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# DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Working Document Part IV

*#EUBudget*

**2025**  
FINANCIAL  
YEAR

Pilot projects and  
preparatory actions

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Budget

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**DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET**  
**of the European Union**  
for the financial year 2025

Working Document  
**Part IV**

**Draft General Budget  
of the European Union  
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**Working Document Part IV**

**Pilot projects and preparatory actions**

## Draft Budget Working Documents

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The 2025 Draft Budget is accompanied by twelve 'Working Documents', as follows:

### **Part I: Programme Performance Statements of operational expenditure**

Working Document I contains, pursuant to Article 41(3)(h) of the Financial Regulation, the Programme Performance Statements, which provide for each spending programme comprehensive information on the financial implementation and progress in achieving the programme objectives as of the end 2023.

### **Part II: Human Resources of the EU institutions and executive agencies**

Working Document II presents information on the human resources of the EU institutions and executive agencies, and in particular for the Commission, both for the establishment plans and for external personnel and across all headings of the multiannual financial framework. Moreover, pursuant to Article 41(3)(b) of the Financial Regulation, it provides a summary table for the period 2022 – 2025 which shows the number of full-time equivalents for each category of staff and the related appropriations for all institutions and bodies referred to in Article 70 of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part III: Bodies set up by the European Union having legal personality**

Working Document III presents detailed information relating to all decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings, with a transparent presentation of revenue, expenditure and staff levels of various Union bodies, pursuant to Article 41(3)(c) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part IV: Pilot projects and preparatory actions**

Working Document IV presents information on all pilot projects and preparatory actions which have budget appropriations (commitments and/or payments) in the 2025 Draft Budget, pursuant to Article 41(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part V: Budget implementation and assigned revenue**

Working Document V presents the budget implementation forecast for 2024, information on assigned revenue (implementation in 2023 and estimation for 2025) and a progress report on outstanding commitments (RAL) pursuant to Articles 41(3)(d) and 41(8) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part VI: Commission expenditure under the administrative heading of the multiannual financial framework**

Working Document VI encompasses administrative expenditure to be implemented by the Commission under the administrative heading of the multiannual financial framework (heading 7) in accordance with Article 317 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as well as the budgets of the Offices (OP, OLAF, EPSO, OIB, OIL and PMO), pursuant to Article 41(3)(e) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part VII: Commission buildings**

Working Document VII presents information on buildings under Section III - Commission, pursuant to Article 266(1) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part VIII: Expenditure related to the external action of the European Union**

Working Document VIII presents information on human resources and expenditure related to the external action of the European Union, pursuant to Article 41(10) and (11) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part IX: Funding to international organisations**

Working Document IX presents funding provided to international organisations, across all MFF headings, pursuant to Article 41(3)(g) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part X: Financial Instruments**

Working Document X presents the use made of financial instruments, pursuant to Article 41(4) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part XI: Budgetary Guarantees, Common Provisioning Fund and Contingent Liabilities**

Working Document XI presents the implementation of Budgetary Guarantees, the Common Provisioning Fund and the assessment of the sustainability of the contingent liabilities arising from budgetary guarantees and financial assistance pursuant to Article 41(5) of the Financial Regulation.

### **Part XII: Payment schedules**

Working Document XII presents summary statements of the schedule of payments due in subsequent years to meet budgetary commitments entered into in previous years, pursuant to Article 41(3)(i) of the Financial Regulation.

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# I. Introduction

## Financial Regulation Provisions

Working Document IV is presented by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with the provisions of point (f) of Article 41(3) of the Financial Regulation (FR) and covers the pilot projects and preparatory actions referred to in Articles 58(2) points (a), (b), 58(3) and 58(4) of the Financial Regulation.

As a general rule, no appropriations may be entered in the budget for any action without the prior adoption of a basic act. However, Article 58(2) of the Financial Regulation sets out that “..., *the following appropriations may be implemented without a basic act provided the actions which they are intended to finance fall within the competences of the Union:*”

*58(2) a) appropriations for pilot projects of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness.*

*58(3) ..., the relevant commitment appropriations may be entered in the budget for not more than two consecutive financial years;*

*58(2) b) appropriations for preparatory actions in the field of application of the TFEU and the Euratom Treaty, designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions.*

*58(4) ..., the preparatory actions shall follow a coherent approach and may take various forms. The relevant commitment appropriations may be entered in the budget for not more than three consecutive financial years. The procedure for the adoption of the relevant basic act shall be concluded before the end of the third financial year. In the course of that procedure, the commitment of appropriations shall correspond to the particular features of the preparatory action with regard to the activities envisaged, the aims pursued and the recipients. As a result, the amount of the appropriations committed shall not correspond to the amount of those envisaged for financing the definitive action itself.”*

## Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions – definitions, annual financial allocations and assessment procedures

**Pilot projects** (PPs) are schemes of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness. Commitment appropriations for PPs may be entered in the budget for not more than two successive financial years.

**Preparatory actions** (PAs) can be continuations of pilot projects and are designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions. Commitment appropriations for PAs may be entered in the budget for not more than three successive financial years.

PPs and PAs provide an exception to the rule that “*appropriations entered in the budget for any Union action shall only be used if a basic act has been adopted*” (Article 58.1 of FR), and are meant to pave the way for new EU spending programmes and inspire new legislation. Their main function is therefore to allow the European Parliament (EP), the Council of the European Union (Council) and the European Commission to test a novel policy idea in an area where the Union has competency but no relevant basic act exists which would allow the Union to allocate appropriations without sanctioning them immediately into legal acts.

The financial limit set by the Financial Regulation is EUR 140 million in commitment appropriations per year. The annual ceiling for PPs, new and ongoing ones, is EUR 40 million, while the annual ceiling for PAs is EUR 100 million, of which EUR 50 million for new PAs.

**The procedure** for PP/PAs of any given budget year “n” essentially entails at least five steps:

1. The pre-assessment of new proposals as suggested by the European Parliament or the Council (PP/PA pre-assessment, year n-1); this step also includes the re-assessment phase in which the Members of the European Parliament can request the Commission to reassess their redrafted proposals (e.g. clarifications or minor modifications);
2. The final assessment of the Parliament's final selection of proposals (PP/PA annex to the Commission's letter of executability, year n-1);

3. The first Interim Report on the implementation of the PP/PAs (Interim Report, year n);
4. The second report on the implementation of the PP/PAs – Working Document IV accompanying the Commission's draft budget (Working Document IV, published in year n);
5. Implementation reporting in all successive Working Documents IV for budget years in which payment appropriations are requested by the Commission in its draft budget proposal (n+1; n+2; ...).



## Legal framework of the Commission’s pre- and final assessments of the PP/PAs proposals

According to the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020<sup>1</sup>, point 11 of Annex I,

*“a trilogue shall be convened in due time before the Council's reading, to allow the Institutions to exchange their views on the draft budget.”*

Therefore,

*“in order for the Commission to be able to assess in due time the executability of amendments, envisaged by the European Parliament and by the Council, which create new preparatory actions or pilot projects or which prolong existing ones, the European Parliament and the Council shall inform the Commission of their intentions in that regard, so that a first discussion may already take place at that trilogue.”* (point 12).

This early information on the implementability of the list of all potential proposals is the Commission’s **pre-assessment**, which is shared with the European Parliament and the Council ahead of the trilogue, which habitually takes place in July.

According to Article 314 (5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the *“Commission shall take part in the Conciliation Committee's proceedings and shall take all the necessary initiatives with a view to reconciling the positions of the European Parliament and the Council”* on the annual EU budget.

Additionally, according to point 20 of the Interinstitutional Agreement, the Commission shall provide the Conciliation Committee with a set of common documents (‘input documents’) – amongst others a *“letter of executability from the Commission on the Council's position and the European Parliament's amendments”*.

Regarding the PP/PAs, the letter of executability includes a dedicated annex, which provides the **final assessment** on the implementability of those PP/PAs that have been formally adopted by the Parliament (or the Council) as amendments to the Commission’s draft budget proposal.

## Overview in Draft Budget 2025

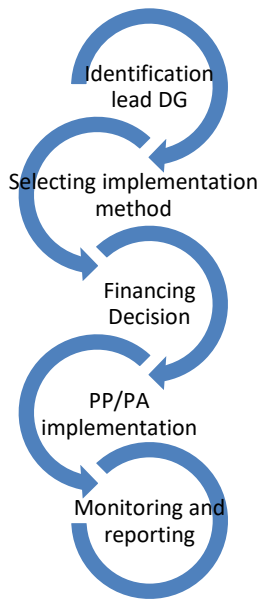
Working Document IV provides details of the state of implementation of all pilot projects and preparatory actions, with budget appropriations in the Draft Budget (DB 2025) – commitments and/or payments.

The Commission does not propose any PP/PAs in the 2025 Draft Budget. Therefore, there are no new commitment appropriations, only payment appropriations following the commitments that have been made in previous years in line with the agreements of the European Parliament and the Council during the respective annual budget procedures.

In the Interim Report as presented to the European Parliament and the Council on 29 February 2024, the Commission already provided some preliminary information on the planned implementation of all 46 pilot projects and preparatory actions, which are included in the 2024 budget with commitment appropriations. Thus, for these, further details are included in this Working Document at this early stage of the implementation.

<sup>1</sup> Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources.

## Expenditure cycle of a Pilot Project or a Preparatory Action



The implementation of a pilot project or a preparatory action follows certain steps foreseen by the Financial Regulation. These steps differ according to the procedure to be followed (in principle mainly either via procurements or grants). The first step of the financial procedure is the financing decision. Prior to this, the Commission has to prepare the best way to implement the action or project, and the related appropriations entered in the budget.

Based on the specific objectives of the PP/PAs, the Commission attributes it to the responsible Directorate-General. The responsible Authorising Officer decides on the most appropriate and fit-for-purpose implementation method and creates a sufficiently detailed framework, as foreseen by the Financial Regulation, in respect of which the financing decision is finally taken. The implementation phase (technical and financial) can only start when all these prior phases are duly completed and the financing decision has been adopted.

A dialogue with the European Parliament can strongly contribute to the swift implementation of these actions. The success of a pilot project or a preparatory action does not depend so much on the speed of financial implementation of the commitments or payments, but rather on the sustainability of the results produced, the lessons learned and the appropriateness of the project or action as a novel policy testing activity, which allows the Commission to determine whether a new legislative proposal might be necessary. After a thorough initial analysis, the process thus requires monitoring and evaluation towards the end of the lifetime of a PP or PA. This document therefore also provides an initial assessment about the potential follow-up to a PP/PAs after completion.

## Statistical trends in pilot projects and preparatory actions in the EU Budget

The section below provides statistical data on pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP/PAs) adopted under the annual budgets over the years 2009-2024.

Since 2009, 1001 PP/PAs have been included in the annual EU Budgets.<sup>2</sup> The number of PP/PA proposals submitted each year for pre-assessment by the Commission services in annual budgetary procedures has increased fivefold over the same period. In 2021, the European Parliament submitted 371 proposals, which is a record high number of proposals since 2009. While the majority of PPs are not proposed for extension in the Parliament's package after the first year (discontinued PPs), PAs are more likely to be proposed to be extended by the Parliament (higher extension rates).

In the 2025 draft budget a total of 103 PP/PA budget lines are included, which means that more than one quarter of all budget lines in the 2025 EU budget would concern pilot projects or preparatory actions, which are managed by the Commission services aside of the normal EU spending programmes.

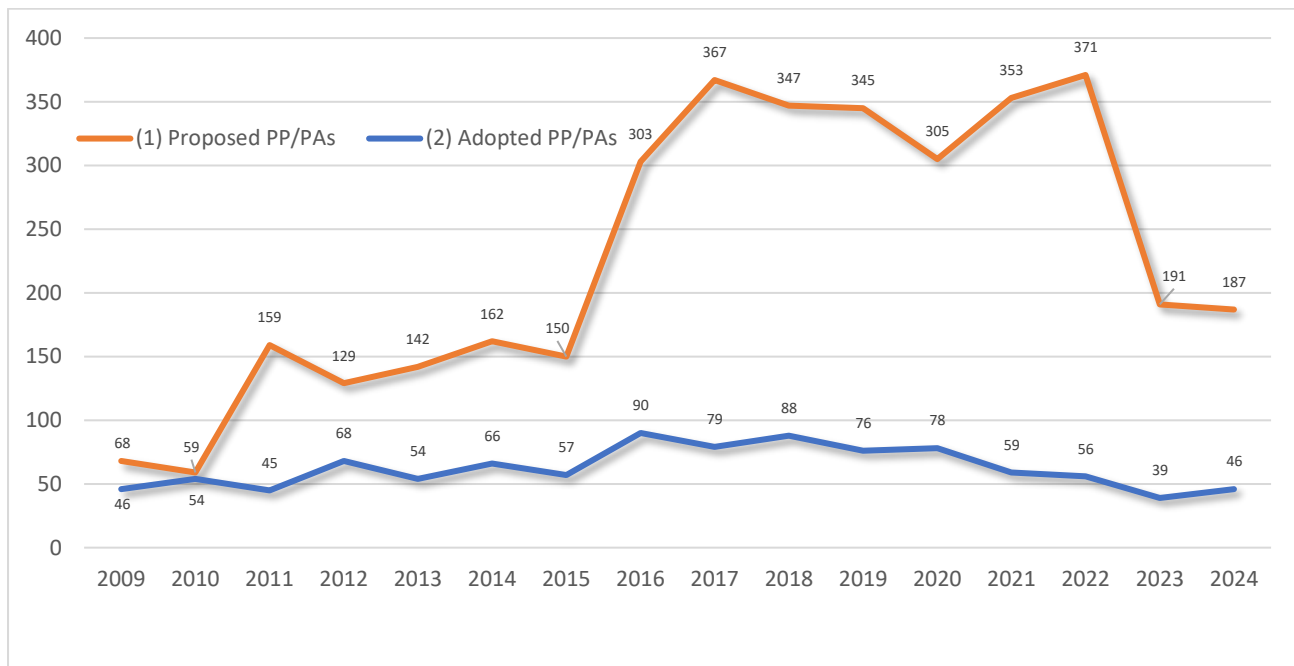
Since 2009, a total of over EUR 1,54 billion in commitment appropriations (CA) has been allocated to PP/PAs. The average amount of commitment appropriations per PP has decreased due to the increase in numbers of PPs (gradually decreased until 2016 and then stayed stable) while maintaining a fixed financial ceiling.<sup>3</sup> The amounts of commitment appropriations for discontinued PPs exceed the amount of commitment appropriations spent on extended PPs.

