied in the country for similar actions where no EU co-financing is involved. All expenditure as regards experts and other participants will be limited to those from and going to candidate countries and Member States.

For this measure actions financed or foreseen to be financed within twinning covenants or other projects supported under other IPA components will not be eligible.

Technical assistance to support the setting up of management and control systems is eligible prior to the initial “entrustment of budget implementation tasks”, for expenditure incurred after 1 January 2014.

### **Eligible expenditure**

Actions are eligible provided that they are covered by an indicative 'Technical Assistance Annual plan', previously approved by the Monitoring Committee. The annual plan will be broken down in the following categories:

1. preparatory activities;
2. management activities;
3. monitoring activities;
4. evaluation activities;
5. administrative support activities;
6. information and communication activities;
7. networking activities, and
8. control and audit activities.

The eligible expenditure may be further detailed in the 'list of eligible expenditure'.

While the Managing Authority is exclusive recipient, the expenditure can be related to execution of activities listed in the Sectoral Agreement and assigned to the IPARD Agency as follows:

- expenditure on information and publicity campaigns, including costs of printing and distribution;
- expenditure associated with visits and seminars;
- expenditure associated with the preparation, or streamlining of implementation, of measures in the programme to ensure their effectiveness including those measures where application is foreseen at a later stage.

### Aid intensity

Aid intensity, expressed as the share of public support in the eligible expenditures amounts up to 100%, where the EU contribution rate is 85% and 15% is national contribution.

Pre-financing may be provided from the national contribution, but is in no case considered as costs incurred to be reimbursed by the Commission.

### Indicative budget

Table 1: Indicative Financial Plan

Year	Total eligible cost	Public expenditure					
		Total		EU contribution		National contribution	
	EUR	EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
<i>1</i>	<i>2=3+9</i>	<i>3=5+7</i>	<i>4=3/2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>85%</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15%</i>
2014	-	-	100%	-	85%	-	15%
2015	-	-	100%	-	85%	-	15%
2016	-	-	100%	-	85%	-	15%
2017	211,764.71	211,764.71	100%	180.000	85%	31,764.71	15%
2018	352,941.18	352,941.18	100%	300.000	85%	52,941.18	15%
2019	658,823.53	658,823.53	100%	560.000	85%	98,823.53	15%
2020	529,411.76	529,411.76	100%	450.000	85%	79,411.76	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,752,941.18</b>	<b>1,752,941.18</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1.490.000</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>262,941.18</b>	<b>15%</b>

## **Indicators**

- Number of activity supported (120);
- Number of promotion materials for general information of all interested parties (leaflets, brochures etc.) (200.000);
- Number of publicity campaigns (20);
- Number of expert assignments supported (25);
- Number of workshops, conferences, seminars (25);
- Number of meetings of the Monitoring Committee (14);
- Number of studies on elaboration and implementation of Programme measures (4);
- Number of Programme evaluation reports (7);
- Number of rural networking actions supported (10);
- Number of potential LAGs supported (5).

The set of indicators shall be completed for the set of actions included in the 'Technical Assistance Annual plan' as approved by the MC.

## **Administrative procedure**

The Managing Authority shall each year draw up indicative action plan for the operations envisaged under the Technical Assistance measure which shall be submitted to the IPARD Monitoring Committee for agreement.

This measure will be implemented according to internal procedures for management and control established by the IPARD Agency, accredited by NAO and “entrustment of budget implementation tasks” by the Commission.

All projects must be procured in accordance with the rules for external aid of the Commission contained in the Financial Regulation. For this purpose the application of PRAG could be adapted to the specificities of the beneficiary country. However, public procurement may be done on behalf of the final recipient by a centralized competent public authority.

The contracts (other than staffing contracts, per diems and other costs bellow EUR 2 500 EUR) should be granted after following the appropriate public procurement procedures.