<sup>2</sup> This total includes both one-off and extended PPs/PAs.

<sup>3</sup> Article 58.3 of the Financial Regulation (FR) sets out that the total amount of appropriations for pilot projects shall not exceed EUR 40 million in any financial year.

## Total number of pilot projects and preparatory actions

Between 2009 and 2018, the number of PPs/PAs adopted in the annual budget has gradually increased (as shown in **Figure 1**), while a significant decrease can be seen again since 2021.



**Figure 1** Total number of PPs/PAs per year included in annual budgets

There are two main tendencies in the evolution of PP/PAs in the past fifteen years:

- Firstly, the number of PP/PAs proposed during the annual budget procedure has increased considerably: the total amount of proposed PP/PAs increased fivefold in the period of thirteen years with particularly strong increases in the 2011 and 2016 budget procedures (see also **Figure 1**).

The number of proposals submitted for pre-assessment still remains high (a record reached in 2021 for the budget 2022), and exceeds the financial availabilities multiple times. However, the previous years' assessment cycles have reverted the trend with a significant decrease in the number of proposed PP/PAs compared to the previous years (187 proposals in 2023 for the budget 2024, 191 proposals in 2022 for the budget 2023 compared to 371 proposals in 2021 for the budget 2022).

Secondly, decoupled from the fivefold increase of PP/PAs proposed, there has only been a gradual increase in the number of PP/PAs adopted until 2018. This relatively lower increase is mainly due to the financing ceilings set out in the Financial Regulation. From 2019 the number of the adopted PP/PAs is decreasing annually until 2023 where a slight increase from 39 to 46 was seen.

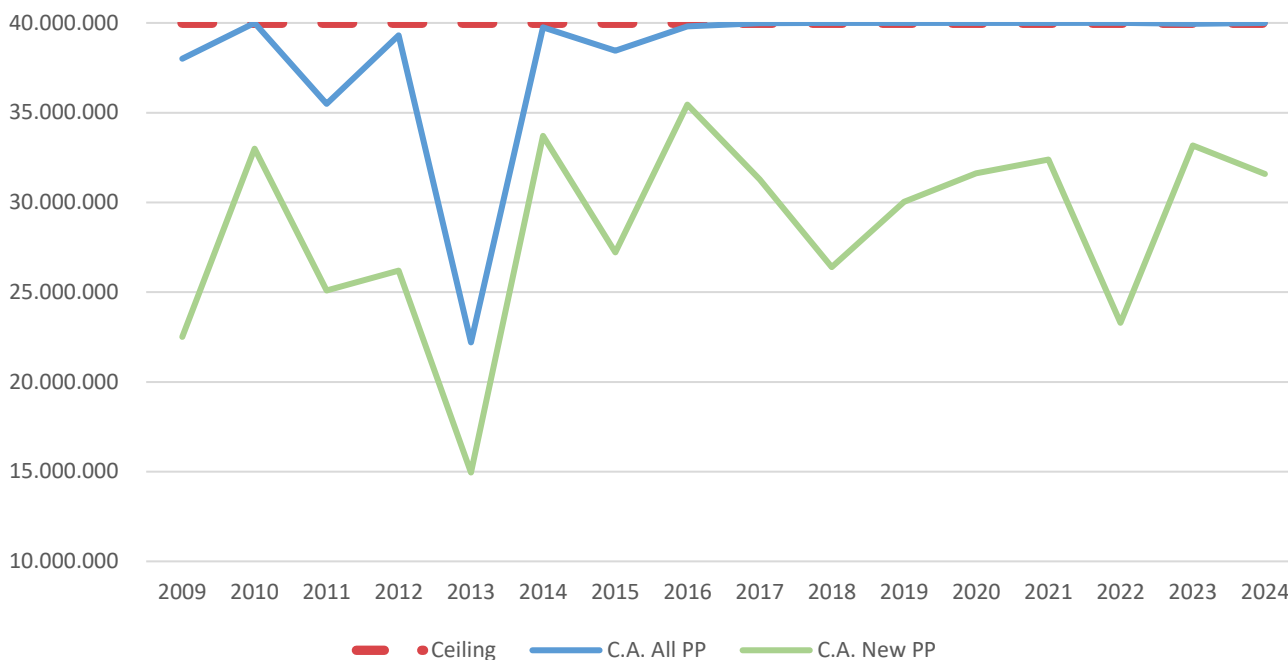
**Table 1** presents the comparative numbers of proposed vs. adopted PP/PAs in more detail.

MFY	2007-2013 MFY					2014-2020 MFY							2021-27 MFY				TOTAL
YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
<b>Proposed</b>	68	59	159	129	142	162	150	303	367	347	345	305	353	371	191	187	<b>3638</b>
<b>Included</b>	46	54	45	68	54	66	57	90	79	88	76	78	59	56	39	46	<b>1001</b>
<b>% (Proposed/ included)</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>92 %</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>28%</b>

**Table 1** Total number of proposed and adopted PP/PAs between 2009 and 2024

## Commitment appropriations for pilot projects and preparatory actions

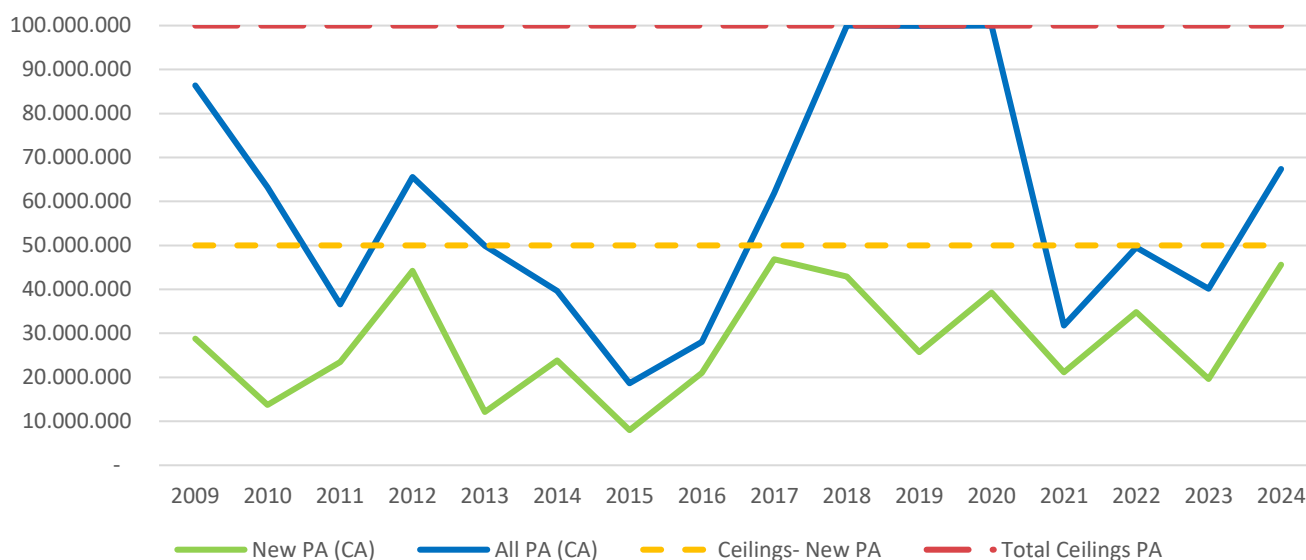
Concerning the financing of **pilot projects**, the commitments allocated to PPs were always close to the ceiling of EUR 40 million in the years analysed. From the 2016 budget onwards the annual PPs commitments were between 99.5% or even reached 100%, the maximum ceiling of EUR 40 million.



*Figure 2 PPs commitment levels (including new PPs) and the annual ceiling*

The **preparatory actions** adopted in the annual budgets mostly did not reach their maximum annual limits neither for the new PAs (EUR 50 million) nor for the overall ceiling (EUR 100 million). The 2017 budget had the highest amount of commitment appropriations (over EUR 46 million for new PAs), of which EUR 25 million were allocated to a PA for Defence Research launched by the Commission.

**Figure 3** below shows trends in the total amounts available to PAs over the 2009-2023 period.



*Figure 3 PAs commitment levels (including new PAs) and the annual ceilings*

## Average commitment appropriations per PP/PAs

Due to the limitation of financing available for PP/PAs, the increase in the number of PP/PAs between 2009 and 2016 was accompanied by a continuous decrease of the average amount of commitment appropriations per PP/PAs (**Figure 4**). The substantial increase in the amounts per PA since 2017 is distorted by the high amount of the Defence Research PA. While still higher than in the years 2011 – 2016, in 2020 and 2021 there was a decrease in the average amount of commitment appropriations per PA. Between 2021 and 2023 the average commitment appropriations for both PP and PA increased. Since the financial limit of the PPs has been reached virtually every year since 2016, the increased number of PPs has led to a rather low average amount per individual PP.

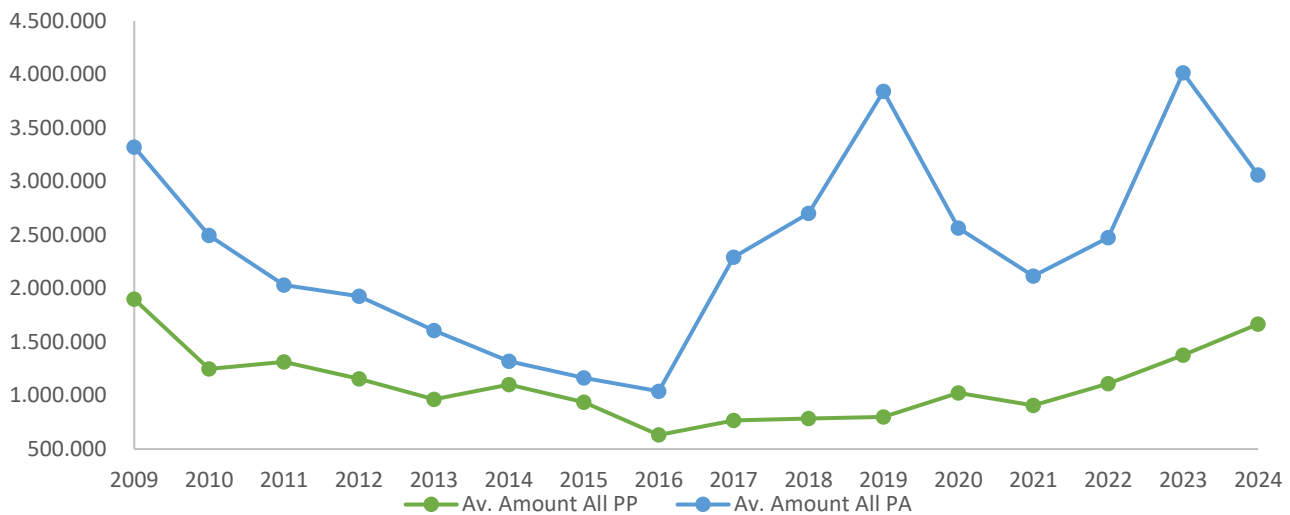


Figure 4 Average yearly amount per PP and PA

## Development of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions after the first year

According to Article 58(3) and (4) of the FR, the relevant commitment appropriations may be entered in the budget for not more than two consecutive financial years for PPs and not more than three consecutive financial years in the case of PAs. Almost two thirds of the 460 new PPs launched between 2009 and 2024 were not proposed to be prolonged by the European Parliament (311) in the following year. The number of newly introduced PPs remains rather stable in the last three years. Nevertheless, the number of projects continuing for a second year remained constant. This indicates that an increasing number of proposals does not lead to a higher extension rate (**Figure 5**).

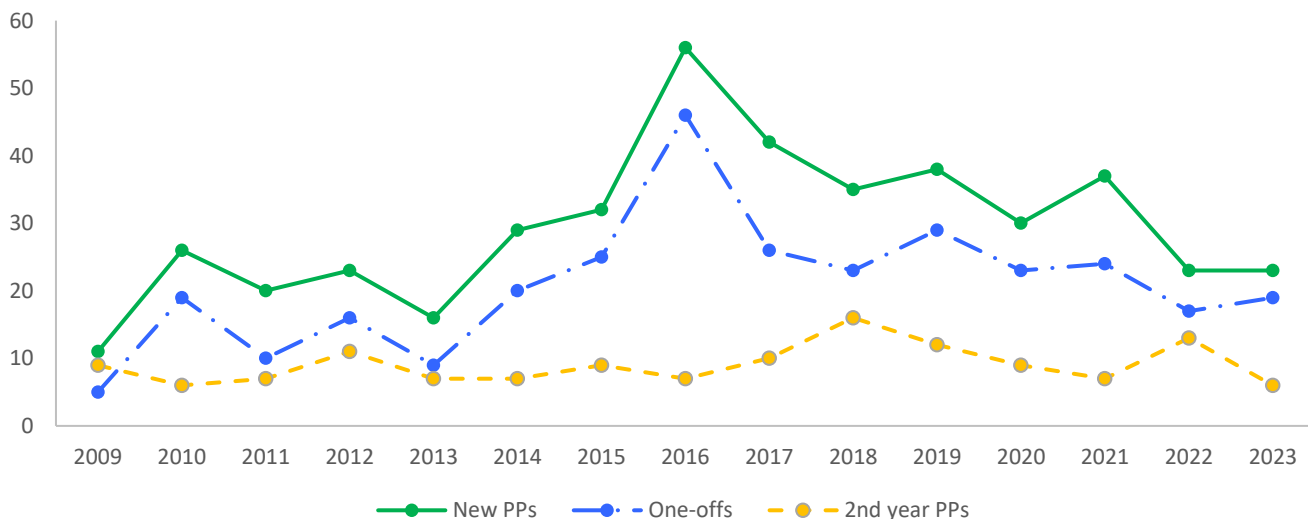


Figure 5 Number of PPs launched per year

From 2009 to 2024, 228 new PAs were introduced by the European Parliament. Of these, 106 actions received commitment appropriations for a second year, while only 68 PAs received appropriations for a third year. Yet a half of the new PAs (118) were not proposed to be prolonged by the Parliament.

The Commission proposed 15 PPs/PAs to be included in the annual budgets and 13 of them were extended to a full maturity (PP 2 or PA 3).

Comparing PPs with PAs (**Figure 6**), the percentage of PAs extended is higher than the percentage of PPs extended. This can probably be explained by the higher complexity and the advanced stage of PAs in comparison to PPs. PAs are in fact ultimately meant to result in the adoption of a new legislative proposal. Overall, however, the percentage of PP/PAs brought to full maturity (PP2 or PA3) is much lower (34%) than the percentage of PP/PAs, which are not proposed to be continued into their final year (66%).



*Figure 6 Number of One-Offs and Extended PPs/PAs for the period 2009-2024*



## II PP: Pilot projects

### 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

#### PP 01 21 01: Pilot project — Feasibility study on reduction of traffic-related particulate emissions by means of vehicle-mounted fine dust filtration

### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – Differentiated Appropriation (DA).

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	415 887,00	p.m.	554 516	p.m.	554 516	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	415 887,00	p.m.	554 516	p.m.	554 516	0,0 %	0,0 %

### 3. Objectives

The main objective of this pilot project is to produce quantifiable evidence on how methods for filtering particles emitted from brakes and filtering ambient air by testing prototype filtering methods on vehicles have impact on air quality and how these solutions can supplement the measures in air pollution control plans to provide clean air to residents.

### 4. Implementation

#### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a call for tenders.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities to be carried out:
  - WP 2.1.1 Literature study (finished);
  - WP 2.1.3.1 Measurement setup (finished);
  - WP 2.1.2 HD lab (finished);
  - WP 2.1.3.2 HD on-road (ongoing);
  - WP 2.1.3.2 LD on-road (ongoing);
  - WP 2.1.4 Chemical and tox analysis (ongoing);
  - WP 2.1.5 Ambient air filtering (ongoing);
  - WP 2.2 Lifecycle analysis (ongoing).
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - Inception report / Background study;
  - Methodology.
  - Meetings to take place;
  - Two Progress meetings.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - WP 2.1.3.2 HD on-road finalisation;
  - WP 2.1.2 LD lab;
  - WP 2.1.3.2 LD on-road finalisation;
  - WP 2.1.4 Chemical and tox analysis;
  - WP 2.1.5 Ambient air filtering;

- o WP 2.2 Lifecycle analysis.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o D2.3 – Reduction technology effect;
  - o D2.4 - Ambient air filtering;
  - o D2.5 – Lifecycle analysis;
  - o D2.6 - Draft final report;
  - o D2.7 – Final report.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o Progress meeting;
  - o Final meeting.

#### 4.4. *Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025*

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	15 April 2021
Publication of call for tenders	16 August 2021
Closing date of call for tenders	29 September 2021
Award decision	May 2022
Interim payments	September 2023 - June 2024
Final payment	March 2025

#### 4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Year 2024 will be the second year of implementation of this pilot project. The beneficiary contracted is TNO (NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST NATUURVETERSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK), for a total amount of EUR 1 386 290,00.

An amendment has been requested in February 2024 to extend the duration of the action. This would shift the deadlines of all deliverables and activities by a period of eight months.

The scope of the project was adjusted on request of the Commission, after the start of the contract, from testing most light-duty vehicles to a majority of heavy-duty vehicles.

The sourcing of heavy-duty vehicles was experienced more difficult opposed to the original planned light-duty vehicles, which meant an increase in overall lead-time.

During the first trial measurements on a heavy-duty vehicle, a fire occurred resulting in the measurements being put on hold while the fire safety of the measurement setup was improved.

#### 4.6. *Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021) 2485 on the financing of certain pilot projects relating to 'Horizon Europe' and the 'Single Market Programme' and on the adoption of the work programme for 2021, adopted on 15 April 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering database](#).

### 5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

Yes, depending on the outcome, the Commission intends to regulate on EU or UN level on the matter of brake particle emissions.

## Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 21 02: Pilot project — Support service for citizens led renovation projects

#### Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	282 817,50	p.m.	880 000	p.m.	955 227	0,0 %	8,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	282 817,50	p.m.	880 000	p.m.	955 227	0,0 %	8,5 %

#### Objectives

This pilot project aims to overcome financial, legal and technical barriers to citizen-led renovation projects. A specific Union support service should be created for Citizens Energy Communities (CEC) and Renewable Energy Communities (REC), which are new actors enshrined in the Union legislation able to catalyse citizens' engagement in various aspects of the climate transition, including renovation projects.

#### Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of contracts service.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: call to select the first four pilot energy communities, selection, start of the support: identification of needs and establishment of the support journey.
- Deliverables submitted: pilot progress report, communication plan, website, newsletter, exchange platform, first interim report.
- Meetings held: kick-off with the selected energy communities.

##### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: continuation and end of the support of the first four energy communities, call to select the additional energy communities, identification of their needs and definition of the support journey, maintenance and animation of the IT tools created (website, newsletter and platform).
- Deliverables to be submitted: second interim and final reports, for the second phase: pilot progress report and first interim report.
- Meetings to take place: meeting of the enablers board, of the lighthouses initiatives and kick off of the additional energy communities.

##### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021
Publication of call for tenders	April 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	June 2022
Award decision	December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	1 <sup>st</sup> interim payment done in September 2023 (30 %) 2 <sup>nd</sup> interim payment in May 2024 (30 %)
Final payment	Q1 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2023
Award decision	November 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	1 <sup>st</sup> interim payment due in August 2024 (30%) 2 <sup>nd</sup> interim payment due in May 2025 (30%)
Final payment	Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Support service to citizen led initiatives	Consortium led by TH!NK E	942 725

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Support service to citizen led initiatives	Consortium led by TH!NK E	1 927 122

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies

### Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021) 4622, adopted on 29 June 2021, and the Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 3333, adopted on 25 May 2022, set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](https://financing-decisions.europa.eu/)

The project website is available at the following address: [https://citizen-led-renovation.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://citizen-led-renovation.ec.europa.eu/index_en)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged because this pilot project is already being followed by a preparatory action.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 21 03: Pilot project — Promote worldwide a European way to digital innovation rooted in culture

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	399 824,00	p.m.	642 300	p.m.	599 736	0,0 %	-6,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	399 824,00	p.m.	642 300	p.m.	599 736	0,0 %	-6,6 %

## 3. Objectives

The ambition is to promote a European approach to innovation rooted in arts and values worldwide. To this end, meetings with stakeholders and artistic residencies in the selected regions will be promoted as well as public events and exhibitions. Synergies of development agencies, cultural international institutions and foundations in the target regions will be sought. The selected target areas are sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

The call planned in 2021 was postponed and merged with the call in 2022.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: The project started 1 June 2023. The main tasks will be to organise events and art residencies in sub-Saharan Africa to link stronger with local economy in the target region(s) and to achieve synergies with a European innovation policy.
- The consortium had selected local partners and began on drafting the call for residences. However, due to political troubles in the region, the project had been met with a few setbacks. The consortium pulled out of doing activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, due to violence in the east of the country, and also temporarily postponed activities in Senegal due to the political unrest in recent months.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: The residencies are planned to take place in 2024. The STARTS Prize Africa will also be given out.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	26 July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	4 October 2022
Award decision	October 2022
Prefinancing payment	May 2023
Final payment	Q1 2025

–2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	26 July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	4 October 2022
Award decision	October 2022
Prefinancing payment	N/A
Final payment	N/A

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
STARTS4AFRICA	INOVA+	999 560

– 2022 commitment appropriations

The 2022 credits were put into a global commitment to be reserved for 2023 contract signature. Following receipt of the award letter, the coordinator of the other winning proposal MEESTA requested termination of the grant agreement preparation due to negative repercussions of “Qatargate” as they could not proceed at that moment in time with the implementation of the project. Pending finding another solution with other beneficiaries part of the consortium, the process was finalised and terminated in Q3 2023.

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisation
- partners in selected region (foundations) as associated partners

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021)3006, adopted 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

The (joint) Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/promote-worldwide-european-way-digital-innovation-rooted-culture>

The project website is available at the following address: <https://starts.eu/what-we-do/residences/starts4africa/>

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up in terms of a legislative proposal is currently envisaged due to its early stage of implementation. There might be implications based on results of the projects for development policies in Africa and in general for innovation policies as regards third countries outside Europe. The idea is to influence foreign policy action regarding a European approach to innovation as a means to access markets worldwide (chosen case studies are Africa and the Middle East). There will be a follow up STARTS Worldwide project launched towards the end of 2024, which will also focus on Africa.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 21 05: Pilot project — European entrepreneurial E-learning platform helping SMEs to adapt to the current context

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	191 985,00	p.m.	391 990	p.m.	239 130	0,0 %	-39,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	191 985,00	p.m.	391 990	p.m.	239 130	0,0 %	-39,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is to continue with the entrepreneurship e-learning platform designed to help European SMEs to adapt to current challenges. This pilot project will continue to complement the current actions that support SMEs to fully enjoy the benefits of the Single Market and will support entrepreneurs facing the challenges posed by becoming more digital and sustainable. The platform will aim to equip entrepreneurs with the right competences, mind-set, resilience and skills they need to adapt to a changing and difficult context. The platform will continue to offer flexible and interactive training modules on the following competences: entrepreneurship, digital, financial literacy, and sustainability.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission is implementing this pilot project by means of a call for tenders (EISMEA/2023/OP/0002 - European Entrepreneurial E-learning Platform Helping SMEs to Adapt to the Current Context – Second Stage).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

This is the continuation of the first pilot project that ended in November 2023. The new contracting consortium took over the platform and started implementation – kick-off meeting was held in January 2024, inception report was submitted, work started on each of the four pillars of the platform.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- monthly progress meeting;
- April 2024: First interim report & submission of an invoice for the first interim payment of 30%;
- October 2024: conference in Brussels.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

- March 2025: Second interim report and submission of an invoice for the second interim payment of 30%;
- November 2025: Final event in Brussels;
- November 2025: Final report with five annexes and submission of an invoice for the payment of the balance due.

– 2021 and 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	9 February 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	September 2023



<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Award decision	December 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	May 2024 and April 2025
Final payment	December 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021-2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Continuing to populate the platform with learning content	Consortium led by Bantani Education	N/A
Promoting the learning content	Consortium led by Bantani Education	N/A

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

The beneficiary is a consortium which includes NGOs and SMEs.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 654 final, adopted on 9 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The project website is available at the following address: [Entrepreneurship4all Home | Entrepreneurship4all](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 22 01: Pilot project — Development of an automated database to collect and structure non-animal methods (NAMs) for use in biomedical research

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	183 938	p.m.	200 000	0,0 %	8,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	183 938	p.m.	200 000	0,0 %	8,7 %

## 3. Objectives

The overall objective of this pilot project is to create the first EU public database of human biology-based models and non-animal methods, providing open access to the scientific community with project evaluators and ethical review committees among others.

Roughly 10 million animals are used in procedures for research and testing across the EU each year and about 200 million worldwide. In 2017, the European Commission DG JRC EURL ECVAM embarked on a series of studies to review available and emerging non-animal models (NAM) being used for research in seven disease areas: (i) respiratory tract diseases, (ii) breast cancer, (iii) immune-oncology, (iv) immunogenicity of advanced therapeutic medicinal products (v) neurodegenerative disorders, (vi) cardiovascular diseases and (vii) autoimmunity. In 2020, the two first studies (on respiratory tract diseases and breast cancer) were published and two others followed in 2021. In spite of this remarkable effort, this work is in danger of quickly becoming outdated, given that the rapid increase in knowledge is accompanied by a decrease in the useful lifespan of that knowledge. Therefore, the aim of this pilot project is to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) automated database that collects and structures the NAMs in use for biomedical research. NAMs correspond to in vitro methods based on human cells and engineered tissues or in silico approaches employing computer modelling and simulation. Using AI to mine the vast body of published literature enables the creation and maintenance of an up-to-date, state of the art knowledge source collating NAMs applied to biomedical research. Moreover, the AI approach will allow the development of a sustainable design and implementation of the platform, which can be easily maintained by a third party and further refined through a community-based support.

By understanding and sharing information on successful NAMs in biomedical research, it is expected that the transition of the scientific community towards human biology-based methodologies will be encouraged, facilitated and potentially accelerated. In fact, the use of human biology-based models and methods is vital to improve the relevance of biomedical research, to enhance the likelihood that results will translate to patients and to accelerate the transfer of research results into clinical and public health practices.

The use of AI is vital for the automation and cost-effective retrieval of the huge amount of data which will be required to ensure that the knowledge remains updated and current. In fact, the application of AI has already proven its worth and is frequently used by EU institutions such as EFSA for the automation of evidence-based science.

This project will result in the development of the first EU public database of human biology-based NAM for biomedical research. This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- combine the results of the existing seven studies from DG JRC EURL ECVAM to create an initial database;
- apply these results to enable training of an AI-boosted algorithm that will further populate the database and ensure it is kept up-to-date;
- design further integrations to expand the database to include NAMs for other human diseases;

- develop a user-friendly web interface to facilitate public searches of content and allow filtering for NAM for specific human diseases;
- provide recommendations on how to successfully deploy this AI-boosted NAM database to the scientific community;
- provide specific recommendations to ensure long term sustainability of the database to all stakeholders (scientific community at large as well as Member States and competent authorities responsible for project evaluation).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of an external contract for the implementation (945334-IPR-2023). The contract was signed on 6 November 2023 for a duration of 18 months. DG JRC.F3 is responsible for the contract implementation, providing inputs and ensuring the quality of the delivered solution.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

In 2023, the call for tenders for the above contract was launched, evaluated and awarded.

The contract was officially kicked-off with a two days meetings in the JRC-Ispra during which the objectives of the contract were reviewed and clarified with the contractor.

In November - December 2023, the contractor worked on the following tasks:

- the identification of relevant bibliographical metadata sources;
- the identification of the database publication solution.

The inception report was delivered and approved in December 2023

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

In 2024, the following tasks will be implemented by the contractor:

- the training and testing of various AI algorithms;
- the design of the processing pipeline;
- the implementation of the processing pipeline;
- the implementation of the database publication solution.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

In 2025, the following tasks will be implemented by the contractor:

- publication of the final database;
- recommendations for the future of the database.

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Management of all tasked described above (4.2, 4.3, 4.4)	Private company	442 440,60

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 3524, adopted on 3 June 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

Due to the fact that the pilot project implementation is expected to be completed at the beginning of 2025, the envisaged follow-up actions of the project are not known at this stage.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

**PP 01 22 02: Pilot project — Establish new common methodologies, including metrics and statistics and using data analytics, which are more adequate to analyse the gender gap in investments in innovative ventures at regional, national and European level (in particular EIC, EIF and EIB)**

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	600 000,00	0,00	p.m.	267 150	p.m.	447 150	0,0 %	67,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	600 000,00	0,00	p.m.	267 150	p.m.	447 150	0,0 %	67,4 %

## 3. Objectives

- establish harmonised methodology for robust and systematic data collection and suggest adequate data analytics to assess the gender investment gap both at the level of female-led companies and female-led funds.
- obtain and facilitate access to reliable and up-to-date data on the role of females in venture capital; investment in and performance of female-led funds (see InvestEU gender criteria), and funds with gender/diversity targets for their investments and their impact on the economy. This in turn will support the Commission in putting in place a set of comprehensive policies to address the gender investment gap.
- contribute to the development of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) to monitor progress towards gender equality targets.
- contribute to the horizontal objective of the European Commission to achieve increased gender equality and equal participation across different sectors of the economy (see Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (COM(2020)152)).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission decided to implement this pilot project by means of an assignment to the EISMEA. The overall objective of such pilot project is to produce a study on the definition of a harmonised methodology for reliable and systematic data collection and to propose appropriate data analyses to assess gender investment gaps, both at the level of women-led companies and female-led funds.

In order to implement such action, two contracts will be launched in order to ensure full efficiency of approach and the highest capacities in data collection within the most extended geographical coverage. The two contractors will be expected to work jointly in a complementary manner to reach such targeted objectives. One contractor will be responsible for the awareness raising and support actions in collecting data and information and dissemination of the results of the study within the set geographical landscape (contract launched under EISMEA Framework Contract in the field of Communication and Organisation of Events), whilst the other contractor will be responsible for providing the mentioned above study (DG Research and Innovation Framework Contract for Evaluations and Studies).

Regarding the events, there will be one opening event in September/October 2024 in Brussels with Members of the European Parliament, 10 events in Member States and Associated Countries (from September/October 2024 to March/April 2025) and a closing event in Brussels in October 2025 to present the study.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Signature of the specific contract to help in the awareness raising and support actions in collecting data and information and dissemination of the results of the study (December 2023).

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Drafting technical specifications for the second contract to provide the study;
- Sending the request for an offer, reviewing the received offer or offers (depending on the lot of the Framework contract to be used), preparing and signing the specific contract.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 + 2023 commitment appropriations (they are combined as an overall budget see 4.5)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	December 2022
Signature of the specific contract 1 under FwC ref. EASME/2019/OP/0021	Q4 2023
Signature of the specific contract 2 under FwC ref. RTD/2023/OP/0011	Q3 2024
Interim payments	Q4 2024 - 2025
Final payments	Q4 2025 – Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 + 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Study on gender gap in VC	Not known yet	600 000
Awareness raising and support actions in collecting data and information and dissemination of the results of the study	Netcompany	890 499,84 (contract signed in December 2023)

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisation

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 9152, which was adopted on 14 December 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available: [here](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

The Horizon Europe EIC 2022 Work Programme considered an action on the development of an innovation gender and diversity index: Pilot European innovation gender and diversity index (HORIZON-EIC-2022-GENDER-01). The project has been signed in December 2023.

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the fact that sectorial data-collection in a market driven by SMEs on gender and diversity is sensitive and covered by GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Legislative

action in this field would benefit and need to be subject to an approach covering wider segments of professional life and equality of chances.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 22 05: Pilot project — Innovation Radar Bridge - Building links and increased activity between Innovation Radar innovators, European investors and policy makers.

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	490 500	p.m.	195 950	0,0 %	-60,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	490 500	p.m.	195 950	0,0 %	-60,1 %

## 3. Objectives

Objectives of the action are to:

- create new links that bring together EU-funded innovators identified by the Innovation Radar (<https://ec.europa.eu/innovation-radar>) with European investors, corporates and policy makers;
- raise awareness with key media platforms of the tech- and scientific breakthroughs being delivered by EU-funded research and innovation programmes and their relevance to real market needs;
- demonstrate that these activities lead to: (a) a verifiable increase in interactions between these communities and (b) measurable outcomes that progress the interests of all parties.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Procurement contract was signed in December 2023 with start date 18 December 2023.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Launch event – EU Innovation Catalyst: Deeptech Investments & Policies for a Future-proof Economy, will take place on April 16 in Brussels. Serving as a joint effort to launch two promising EU funded projects, Innovation Radar Bridge and StepUp Startups, this event serves as a platform to ignite conversations between stakeholders in Europe's innovation landscape. In addition to the launch event, two to three policy events during 2024.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Inception report M2 and 1<sup>st</sup> deep dive thematic report M12
- Meetings to take place: Kick off meeting, inception meeting; two cluster meetings, interim meeting.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for tender	14 August 2023
Closing date of call for tender	22 September 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Interim payments	Q3 2024/ Q1 - Q3 2025
Final payment	Q1 2026



#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Pilot Project on Innovation Radar Bridge -Building links and increased activity between Innovation Radar innovators, European investors and policy makers	Menlo Media S.L.	489 874

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisation

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=12381>

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

# 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

## PP 01 23 01: Pilot project — EU Forum for Boosting Energy Efficient Behavior

### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	2 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	600 000	p.m.	600 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	600 000	p.m.	600 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

### 3. Objectives

Creating an “EU forum for boosting energy efficient behaviour” can help municipalities and regions mobilise and empower their citizens to efficiently use energy. The support service should:

- offer a capacity-building programme through a train-the-trainer approach or similar guiding measures. The programme should be targeted towards local and regional actors in order for them to obtain, strengthen and maintain the necessary capabilities to carry out energy efficiency boosting activities, such as competitions, campaigns, art projects or nudging initiatives;
- enable regional and local actors to collect information on the barriers and levers to uptake of energy efficient behaviour;
- provide general information and statistics, offer resources to conduct impact assessments of initiatives ("find what works") and give scientific and public campaigning expert advice;
- establish a knowledge-sharing platform for representatives from municipalities and regions to share information on citizen behaviour in their respective areas as well as share experience with concrete projects and awareness activities to boost the uptake of energy efficient consumer behaviour;
- take account of and build on relevant existing EU and national, regional and local initiatives.

### 4. Implementation

#### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a tender.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Launch call for tenders

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Award service contract –April 2024
- Contract signature - May 2024
- Kick-off meeting – May / June 2024

Deliverables to be submitted:

- o July 2024: Scoping and Mapping report
  - Value proposition document outlining the structure and features of the EU platform.
- o September 2024: Methodology to consult users – document, Capacity building programme implementation plan, Impact monitoring plan.
- o December 2024: Report with the draft structure, features, troubleshooting and management of the EUF BEEB, Outreach and partnership strategy and implementation plan.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o stage gates meetings, following the submission of the above-mentioned reports;

- o bi-weekly progress meetings, throughout the project duration;
- o ad-hoc meetings, e.g. thematic meetings upon need/request.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2023
Publication of call for tender	August 2023
Closing date of call for tender	October 2023
Award decision	Q2 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	n/a
Final payment	September 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot project — EU Forum for Boosting Energy Efficient Behaviour	Consortium lead by Ramboll Management Consulting SA/NV	1 878 070

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 4577 adopted on 7 July 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/finance/financing-decisions/)

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Document library \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eTendering/)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

Some related projects have been funded, for example, under the H2020 programme and INTERREG programmes.

See also projects published in the [CORDIS results pack on energy efficiency and behavioural change - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/publications/office-of-the-eu/).

<https://cordis.europa.eu/article/id/434378-human-centric-behavioural-change-framework-encourages-sustainable-energy-behaviours>

<https://www.nudgeproject.eu/>

<https://feedback-project.eu/>

<https://managenergy.net/>

<https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/locarbo/>

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the topic of the project being already covered under existing legislation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 23 05: Pilot project — Search and Rescue operations for Aviation and Maritime

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	2 000 000,00	0,00	990 000	1 247 500	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-59,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	0,00	990 000	1 247 500	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-59,9 %

## 3. Objectives

The global objective of this pilot project is to employ the opportunities offered by digital technologies to promote innovative, secure, and competitive financial services that meet the Union regulatory objectives of investor protection, market integrity and financial stability.

The specific objective of this pilot project is to define the minimum operational requirements for a search and rescue 406MHz beacon that are mandatory in aircraft and vessels to have the capacity to be remotely activated and the necessary tests to verify the compliance.

The pilot project would provide support to the standardisation activity that could be used to support a future regulation.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a procurement procedure.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: preparation of the tender specification;
- Deliverables submitted: none;
- Meetings held: Not applicable.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: finalisation of the tender specifications, ITT publication evaluation and award;
- Deliverables to be submitted: ITT datapackage;
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meeting.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2 – Q3 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2 – Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 -Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (prefinancing)
Final payment	Mid-2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1-Q2 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2-Q3 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2-Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3-Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (prefinancing)
Final payment	Mid-2026

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2023 and 2024 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
2023-2024 Consolidation of concept	Private company (TBC)	TBD
2025 Prototyping and regulatory analysis	Private company (TBC)	TBD
2026 Service demonstration	Private company (TBC)	TBD

4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public entities
- research institutes / academia
- international organisation

## 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision 2023 C(2023)4896, adopted on 27 July 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The Commission Financing Decision 2024 C(2024) 2002, adopted on 4 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

Yes, the Commission intends to use the outcomes and recommendations of the pilot project to formalize the regulatory aspects necessary for the implementation of the SAR functionality.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 23 06: Pilot project — Young European Entrepreneur Award - The EU's Acceleration and Investment Programme for Young Entrepreneurs

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	350 000,00	0,00	p.m.	245 000	p.m.	245 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	350 000,00	0,00	p.m.	245 000	p.m.	245 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is the organisation of a business pitching contest and award ceremony for start-ups from different industrial sectors (not only tech related).

The goal is to select 10 finalists with the best innovative ideas to be pitched live to a jury consisting of business experts, coaches and investors. Wide promotion to secure at least 100 quality applications shall be organised. Applications are to be collected via a web platform and assessed by a panel of business experts. Selected finalists are to receive coaching on how to present their business idea prior to their pitching.

Next to the prizes for the three best pitchers, all 10 finalists will receive a tailor-made business support (mentoring, coaching, pre-incubation support).

For the implementation of the project, close collaboration among the relevant Commission services and with the European Parliament will be sought to ensure wide institutional support and effective promotion to start-ups in different constituencies.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a service framework contract.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Drafting of technical specification started in 2023, implementation will start in Q2 2024.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- finalisation of project technical specification Q1 2024;
- identification of suitable FWC and contract preparation Q3 2024;
- start of contract Q3 2024;
- launch of competition call of interest Q4 2024;
- award ceremony Q2 2025.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Contact with selected FWC	July 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	August 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2024

Final payment	June 2025
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#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies
- media companies

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1258, adopted on 27 February 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: Commission decision C(2023) 1258

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

Within the European Innovation Council, a number of prizes which reward Europe's leading innovators are organised.

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged because other similar competitions have already been launched by the European Commission, including under the European Innovation Council.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 24 01: Pilot project — Chips Diplomacy Support Initiative

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		990 000	247 500	p.m.	682 500	-100,0 %	175,8 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		990 000	247 500	p.m.	682 500	-100,0 %	175,8 %

## 3. Objectives

The “Chips Diplomacy Support Initiative” project aims at contributing towards the following elements:

- track 2 diplomacy to increase consensus and coordination between all relevant European non-state stakeholders of the semiconductor ecosystem and those of partner countries, through a dialogue work stream;
- better understanding and analysis of factors affecting the semiconductor value chain and its evolution, through a research work stream;
- promoting the Union’s economic base, competitiveness, growth, standards and contributions to the global semiconductor value chain and its resilience in partner countries, through an advocacy work stream.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The pilot project aims at establishing bilateral dialogues between Union stakeholders and strategic partners to enhance coordination, confidence-building, knowledge of the semiconductor value chain and public awareness of the sector’s importance. The core activities of this project are the organisation of consultation meetings with key global and strategic partners; the research activity to support and inform the consultations, other forms of engagement and a better mapping and monitoring of the value chain; dedicated outreach and public events to disseminate and promote Union chips policies, initiatives and achievements.

The project is expected to identify and involve main stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors, bring them together in events and periodic meetings during the project’s duration; deliver reports with insights on the relevant aspects of consultations, meetings and initiatives organised to address priority topics including value chain analysis, talent gap and any other aspect deemed of interest; support dissemination, through any channel, on main policy and activities in the sector to increase visibility and awareness of the social impact of the semiconductors.

The call will be launched in 2024 with an estimated start of the action in Q4 of 2024. The project will entail a kick off meeting at the start.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	7 March 2024



Step	Date
Publication of call for proposals	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for proposals	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies
- research institutes and academia
- foundations
- civil society organisations
- public bodies

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 7 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up with a legislative proposal is envisaged as the European Chips Act, already approved and entered into force on 21 September 2023, foresees diplomacy activity, networking stakeholders active in the semiconductor sector, including the Commission and Member States, through the European Semiconductor Board, industry and international partners.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 24 02: Pilot project — Development of a space sector specific environmental footprint methodology

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		2 450 000	612 500	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-18,4 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 450 000	612 500	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-18,4 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of the pilot project is to create a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology for space activities that is based on the product environmental footprint (PEF) method and that allows assessing the specificities of the impacts on both the Earth's and the space environments:

The three key benefits of such space sector specific methodologies are the following:

- allowing comparability of a product's environmental performance with that of similar products in the European market;
- ensuring fair competition among manufacturers and improve communication through a standardized approach of the environmental performance of products;
- developing a product environmental footprint based methodology, which helps to understand, prioritize and improve environmental issues across the value chain of goods and services. That could help put in place measures to save resources and focus on areas that have the largest impact on the overall environmental performance of the products.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of open call for tenders with multiple work packages.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Launch the call for proposals and kick-off the work;
- Deliverables to be submitted: none;
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meeting and regular technical work meetings to be defined at kickoff of the contract.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1-Q2 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q1-Q2 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q2 and Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (prefinancing), interim payments once a year.

Step	Date
Final payment	Mid -2027

*4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

*4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers to be named once the procurement process is concluded

**5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 2002, adopted on 4 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

Yes, this action will be followed by a Delegated Act under the EU Space Law.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 24 03: Pilot project — Stimulating Local and Regional New European Bauhaus Grassroots Projects

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 450 000	362 500	p.m.	725 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 450 000	362 500	p.m.	725 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is an initiative launched by the European Commission in 2021 that translates the European Green Deal into tangible change on the ground that improves our daily lives. It brings about sustainable solutions for transforming the built environment and lifestyles for the better under the green transition, matching sustainability with good design that needs less carbon. At the same time, it makes these solutions inclusive, accessible and affordable for all, while respecting the diversity of places, traditions, and cultures that we have in Europe and beyond. Thanks to funding from different EU programmes, NEB has started to implement change to support the green and digital transitions. The European Parliament has underlined the need for a dedicated NEB funding on several occasions and in particular in its report on NEB, referring to a gap in providing financial support to smaller local and regional beneficiaries in Europe that struggle to access the standard channels of EU funding. That emerged as a finding during the co-design phase of the NEB in 2021.

The aim of this pilot project is thus stimulating and supporting local and regional NEB grassroots projects by facilitating access to financial support, especially for small project promoters. The results and learning from this project could feed into the work on long-term NEB financing.

This pilot project proposes a comprehensive approach with two complementary actions that promote the NEB core values and principles and boost projects serving the green and digital transition: the creation of a NEB Innovative Funding Advisory Hub and the development of NEB Prizes to small municipalities.

These two actions are described below as follows:

- Action A — NEB Innovative Funding Advisory Hub
- Action B — NEB Prizes to small municipalities.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of procurement and prizes.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:

Under Action A, the creation of an interactive IT platform is envisaged. It will host social economy investors, philanthropy organisations, as well as any other investors, be it public or private, who would profile themselves in a uniform way to announce their willingness to support the Hub's small projects looking for

financing on the IT platform. The IT platform could also feature a crowdfunding platform that would serve the purposes of the Hub.

The IT platform will consist of supply and demand sides, namely:

1. the IT platform will provide a tool for self-assessment for small projects that embrace the core values of NEB initiative (sustainability, inclusion and quality of experience) (hereinafter ‘NEB projects’). These NEB projects, primarily in the built environment, will be listed on the so-called ‘demand’ side of the IT platform. The Commission has an existing checklist to assist with the self-assessment.
2. On the so-called ‘supply’ side, the platform will list the entities willing to invest in NEB projects – philanthropy and other entities, both private and public.

Some small projects can by nature be fitter for crowdfunding, instead of obtaining other sources of income. Therefore, on the supply side, an existing, cross-border crowdfunding platform, shall be featured as an additional potential funding source, alongside the other funding providers (be it philanthropic or other funding organisations – local regional, national, private or public).

The way of featuring entities on the IT platform will be based on self-declaration. This would be an automatic way of being listed on the platform, as long as these entities pass the admissibility checks mentioned below.

Under Action B, a special NEB Prizes to small municipalities shall be organised alongside the organisation of the traditional NEB Prizes annual competition.

These special awards will:

- o support the deployment and implementation of the NEB values and main principles (transdisciplinary, multi-level engagement and participatory processes); and
- o support projects or ideas with a clear proven commitment to the NEB values, stimulating and supporting smaller local NEB communities.

These special awards will seek to reward those actors and projects with proven commitments to the NEB, which would work in an inclusive, multi-level governance way focused on addressing societal challenges, according to the NEB values.

These special awards should support and promote the engagement with NEB of small municipalities, as well as of the communities involved.

The value of each prize award will be adjusted accordingly to the concept of the NEB Prizes.

The delivery of the NEB Prizes to small municipalities shall also build upon the work already done by the Commission to run successfully four editions of the NEB Prizes (2021 to 2024), by the EIT NEB Community, the ERDF Technical Assistance for 20 municipalities launched in 2022 and the first call for Innovative Actions under the European Urban Innovative dedicated to NEB.

- Deliverables to be submitted:

The pilot project is expected to deliver the following outputs:

- o an interactive IT platform to facilitate the funding of small grassroots NEB projects;
- o provide prize money to small municipalities in Europe;
- o increase NEB related knowledge and capacities of EU small, grassroots entities that struggle to obtain EU funding; this is linked to the fact that selected entities will receive a monetary award and a promotional package to help them with the communication of their project;
- o engage EU small municipalities in a participative process of locally promoting the values of NEB.

- Meetings to take place:

Several meetings with DG REGIO are envisaged (precise dates to be defined).

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	October 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2024 - April 2025
Final payment	September 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- small municipalities in Europe

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in June 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 01 24 04: Pilot project — Strengthening Research Talent Retention in Europe

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		500 000	125 000	p.m.	125 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		500 000	125 000	p.m.	125 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of employers' strategies for employee offboarding as well as of the national practices to identify successful strategies that effectively deter researcher unemployment, particularly those dependent on project funding;
- Develop and make accessible best practices and tools that support organisations in equipping their employees with necessary skills and knowledge, minimizing the negative impact caused by job transitions;
- Encourage and promote the use of best practices and tools that support organisations in equipping their employees with necessary skills and knowledge, minimizing the negative impact caused by job transitions, as a mediation strategy when permanent contracts cannot be offered;
- Develop scenarios and assess their feasibility in view of new funding and contractual modalities for FP projects to foster the desired change in hiring and retention practices of beneficiaries of the programme. These scenarios could also assess the feasibility of a European guarantee offered to public research organisations who hire research staff for the implementation of a Horizon Europe project on a contract that is significantly longer than the running time of the project;
- Map and compare national practices to identify successful strategies that effectively deter researcher unemployment, particularly those dependent on project funding.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of launching a procurement using one of the relevant active framework contracts.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Call for tenders is expected to be published in Q2 - Q3 of 2024
- Activities to be carried out:
  - Call for tenders is expected to be published in Q2 - Q3 of 2024;
  - Award decision is expected to be shared in Q4 of 2024 or Q1 of 2025;
  - Project is expected to be launched in Q1 of 2025.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - Inception Report (Q1 of 2025)
  - Research Report on Current Practices: A comprehensive report that includes an analysis of current employer strategies for employee offboarding, national practices to reduce researcher

unemployment, and the prevalence of fixed-term contracts across the European Research Area.

- o Best Practices Guide: Development of a guide detailing best practices for shifting from project-based to sustainable, long-term research positions. This guide would include strategies for managing human capital, equipping employees with necessary skills for future projects or career progression, and assisting temporary staff in finding new opportunities.
- o Toolkit for Organisations: Creation of a toolkit for organisations to implement best practices in managing job transitions, minimising negative impacts, and supporting temporary staff. This toolkit could include templates, checklists, and resources for training and development.
- o Feasibility Study Report: A detailed report presenting scenarios for new funding and contractual modalities for Horizon Europe projects. This includes assessing the feasibility of a European guarantee for longer-term contracts beyond project durations.
- o Webinar Series and Workshops: Organising webinars and workshops for disseminating findings, discussing best practices, and training organisations on the toolkit's application.
- o Policy Recommendation Document: A set of policy recommendations for the European Commission, based on the project findings, aimed at improving funding mechanisms and contractual practices across the European Research Area.

- Meetings to take place:

- o Webinar Series and Workshops: Organising webinars and workshops for disseminating findings, discussing best practices, and training organisations on the toolkit's application.
- o Policy Recommendation Document: A set of policy recommendations for the Commission, based on the project findings, aimed at improving funding mechanisms and contractual practices across the European Research Area.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 - Q2 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q3 - Q4 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024 - Q1 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2025 - Q3 2026
Final payment	2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Strengthening Research Talent Retention in Europe	To be identified	500 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- international organisation

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project?

No



5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the constraints related to the EU competencies in the areas of social security and unemployment benefits.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 19 03: Pilot project — Covenant of Mayors as an instrument to tackle energy poverty

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2019 and 2020 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	1 109 649,00	p.m.	420 000	p.m.	284 942	0,0 %	-32,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 109 649,00	p.m.	420 000	p.m.	284 942	0,0 %	-32,2 %

## 3. Objectives

- setting up and operation of a Brussels advisory hub providing technical assistance to municipalities planning a variety of measures to tackle energy poverty in the pursuit of a just and fair transition;
- identification of best practices at municipal level to tackle energy poverty, including the key elements of the legal, regulatory and support framework that are required to enable their successful implementation;
- provision of technical assistance to beneficiaries at local, municipal or regional level for the development of measures, programmes and/or activities to tackle energy poverty at local level;
- project assessment, promotion and dissemination of outcomes and lessons learned, with a particular focus on outreach at local level;
- migration, maintenance, update and further development of the existing Energy Poverty Observatory website.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of service contract nr. ENER/2020/OP/0024/B3/SER/2019 514/SI2.840859/2020-632/SI2.840864.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - collecting best practices in addressing energy poverty at local level, regarding the diagnosis, planning and implementation, minding the local legal and regulatory framework enabling their implementation;
  - advancing research on energy poverty indicators to align them with the Covenant of Mayors' energy poverty reporting guidelines, and producing a revised and expanded version of the online indicators dashboard;
  - practical guidelines tailored for local governments;
  - set up and manage a centralised help desk to support beneficiaries;
  - provide needs tailored technical assistance to up to 80 concrete local projects;
  - maximise the impact of the EPAH activities through a wide replication of the EPAH best practices and further uptake of EPAH results.
- Deliverables submitted:
  - directly supporting 89 municipalities (direct involvement but representative of 297 municipalities counting supra municipalities) for tackling measures to tackling energy poverty;
  - online training courses;
  - website of the initiative.

- Meetings held:
  - o The third EPAH conference occurred in Warsaw on 19 - 20 September 2023, with 176 participants on-site and 160 online from 23 countries.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o A Guide to Planning Energy Poverty Mitigation Actions;
  - o continual updates and incorporate new projects and initiatives upon receiving fresh information;
  - o continuing the Helpdesk activities;
  - o the technical assistances are under development and are expected to end in the second quarter of 2024.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o online training courses;
  - o directly supporting 89 municipalities (direct involvement but representative of 297 municipalities counting supra municipalities) for tackling measures to tackling energy poverty;
  - o EPAH Handbook on the topic of local energy poverty implementing measures;
  - o annual conferences;
  - o thematic workshops;
  - o website maintenance and development;
  - o communication and engagement;
  - o technical and functional specifications report for handover.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o The EPAH high-level conference took place on 10 April 2024 in Brussels and the next meeting is planned to take place in October in Spain.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

##### – 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	22 May 2019
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2021, Q2 2022, Q2 2023, Q2 2024
Final payment	Q2 2025

##### – 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	14 May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2+Q4 2021; Q2+Q4 2022; Q2+Q4 2023; Q2+Q4 2024
Final payment	Q2 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2019 and 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Covenant of Mayors as an instrument to tackle energy poverty	Consortium led by Climate Alliance	3 698 830

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2019) 3780 adopted on 22 May 2019 and Commission Financing Decision, C(2020) 3056 adopted on 14 May 2020 set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing Decisions](#).

The project website is available at the following address: [https://energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/index_en).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged with a legislative proposal as relevant legislation in the field of the project has been adopted recently. The project will mainly support the implementation of these acts (e.g. DIRECTIVE (EU) 2023/1791 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 September 2023 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast) and Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2407 of 20 October 2023 on energy poverty).

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 21 02: Pilot project — Enabling sustainable Management and Development of Ports in the Rhine-Main-Danube basin

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	920 000	p.m.	612 150	0,0 %	-33,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	920 000	p.m.	612 150	0,0 %	-33,5 %

## 3. Objectives

Inland ports are an essential part of the EU’s transport network along the core Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) network, acting as significant logistics and transport nodes in the supply chain and contributing to socio-economic development.

The general objective of the study is to identify and evaluate the factors affecting the sustainable development of inland ports and propose solutions for the implementation of green objectives paired with their economic development. The environmental effects from the existence of inland ports pertain to the operation of vessels, port operations, the port city/hinterland and their seaport connection activities. The study will document these environmental effects, the related legislation and which effects are not addressed, the impediments in implementing sustainable management and development as well as good practices aiding in achieving so.

The study will also assess the role of digitalisation to this effect and propose solutions. Moreover, it will identify possibilities of adopting inland waterway transport for urban mobility and short-distance transport. The study will aid in knowledge sharing and identification of best practices and of the tools for the sustainable management and development that can be adopted by inland ports, adjusting them to their own specificities. Pilot projects of several inland ports will be set up for implementing the Environmental and Sustainable Management Systems (ESMS) tools and implement coordinated actions for sustainable port management and operation. A best practice report will be disseminated to all TEN-T ports, along workshops, dedicated website and a final conference.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implemented this pilot project by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

– 2022:

- Activities carried out: Launch of tender, Signature of a contract;
- Deliverables submitted: Not applicable;
- Meetings held: Kick-off meeting.

– 2023

- Activities carried out: Workshops, surveys;
- Deliverables submitted: Inception report, Intermediate report;
- Meetings held: Monthly coordination meetings, Inception report meeting, Intermediate report 1 meeting (6 December 2023), Workshops (Vienna, Belgrade).

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Workshops, surveys;
- Deliverables to be submitted: Intermediate report 2;
- Meetings to take place: Monthly coordination meetings, Intermediate report 2 meeting, 3 Workshops (tbd).

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021
Publication of call for tenders	February 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	April 2022
Award decision	October 2022
Signature of the contract	November 2022
Interim payment 1	March 2024
Interim payment 2	Q1 2025
Final payment	Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Study on Enabling Sustainable Management and Development of Inland Ports.	Consortium led by ECORYS	1 532 150

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on C(2021)4002 of 8 June 2021 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=9749>.

The project website is available at the following address: <https://green-inland-ports.eu/>.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged at this stage. One of the main tasks of this study is to examine legal background for the inland ports activities (with a focus on and environmental performance). This task has not been finalised yet. Only if the analysis is concluded, it will be possible to decide if any follow up is needed.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 21 03: Pilot project — Fostering digitisation of public sector and green transition in Europe through the use of an innovative European GovTech platform

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	269 890,00	p.m.	539 980	p.m.	540 080	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	269 890,00	p.m.	539 980	p.m.	540 080	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This action shall engage with the fast-growing GovTech ecosystem to harvest ideas that help public administrations in adopting digital solutions. It will support the development or use of one common platform to gather challenges and allow other public administrations to contribute or form part of a consortium involved in a particular challenge and source solutions from providers.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Project started 6 December 2022.

- Activities carried out: Service contract for the project has been signed on 6 December 2022, with the duration of 24 months, until 5 December 2024 and with the budget of EUR 1 349 950,00.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Broad set of deliverables are planned and will be provided between M1 and M24 of the project, in accordance with Technical Proposal of the winning tender. So far, Inception report has been delivered at the end of M1 and has been approved by the EC.
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meeting of the project took place on 13 January 2023. Regular bi-weekly meetings are agreed to take place with the Commission in order to monitor and foster project implementation.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Forthcoming project implementation in 2024 relates to all activities in the table below which takes place between M12 and M24.

Title	Type	Due month (at the latest)	Linked to payment
Monthly conference call	Meeting	M13 – M23	NO
Final meeting	Meeting	M24	NO
Final report	Deliverables	M24	YES
<b>Task 1</b>			
Foresight Study	Deliverables	M6-M11-M17-M22	NO
Catalogue of GovTech initiatives	Deliverables	M2, M6, M12, M18 and M24	NO
<b>Task 2</b>			
Stakeholder	Deliverables	M2, M4, M8, M12,	NO

community management plan		M16, M20 and M24	
Platform management report	Deliverables	Monthly	NO
Organization of boot camps	4 Deliverables	Between M2 and M24	NO
Boot camp Concept paper	4 Deliverables	Between M2 and M24	NO
Boot camp report	4 Deliverables	Between M2 and M24	NO
<b>Task 3</b>			
Report on citizens expectations	Deliverables	M18	NO
<b>Task 4</b>			
Webinars and workshops reports	Deliverables	Between M2 and M24	NO
High level event / GovTech conference concept paper	Deliverables	Between M14 and M18	NO
High level event / GovTech conference report	Deliverables	Between M21 and M24	NO

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	6 May 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	15 July 2021
Award decision	30 September 2021
Interim payments	June 2023 - April 2024
Final payment	Q1 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Fostering digitisation of public sector and green transition in Europe through the use of an innovative European GovTech platform	INTELLERA CONSULTING SPA	1 349 950

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

## 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?



The Commission Financing Decision, C(2021) 3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available here.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged as the project is in an early implementation phase.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 21 05: Pilot project — Sustainable rural mobility for Covid-19 resilience and support of ecotourism

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	359 993,60	p.m.	640 006	p.m.	799 968	0,0 %	25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	359 993,60	p.m.	640 006	p.m.	799 968	0,0 %	25,0 %

## 3. Objectives

- Promote sustainable mobility solutions in remote and rural areas;
- Provide sustainable mobility solutions for growing demand for rural ecotourism;
- Contribute to capacity building at local level to implement the mobility action under the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas;
- Create network of rural municipalities to implement best practices for sustainable rural mobility;
- Foster accessibility for persons with limited or no mobility by car;
- Recovery potential of rural and remote areas post COVID-19.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission is implementing this pilot project by means of service contract MOVE/2022/OP/0008 (Full number: MOVE/B3/SER/2021-643/SI2.883266/2022-480/SI2.883552 – SMARTA ).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - Assessment of the rural mobility services and solutions;
  - Classification of rural tourist environments and mobility patterns;
  - Mobility interdependencies between urban and rural areas;
  - Training sessions;
  - Launching of network of rural municipalities;
  - Guidance for rural communities;
  - Evaluation;
  - Communication.
- Deliverables submitted:
  - Inception report March 2023 ;
  - Report “Classification of rural tourism areas and mobility patterns” September 2023 including [“self-check”](#) tool;
  - 1st Training module June 2023;
  - 2nd Training module November 2023;
  - Guidance for local authorities December (draft) 2023;
  - Catalogue on rural shared mobility solution December (draft) 2023.
- Meetings held:
  - Rural mobility network 1st meeting June 2023 (online);

- o Rural mobility network2 1st meeting October 2023 in Bingen (DE).
- o Rural mobility network 3rd meeting January 2024 (online): Guidance on integrating the rural dimension into existing Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans;
- o 4th ERMN Meeting (Online), 13 March 2024: Enhancing Rural Mobility & Tourism through Data-Driven Solutions;
- o 5th ERMN Meeting 14 - 16 May 2024 Evora (PT): Evaluation analysis, findings and preliminary recommendations;

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o Guidance on Rural Shared Mobility Solutions – published version March 2024;
  - o Guideline for sustainable mobility in rural tourism communities: March 2024;
  - o Guidance Document on how to integrate the rural dimension into existing SUMP topic guides: June 2024;
  - o Training support materials (in local language) and delivery for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sessions: August 2024.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o 6th ERMN Meeting (Online), July 2024: Guidance on how to use available support to sustainable tourism in rural areas and suitable financing sources for investment;
  - o Final Conference Brussels in October/November 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2021)4002 of 8 June 2021
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 2022
Award decision	Q4 2022
Interim payments	Q1 2023 and Q1 2024
Final payment	Q1 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2022) 4509 of 04 July 2022
Publication of call for tender	Q2 2022
Closing date of call for tender	Q2 2022
Award decision	Q4 2022
Interim payments	Q1 2023 and Q12024
Final payment	Q1 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Sustainable rural mobility for resilience in support of ecotourism (SMARTA 3)	MEMEX SRL	1 799 968

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Private companies / service providers
- Research institutes / academia

## 5. Documentation and expected results

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

Commission Decision C(2021) 4002 of 8 June 2021 and Commission Decision C(2022) 4509 of 4 July 2022 set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Work programme for grants and contracts in the fields Mobility and Transport \(europa.eu\)](#).

The award decision is available at the following address: [Services - 115019-2023 - TED Tenders Electronic Daily \(europa.eu\)](#).

The relevant deliverables after thorough check and consultations with the Commission will be uploaded into [https://www.smarta-net.eu/guidance\\_documents/](https://www.smarta-net.eu/guidance_documents/) during 2024.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

Yes, two previous SMARTA projects are financed as pilots.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to early stages of the policy development and subsidiarity issues.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 21 08: Pilot project — Single European Railway Area — Prototype Corridor Munich-Verona

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	455 190,00	p.m.	350 000	p.m.	395 250	0,0 %	12,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	455 190,00	p.m.	350 000	p.m.	395 250	0,0 %	12,9 %

## 3. Objectives

- General objectives:
  - o ensure seamless rail operations without technical and train operation-induced (border) stops on the entire stretch of almost 500 km crossing two borders;
  - o ensure overall improvement of traffic management cooperation across borders.
- Specific objectives:
  - o ensure that the current legislative framework is implemented;
  - o identify additional solutions with different degrees of regulation.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a grant under the 2021 budget (MOVE/C4/2021-545/SI2.8809) and by means of a contribution agreement to the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) under the 2022 budget.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

– 2021 Budget – grant

- Activities to be carried out: finalisation of the solutions to address (i) Harmonisation of operational rules, (ii) Elimination of technical checks at the border, (iii) Implementation of a harmonised braking scheme and (iv) Elimination of second person in the cabin in Italy.
- Deliverables to be submitted: solutions to the four priorities and their practical implementation.

– 2022 budget – Contribution agreement to ERA

- 2024 is the first year of implementation. Contribution agreement was signed in November 2023.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Area 1: Dissemination, Workshops and Visibility events
  - o Digital Data event, expert workshops (contribution to) Verona, June.
- Area 2: Contracted additional support
  - o improved ERA Vocabulary and Data model;
  - o RINF future developments;
  - o TAF and TAP TSIs integration with RINF;
  - o route book development.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021 and December 2021 (amendment to implement project as grant)
Publication of call for proposals	January 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	March 2022
Award decision	August 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	March 2024
Final payment	Q2 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2022 and June 2023 (amendment to implement project as indirect management)
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	n/a
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	n/a
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2023
Final payment	Q2 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project – Single European Railway Area – Prototype Corridor Munich-Verona	Consortium led by Kombiconsult GMBH	599 400

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project – Single European Railway Area – Prototype Corridor Munich-Verona	European Union Railway Agency	790 500

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision adopted on 3 December 2021 C(2021) 8689, and Commission Financing Decision adopted on 13 June 2023 C(2023) 3715 set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

Similar activities exist in the context of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2016/797, in particular in the context of CEF. This project aims at harmonised implementation in preparation for further revision of existing legislation therefore no overlap is foreseen with other similar activities.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged as further revision of legislation would concern implementing acts developed under Directive (EU) 2016/797.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 21 09: Pilot project — IRS Smart Cities Project: New Railway Station concept for green and socially inclusive Smart Cities

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	350 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	350 000	0,0 %	

## 3. Objectives

This pilot project is organized along the following objectives:

- creating the RAIL4CITIES methodological foundation for railway classification, SCP model and tool for impact analysis based on sustainable return on investment (S-ROI) framework (WP2);
- deploying the methodology on five living labs from five European countries addressing the railway stations' transformation into: hub of green and active mobility (in Toulouse, France), energy hub (in Milano, Italy), Transit Oriented Development (in Dorfen, Germany), socially inclusive services hub and the use of Nature Based Solutions (in Tomaszów Mazowiecki, Poland), services hub enabling 15-minute city & circular economy (in Ottignies, Belgium) (WP3);
- consolidating the RAIL4CITIES methodology based on the lessons learnt from the deployment in the different living labs and following the recommendations from the International Advisory Board, and publication of the proposed methodology as basis for a common EU-wide methodology (WP4).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a contribution agreement to Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking, which is implementing the pilot project by means of a grant.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - o contract finalization and successful setup of project operation, including launch of social channels (website, LinkedIn), participation to six events to present the RAIL4CITIES project, and setup of an International Advisory Board (IAB);
  - o completion of the deliverable D2.1, introducing a new operational model for stations as sustainable city promoters (SCP), including the underlying theoretical considerations that led to its development. The model consists of three core components (Appraisal, Fields of action, Methodological toolkit). Further, an outlook is provided on how this proposed model will later be corroborated with data from the five living labs situated in France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Belgium, and three additional case studies in Portugal, testing specifically how railway stations can play a substantial role in sustainable urban development. While the process and results of the living labs are not part of this report, as they will be introduced at a later point in the research project, specific challenges, and implications of the model application in the living labs are already addressed in this report. The updated station model will integrate the data gathered in the living labs and will be documented together with an EU-wide methodology in the deliverable 4.1 "EU-wide SCP methodology", which is due by the end of the RAIL4CITIES project.



- Deliverables submitted:
  - D1.1 RAIL4CITIES Project Handbook
  - D1.2 Data Management Plan
  - D2.1 Report on railway station data collected and SCP Model
  - D5.1 Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan.
- Meetings held:
  - project kick-off meeting (11 - 12 July 2023)
  - monthly Work-Package Leader Board meetings (full consortium invited) every first Friday of the month.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Activities to be carried out:

- Target of 2024 is to complete the deployment of the methodology in the living labs, including different placemaking activities, in order (i) to gather lessons learnt for the methodology, and (ii) to support transforming stations into green, inclusive, and energy-efficient mobility hubs.
  - France: Toulouse-Matabiau Railway Station (SNCF Hubs & Connexions)
 

*Focus:* Station as a hub of green, inclusive, and energy-efficient mobility coupling public transport with new mobility modes (bikes, scooters, e-scooters, cargo bikes, car sharing, etc.) with particular emphasis on bikes.
  - Italy: Milan-Rogoredo Railway Station (RFI and Metropark)
 

*Focus:* Railway station as an energy hub and circular economy hub implementing various projects concerning energy and sharing-and-micro mobility.
  - Poland: Tomaszów Mazowiecki Railway Station (PKP)
 

*Focus:* Station as a “socially-inclusive service hub” promoting social integration through new services and mobility offers. Also, exploring Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for environmental protection due to the city's proximity to natural ecosystems.
  - Germany: Dorfen Railway Station (DB)
 

*Focus:* Sustainable station & Transit Oriented Development (TOD).
  - Belgium: Ottignies Railway Station (SNCB / NMBS)
 

*Focus:* Transforming the station into a services hub that promotes the 15-minute city concept by fostering a 24-hour living environment and creating a vibrant and welcoming station atmosphere, while prioritising the integration of local and circular economy principles as much as possible.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - D2.2 Report on impact analysis methodology and tool setup
  - D3.1 Methodology and guideline for living labs
  - D3.2 Living labs operational report
  - D3.3 Report on open contest and living labs assessment.
- Meetings to take place:
  - General Assembly – 15, 18 and 30 January 2024;
  - General assemblies (2): around June / July and around December 2024 / January 2025 (still to be defined);
  - Monthly Work-Package Leader Board meetings (full consortium invited) every first Friday of the month;
  - External Outreach Meetings:
    - Will Proximity still matter?, Munich (18 – 22 March 2024) (TUM)

- Autonomy mobility World Expo, Paris (20 – 21 March 2024) (BABLE)
- Connecting Europe days Brussels (2 - 5 April 2024) (Europe's Rail)
- Mobil.TUM, Munich (10 – 12 April 2024) (TUM)
- TRA, Dublin (15 - 18 April 2024) (FACTUAL)
- International Transport Forum, Leipzig, Germany (22 - 24 May 2024) (Europe's Rail)
- Innotrans, Berlin (24 – 27 September 2024) (PKP).

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations: Contribution agreement to Europe's Rail JU

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021 as amended in December 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	August 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2022
Final payment	October 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations: Call for proposals launched by Europe's Rail JU

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021 as amended in December 2021
Publication of call for proposals	September 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	December 2022
Award decision	June 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2023; September 2024
Final payment	September 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

- 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
IRS Smart Cities	Europe's Rail JU	700 000
Rail4Cities	FACTUAL CONSULTING SL	149 375,00
Rail4Cities	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET MUENCHEN	145 579,09
Rail4Cities	CENTRE INTERNACIONAL DE METODES NUMERICIS EN ENGINYERIA	101 937,50
Rail4Cities	BABLE GMBH	89 804,50
Rail4Cities	UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER	54 937,50
Rail4Cities	HUBS & CONNEXIONS	40 472,18
Rail4Cities	RETE FERROVIARIA ITALIANA	18 465,00
Rail4Cities	Metropark SpA	18 465,00
Rail4Cities	POLSKIE KOLEJE PANSTWOWE SPOLKA AKCYJNA	5 000,25
Rail4Cities	INSTYTUT BADAWCZY DROG I MOSTOW	33 835,08
Rail4Cities	SOCIETE NATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER BELGES	39 925,00

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021) 4002 adopted on 8 June 2021, as amended by Commission Decision C(2021) 8689 of 3 December 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#).

Europe's Rail Work Programme 2022 - 2024 (adopted by the Governing Board on 1 March 2022) as amended on 8 September 2022. It is available at the following address [Europe's Rail work Programme](#).

The project website is available at the following address: <https://rail4cities.eu/>.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No, although the running R&I project is complementary to the EU-Rail R&I Flagship Project 4.

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the preliminary output of the project which is expected to deliver its final results on 30 June 2025. Following that delivery, the JU will analyse if any positive output implementation would require a legislative proposal.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 21 10: Pilot project — Effect of energy efficient and solar power generating vehicles on grid capacity and charging infrastructure

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	668 844	p.m.	1 672 110	0,0 %	150,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	668 844	p.m.	1 672 110	0,0 %	150,0 %

## 3. Objectives

With the increasing penetration of electric vehicles, their usage increases the strain on electricity grid and also on the charging infrastructure. As a solution, introduction of more energy efficient vehicles including those with integrated solar PV modules can be a good step. Therefore, the general objective of the study is to provide the Commission with robust evidence on the effect of energy-efficient and solar power generating vehicles on overall energy demand in the EU transport sector.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - Task 1 - Potential Costs, Benefits, and Impacts of Energy Efficiency of EVs on Infrastructure and Fleet Composition;
  - Task 2 - On-Board Solar Generation (started in 2023, lasts full 2024 and until early 2025).
- Deliverables submitted:
  - Inception report with a detailed work programme, planning, methodology, approaches and working assumptions;
  - First interim report, task 1.
- Meetings held:
  - Kick-off meeting in Brussels
  - Inception report meeting
  - First interim report meeting.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: (i) assess theoretical costs, benefits and risks of installing on-board PV on different types of vehicles, (ii) test the onboard PV generation and integration on at least three vehicles, (iii) benchmarking of PV integration results.
- Deliverables to be submitted: second interim report.
- Meetings to take place: second interim report meeting.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	March 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2022
Award decision	October 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024, Q1 2025
Final payment	Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Effect of energy efficient and solar power generating vehicles on overall energy demand in the EU transport sector	Consortium led by Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO)	3 344 220

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- public service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021) 4002, adopted on 8 June 2021 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering database](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no direct legislative follow up is envisaged at the moment, as this pilot project is intended to explore the possibilities of solar powered vehicles and provide evidence on its effect on the energy grid and charging infrastructure. Nevertheless, it will also contribute to possible initiatives on improving the type-approval test to include elements of solar charging into it.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 22 01: Pilot project — Novel forms of contracting in the digital economy

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	125 000,00	p.m.	295 250	p.m.	157 525	0,0 %	-46,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	125 000,00	p.m.	295 250	p.m.	157 525	0,0 %	-46,6 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project aims to analyse novel forms of contracting in the digital economy, namely contracts concluded through software programs using Artificial Intelligence (AI). While new technologies are promising for both citizens, consumers and businesses, new contracting solutions may raise the question if national and EU private laws are adapted to these solutions.

The pilot project assesses especially fully or highly autonomous solutions, namely AI systems that take decisions in an autonomous manner, e.g. not deterministic way, contrary to those applications that operate solely automatically. Such autonomous solutions, capable of self-learning and foreseeing future contracting needs, are more likely to cause contract law issues, while fully pre-programmed automatic actions are likely already covered by current legal frameworks. Autonomous contracting covers in principle all phases of the contractual cycle and can be scrutinised in the context of both B2B and B2C. The pilot project analyses if traditional contract law concepts and rules, both at national and EU level, might need to be adapted to contracts concluded and/or implemented autonomously by AI systems.

The pilot project aims to contribute to the transition towards the digital economy and to promote the roll-out of AI technology in contracting and to support companies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and start-ups in deploying business models using AI in contracting, while preserving the rights of all users and ensuring the enforceability.

Under the Administrative Agreement concluded, the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is currently conducting analyses covering a conceptual framework of AI contracting, including B2B and B2C use cases, their degree of maturity, market penetration and the relevant stages in a contract lifecycle, as well as a preliminary analysis of potential economic impacts of AI contracting, focusing on a high-level market overview and characterisation.

The service contract with an external contractor will comprise (i) a comparative law analysis of national rules applicable to AI contracting in private transactions and an analysis of potential obstacles that national and EU legal frameworks may pose to its use and deployment, and (ii) an economic analysis of the potential obstacles identified (complementing the analysis of JRC). Building on the findings on potential legal obstacles identified in the legal overview, the study should identify the costs, risks and benefits related to the up-take and use of AI contracting (e.g. increased efficiency, more optimal contract conditions, etc.). The costs, risks and potential benefits will be identified, analysed and quantified to the extent possible.

The data to be collected and the analysis to be performed aim to allow the Commission to define the problems and their extent, including their scope, scale and problem drivers, based on clear supportive evidence. The study should provide all elements needed to prepare a potential problem definition and a baseline scenario for a possible impact assessment, in compliance with the Better Regulation Guidelines, as well as elements needed for formulating possible policy options.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by two different means: an Administrative Agreement with the JRC and a service contract with an external contractor under a framework contract (FWC).

- 4.2. Previous years' implementation Activities carried out:
  - Adoption of the Commission Financing Decision on 30 November 2022;
  - JRC: The Administrative Agreement with the JRC was signed on 21 February 2023;
  - Service contract: The service contract with the external contractor under the JUST framework contract was signed on 20 December 2023.
- Deliverables submitted:
  - JRC: Deliverables on work package 1;
  - Service contract: no deliverables as contract was signed in 2023.
- Meetings held:
  - JRC: Kick-off meeting on 30 March 2023 and progress meetings held on a regular basis;
  - Service contract: no meetings were held, as contract was signed in 2023.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: The activities under the JRC Administrative Agreement and the service contract are expected to be completed in 2024.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - JRC: Deliverables under work packages 1, 2 and 3;
  - Service contract: Inception report, interim report and final report.
- Meetings to take place: progress meetings will be held regularly until the projects are completed.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	30 November 2022
Publication of call for tenders	September 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	Q4 2023
Award decision	Q4 2023
Interim payment	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q1 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Administrative Agreement N° JRC 36387-2022 / JUST/2022/PR/PPA2/CIVI/0092 Final payment	JRC	125 000
Service contract with an external contractor JUST/2022/PP/PPA1/CIVI/0221 under Framework Contract JUST/2020/PR/03/0001	ICF S.A.	340 500

#### 4.6. *Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 30 November 2022 C(2022) 8591, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: COMMISSION DECISION on the financing of the Pilot Project: Novel forms of contracting in the digital economy and the adoption of the work programme for 2022.

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged for this project at this stage, due to the fact that the implementation of the service contract has only just started. The Commission may follow up on this project, depending on the results of the Administrative Agreement and the study with the external contractor, e.g. whether it identifies EU internal market obstacles to the roll-out of AI-enabled autonomous contracting solutions.



## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 23 01 :Pilot project — A Space for the Metaverse

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	800 000,00	0,00	p.m.	400 000	p.m.	200 000	0,0 %	-50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	800 000,00	0,00	p.m.	400 000	p.m.	200 000	0,0 %	-50,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The metaverse is the convergence of ideas that have been around for a few years now: virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), or extended reality (ER) and blockchain technology. The metaverse implies a network of virtual environments accessed via different devices where users can interact, socialise, work, play and consume in an immersive digital setting that mirrors many of our real-world habits.

The metaverse promises to revolutionise how people live and work in their daily life. It should be developed as an open, interoperable and decentralised platform, minimising the risk for users (including workers) of being exposed to cyber violence and harmful activities such as trade of illegal goods and the spread of disinformation. Ultimately, people should be as safe in the virtual space as they are in the physical world.

While there could be a need for appropriate policy measures, the general knowledge of what this emerging technology entails is still very limited for the society as a whole, and for policymakers and stakeholders.

It is therefore necessary to facilitate a strong knowledge base on this evolving digital world, among other areas, in regard to the respect of fundamental rights, including equality and non-discrimination, data protection, privacy, as well as the level of responsibility of individuals when acting in the virtual sphere. What the metaverse is, how it operates, what VR experiences it may offer, what the potential implications of its use and the activities run in that environment are, etc., are questions to which the answers remain vague, at the very least, for the majority.

This pilot project will create a space that aims to provide policy makers and stakeholders with information on the metaverse as well as fostering the discussion community of policy makers, academia and stakeholders, thereby realising a sound, sustainable and free from bias development of the metaverse in the EU.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The pilot project aims at being a trustworthy knowledge base about the metaverse by several activities including (i) publication of the analysis of the development of technology, policy and market trends; (ii) collecting information and data across the EU and the world; and (iii) organising workshops around thematic topics.

Through these activities, the space will contribute to the policy making in this field and mobilisation of stakeholders involving private companies, public bodies, academia, civil society and individuals in technical and policy discussions about the future development of the metaverse.

- Activities to be carried out: The call was closed in March 2024 and the evaluation of the proposals is pending. The contract signature is estimated June 2024.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - D1.1 Inception report
  - D2.1 Thematic Papers Task 1(technology)
  - D3.1 Post-online workshop reports.
- Meetings to take place: Inception meeting M2 of the project and online workshops every two months from M2.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

-2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of a call for tenders	12 February 2024
Closing date of a call for tenders	18 March 2024
Award decision	May 2024
Interim payments	Q2 2025
Final payment	Q2 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since the award decision is still to be finalised and 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/tender-details/672666be-45c7-4264-b206-023d48427642-CN#anchorDocuments>.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 23 02: Pilot project — De-monopolized access to EU applications

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	250 000	p.m.	250 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	250 000	p.m.	250 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

Modern smartphones, tablets and (increasingly) desktop environments have established marketplaces, such as Google’s Play Store or Apple’s App Store, for the installation and maintenance of apps. These marketplaces offer convenient and curated apps that come at the cost of high barrier to entry on the market for smaller providers and less choice for consumers. Recent antitrust cases (AT.40437 Apple - App Store Practices (music streaming)) have highlighted the problem with app stores, and the recently adopted Digital Markets Act aims to create more contestability on digital markets. However, EU institutions themselves do not offer users free choice to use or move away from dominating marketplaces. For instance, all Android apps released by the Commission are only available on Google’s Play Store (Events@EU, Eurostat myregion, etc.).

The pilot project aims at extending the EU technical infrastructure to release, maintain and promote EU applications without further strengthening the market position of gatekeeper app stores. The focus of the pilot project includes EU institutions releasing their apps on existing alternative app stores, including f-droid that aims at promoting apps released under open-source licenses. It would also include releasing the source code of the apps for people to build the apps on their own and to release the apk files for side-loading without the use of an app store. This work is consistent with the Commission Decision C(2021)8759 on the open-source licensing and reuse of Commission software and other overarching policy goals of Commission and Parliament.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: publication of call for tenders and selection of contractor;
- Deliverables to be submitted: None in 2024;
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meeting estimated in Q4 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for tenders	Q3 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q3 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024
Interim payments	Q2 2025

Step	Date
Final payment	Q4 2025 - Q1 2026

*4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

The call is yet to be launched and since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project these details are not yet known.

*4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers and developers
- public service providers
- foundations / developers

**5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no immediate follow up is envisaged at this stage due to the early stage.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 23 03: Pilot project — Development of a study to boost environmentally sustainable artificial intelligence in the EU - Green AI

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	425 000,00	0,00	p.m.	212 500	p.m.	212 500	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	425 000,00	0,00	p.m.	212 500	p.m.	212 500	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This study seeks to align the European AI strategy and its actions with the European Green Deal, to make the EU one of the leading regions in the adoption of best practices in the development of sustainable AI models.

AI has a strong potential for environmental impact. On the positive side, AI and data analytics technologies have the potential to accelerate the analysis of large volumes of data, enabling better understanding of environmental challenges and providing solutions to them. This will provide mechanisms for improved environmental planning, decision-making and monitoring of environmental threats. Specifically, AI could help reduce energy and resource consumption, promote decarbonisation and boost the circular economy. Another interesting aspect is the use of AI to analyse the results of past scientific experiments and make future experiments more successful.

On the negative side, AI also poses a number of environmental threats. The use of ICT solutions accounts for 5 – 9 % of electricity consumption worldwide, and could reach 20 % by 2030, according to the EP report "The role of Artificial Intelligence in the European Green Deal". As AI is the fastest growing field in ICT, AI systems would contribute very significantly to this development. In practice, this represented between 1,1 and 1,3 billion tonnes (Gt) of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2020. In addition, the "Ethics for sustainable AI adoption connecting AI and ESG" study showed that the carbon emissions for training a single natural language processing model was equivalent to 125 round-trip flights between New York and Beijing. It is worth noting that the computing resources needed to train AI models are rapidly growing, as more accurate models are sought. The factors driving this increase in consumption can be summarised in three: the cost of running an AI model in isolation, the size of the training dataset and the number of hyperparameter experiments performed.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The call will be launched in May 2024 with an estimated contract signature in Q4 of 2024. There will be an inception meeting at the start of the project.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2024

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Interim payments	Q4 2024 - Q3 2025
Final payment	Q2 2026

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

The call is still to be launched, and since 2024 is the first year of implementation, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisation

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 1349, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#)

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged. The study results should show the potential, effectiveness and efficiency of public action. If the results are positive, the follow-up action would consist in the promotion of voluntary labels. If the results are negative, no follow up would take place.

# 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

## PP 02 23 04: Pilot project — Development of interoperability tools in the digital single market

### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	400 000,00	0,00	p.m.	200 000	p.m.	200 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	400 000,00	0,00	p.m.	200 000	p.m.	200 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

### 3. Objectives

The internet delivers growth and innovation at unprecedented speeds. But it is mostly forgotten that one of its original architectural principles was interoperability. Actions like surfing the internet and email services are based on interoperability. However, some services of a diverse and decentralised system with open standards were replaced by “walled gardens” with locked-in users by a small number of market players; especially concerning messenger and social media services. This pilot project could serve as a first step to address this market dominance and thus contribute to reach a level playing field in the digital sector in support for European SMEs.

The aim of this pilot project would be to map out options for interoperability, advantages, challenges and potential technical solutions for messenger and social media services as a first step towards the development of open interoperability standards. The Digital Markets Act already addresses interoperability for number-independent interpersonal communications services in Article 7 and requests the Commission to evaluate if the scope should be extended to online social networking services. This pilot project could contribute to such an evaluation and therefore, could create more competition where compatible services and products could plug into systems surrounded by "walled gardens" and thus enable more companies to compete with digital gatekeepers. Therefore, it would contribute to European alternatives, European open strategic autonomy and foster European digital sovereignty. In order for these tools to be successful, a central element would be to guarantee a high level of data protection, transparency and user choice.

### 4. Implementation

#### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for tenders.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: publication of call for tenders and selection of contractor;
- Deliverables to be submitted: None in 2024;
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meeting estimated in Q4 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024

Step	Date
Interim payment	Q1 2025
Final payment	Q4 2025 – Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

The call is still to be launched and since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / messaging and online network service providers
- research institutes / academia specialized on engineering of messaging services and online network services
- foundations / developers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no immediate follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.



## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 23 05: Pilot project — European body for jet fuel standards and safety certification

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 000 000,00	1 000 000,00	990 000	247 500	p.m.	990 000	-100,0 %	300,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 000 000,00	1 000 000,00	990 000	247 500	p.m.	990 000	-100,0 %	300,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project aims to explore options and the necessary structures and processes needed to be in place for the EU to decide on aviation fuel standards and associated criteria.

The overall aim of the project is to assess the feasibility and associated requirements for the establishment of an EU body with the capacity for specification, standardisation, and approval of aviation fuels. The project is divided into two phases, with a focus, respectively, on short-term achievable goals and addressing a long-term solution.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of indirect management with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) under Contribution Agreement MOVE/E1/CA/2023-502/SI2.905954.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

As the Contribution Agreement was only signed towards the end of November 2023, the amount of implementation in 2023 was limited. The following section therefore not only covers the end of 2023 but also Q1 2024:

- Activities carried out: Start of the work between DG MOVE and EASA, setting up the timetable and path, preparing the first deliverables of the project, in the Q1 of 2024. DG MOVE set up an internal Steering Committee, with other relevant European Commission services, as an informal forum of discussion. The first meeting of this group was held in February 2024.
- Deliverables submitted: No deliverables achieved yet. EASA together with DG MOVE is organising the European Aviation Fuel Stakeholder Forum (EAF) on 18 and 19 April in Köln / Cologne, Germany. This workshop, together with relevant stakeholders, will feed into the first deliverable of the project, which is a report, based on the outcome of the workshop, set for the beginning of May 2024.
- Meetings held: Kick-off meeting in December 2023, first meeting of the project's steering group in February 2024. Regular progress meetings and status updates between DG MOVE and EASA have been taking place monthly. DG MOVE has convened with the representatives of the European Parliament (who have made the request for such a project) in March 2024 to discuss the overall development of the project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Assessment report based on analysis of the current aviation fuels standardisation system in place through a comprehensive analysis of jet fuel standards, comparing existing bodies (ASTM, Def Stan etc.) and their legal frameworks. Examining the EU regulatory landscape and its connection to airworthiness standards. Identify risks, gaps, and potential improvements in regulations, institutions, and work processes. European technical experts on aviation fuel from aircraft

and jet engine manufacturers, fuel producers, fuel supply chain, military and academia will gather on 18 - 19 April 2024 for the first meeting of the European Aviation Fuel (EAF) Stakeholder Forum, a key venue for industry stakeholders. Assess international receptiveness towards stricter fuel regulations and initiate informal discussions on establishing consensus standards for cleaner, non-CO2 impacting jet fuels.

- Deliverables to be submitted: Report based on the outcome of the European Aviation Fuel (EAF) Stakeholder Forum (Q2 2024). Report on cost and benefits/ added value of European Fuel Standardisation body for long-term use cases.
- Meetings to take place: European Aviation Fuel (EAF) Stakeholder Forum (18 - 19 April 2024); regular meetings between DG MOVE and EASA (monthly – ad hoc); meeting of this project Steering Group (Commission Interservice Group – connecting approximately on a quarterly basis; a second European Aviation Fuel (EAF) Stakeholder Forum is foreseen to be held at the end of 2024 – TBC.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	November 2023
Prefinancing (100%)	December 2023
Final payment	N/A

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	N/A
Final payment	Q4 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed number and amounts

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Contribution Agreement MOVE/E1/CA/2023-502/SI2.905954 - European body for jet fuel standards and safety certification	European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)	1 000 000

– 2024 commitment appropriations

The 2024 commitment appropriations (EUR 990 000) will be implemented via an amendment of the 2023 contribution agreement with EASA for the same project.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- public service provider

## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 3715, adopted on 13 June 2023, and the Commission Financing Decision to be adopted on 5 April 2024, set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 23 06: Pilot project — Proposal for a Joint European Approach towards Radioactive Waste

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	400 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	400 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-25,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The aim of the pilot project is to enable policymakers to assess whether technically, financially and in terms of overall efficiency, pooling European resources together to deal with radioactive waste makes sense and to determine if a review of current legislation to enable such a joint European approach to radioactive waste management would be required.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of two contracts under framework contract MOVE/ENER/SRD/2020/OP/0008 : “Consultation on a joint European approach towards radioactive waste” and “Compendium of knowledge on a joint European approach towards radioactive waste”.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

- Preparatory activities were carried out, including consultations with stakeholders, preparation of the terms of reference and launching the requests for services in December 2023.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Consultation:

- Activities to be carried out:
  - data collection and analyses
  - identification of interested Member States and ensuring the conditions for the launch of a consultation and discussion platform
  - organisation of two workshops.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - inception report
  - draft position paper
  - intermediate report
  - draft final report
  - final report.
- Meetings to take place:
  - kick-off meeting
  - intermediary meeting
  - final project meeting.
- Compendium of knowledge:
- Activities to be carried out:

- o data collection and analyses
- o creation of the compendium of knowledge
- o creation and population of the European Commission web information system.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o a compendium of knowledge and a European Commission web information system;
  - o Reports: inception, progress, draft final, final.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o kick-off meeting
  - o intermediate meetings upon request
  - o progress review meeting
  - o final review meeting.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	December 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	12 February 2024
Award decision	March 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	N/A
Final payment	September 2025 and July 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023)4577, adopted on 7 July 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation. The consultation process should, by its end and if possible, identify and launch practical multinational cooperation forms and propose follow-up actions.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 02 24 02: Pilot project — The development of cross-border cycling lane infrastructure

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
		800 000	200 000	p.m.	400 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		800 000	200 000	p.m.	400 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

To fully unlock the potential of cycling and the aim of doubling the number of cycled kilometres in Europe by 2030, it is important to get a better overview of the current situation in the Member States in order to enable an informed analysis of how much more cycling infrastructure is needed.

Against this background, DG MOVE is hereby contracting for services to provide the Commission with a study containing information on the current state of cycling infrastructure in the Member States in order to assess the extent to which it needs to be extended. This study will:

- define a common methodology for the collection of relevant cycling data;
- collect the data to establish a baseline;
- define a methodology for the progress monitoring.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for tenders to be launched in Q2 2024.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable as 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Task 1: Definition of the different elements of the EU-wide baseline;
  - Task 2: Analysis of the current state of cycling infrastructure in EU Member States;
  - Task 3: Define a methodology for the collection of relevant cycling data and progress monitoring;
  - Task 4: Data collection and baseline establishment;
  - Task 5: Engagement with relevant actors and stakeholders;
  - Task 6 : Project management.

- Deliverables to be submitted:

The key publishable deliverables of the study will be:

- a set of definitions ;
- a review of the current state of development of the cycling infrastructure in the Member States, including an assessment of existing data quality and country fiches for each Member State;
- a methodology, including relevant recommendations, for the collection of cycling infrastructure data that would enable the establishment of an EU-wide baseline;

- o a first data set collected across the Member States for the establishment of an EU-wide baseline
  - o in the general framework of the study, the contractor is also requested to present monthly progress reports, a draft and a consolidated inception report, a draft intermediate report, a draft final report and a final report.
- Meetings to take place:
    - o a kick-off meeting will take place in Brussels, at the latest 15 working days after the signature of the contract;
    - o validation meetings between the contractors and the contracting authority shall be organised following the submission of the three draft key deliverables, the interim and the final report;
    - o progress meetings with DG MOVE and other Commission relevant services (if necessary) will be organised regularly as well as on a demand-driven basis (remotely);
    - o the contractor will organise at least three three dedicated (hybrid) meetings with the national cycling coordinators from Member States (at the beginning, midterm and towards the end of the contract);
    - o the contractor should foresee also active participation (online or in person) to meetings of the Expert Group on Urban Mobility (EGUM) and relevant subgroups, on demand.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March / April 2024
Publication of call for tenders	April / May 2024
Closing date call for tenders	June 2024
Award decision	September 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2025
Final payment	End of 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project these details are not yet known.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 2058, adopted on 8 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/financing-decisions-for-policy-support-and-pilot-projects-and-preparatory-actions).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged. The study responds to the needs indicated by the European Declaration on Cycling, in particular under Chapter VIII - Improving the collection of data on cycling, for the development of an EU-wide baseline for cycling infrastructure. Follow-up to the study would not require legislative proposals as it falls in the remit of subsidiarity and implementation at local and national level.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 22 03: Pilot project — Single European Digital Enforcement Area

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	300 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	300 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The general objective of the project is to initiate the process of creating a regulatory and technological environment for checking compliance with the EU road transport rules in the smartest and most efficient possible way, using the potential of the existing and emerging digitalisation, automation and communication technologies. This environment would then serve as basis for establishing a Single European Digital Enforcement Area (SEDEA) for a modal and multi-modal digital and automated enforcement system of the transport laws in the EU.

Specific objectives of the project are to:

- develop the basis and technical specifications for a model/prototype of smart system for checking compliance with the EU road transport rules, based on access to data related to driver, vehicle, operator and cargo, building on existing tools, databases and data exchange systems and, if possible, embracing emerging technologies and applications;
- design a process for testing the model/prototype in real life conditions, including legal, administrative, technical requirements for carrying out the demonstrations on public roads and designating suitable location(s) for a ‘test-bed’.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a public procurement service contract.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The contract was only signed in December 2023 due to a late launch of the tender documents in 2022 and the need for an in-depth analysis of the tenders due to the new policy area in early 2023. The summer period also added to a delay in the procurement procedure.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Task 1: Identification of the information needs of enforcers;
  - Task 2: Mapping the existing enforcement environment;
  - Task 3: Identification and assessment of different models of smart enforcement system.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - identification of information needs;
  - mapping of the enforcement ecosystem;
  - Interim Report Description and assessment of models.
- Meetings to take place:



- o biweekly progress meetings and Quarterly Steering Committee meetings between DG MOVE and the contractor are foreseen.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2022
Publication of call for tenders	March 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	May 2023
Award decision	November 2023
Interim payment	October 2024
Final payment	July 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Single European Digital Enforcement Area (SEDEA)	Ernst & Young Consulting with VVA Brussels	889 467.5

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Decision C(2022) 4509, adopted on 4 July 2022 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=11628>.

The award decision is available at the following address: [2024/S 012-031900](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

Yes, the Commission may review the relevant legislation to introduce the provisions facilitating digitisation of the information on commercial road transport operations for purposes of efficient control of compliance and the automation of enforcement process, including in cross-border exchange of data and execution of sanctions.

Depending on the outcome of this pilot project, a preparatory action may be considered as a follow-up to the pilot project before the formal review of existing legislation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 22 04: Pilot project — The role of copyright laws in facilitating distance education and research

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	700 000,00	0,00	p.m.	695 250	p.m.	648 327	0,0 %	-6,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	700 000,00	0,00	p.m.	695 250	p.m.	648 327	0,0 %	-6,7 %

## 3. Objectives

The aim of this pilot project is to explore the role of copyright in facilitating distance learning and education.

Libraries play an essential role in making knowledge accessible to everyone, supporting research, innovation, education and preserving our cultural heritage. They have ensured preserving and providing access to Europe's shared cultural heritage for centuries. In doing so, libraries are required to act in a way that respects a reasonable balance between their role and mission as cultural entities and legitimate interests of right holders. Copyright law plays an important role in this respect and contains a number of specific provisions addressed specifically to cultural heritage institutions including libraries, which this pilot project will explore further.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a procurement via framework contract.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Procurement procedure via FWC launched and the contract started on 13 November 2023;
- Meetings held: kick-off meeting, first progress meeting.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

- Activities to be carried out: workshop (task 1)
  - o survey and case studies (task 2)
  - o synthesis (task 3)
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o draft first interim report
  - o second interim report
  - o third interim report.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o first interim meeting (11 March 2024)
  - o second and third interim meetings
  - o final meeting.

– 2023 commitment appropriations

- Launch Procurement procedure via FWC – sign contract in December at the latest.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Request for services via FWC	July - August 2023
Receipt offers	September 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Interim payment	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q4 2024 / Q1 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Request for services via FWC	Q3 2024
Receipt offers	Q4 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024
Interim payment	Q2 2025
Final payment	Q4 2025 / Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Copyright in distance education and research: exploring the role of copyright in facilitating access to digital collections of libraries and other public interest institutions	-Visionary Analytics UAB -ECORYS EUROPE EEIG – GEIE -CAPGEMINI NEDERLAND B.V. -IDC Italia SRL	613 877,50

– 2023 commitment appropriations

The procurement contract (via framework contract) is yet to be signed and since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 169, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged at the moment due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 23 01: Pilot project — Building Capacity for Tourism Ecosystem - Accessing EU Funding

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	3 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	900 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	3 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	900 000	0,0 %	

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is to give EU tourism actors better access to EU funding by increasing their awareness of funding opportunities and improving the quality of their bids.

Tourism is indeed eligible under several programmes of the Multiannual Financial Framework, but very few actors of the tourism ecosystem manage to secure funding. The tourism ecosystem being very fragmented, tourism stakeholders, in particular SMEs, often do not have the knowledge and expertise to compete with other ecosystems.

For that purpose, the project shall map in detail the funds and calls dedicated to tourism under different EU financial instruments and communicate in a clear and easy understandable language to the tourism ecosystem, namely SMEs, about the existing funding opportunities.

The pilot project shall also provide an overview analysis of the last four years of tourism funding in the EU (2019-2022) and identify success and failure factors when applying for EU funding and based on those factors, gather a “compendium of Best Practices”, issue a simple manual on “Dos and Don’ts” and issue “Guidelines for improving the quality of tourism stakeholders’ applications to the EU Funding Programmes / Calls. It shall also analyse how actors of the tourism ecosystem look for information, what they do not find, what they do not understand, how to solve possible problems and develop solutions (e.g. translation online guide into other official languages of the EU, place ads in specialised media used by the tourism industry, etc.).

Finally, the project shall also test various ‘capacity building’ solutions, develop tourism specific guidelines / training materials on how to apply successfully to EU calls, disseminate these guidelines and provide a place where tourism actors could find partners to submit joint bids.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a call for tenders [“Pilot Action: Building Capacity for Tourism” \(EISMEA/2023/OP/0024\)](#).

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

No activities implemented.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out (as described in the Objectives, section 3):
  - preparatory activities will be carried out by month three under all seven work packages of the action.
- Deliverables to be submitted:

- o Inception report ;
  - o Deliverable 1: Selection of a multidisciplinary working group representative of the tourism ecosystem by month three.
- Meetings to take place:
    - o Kick-off meeting.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	27 February 2023
Publication of call for tenders	12 March 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	15 May 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Interim payments	Q2 2025; Q1 2026
Final payment	October 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

The contractor will be known after the call for tenders is closed, the offers evaluated and a successful tenderer is awarded the service contract.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

DG-BUDG REF 153 (New Pilot Project): Building Capacity for Tourism ecosystem - Accessing EU funding (Proposed by TRAN, Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar, István Ujhelyi) Attribution: GROW Directorate G.1 Budget EUR 3.000 000

[Tender specifications Pilot - FINAL V1.pdf \(europa.eu\).](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged at the moment due to the early stage of implementation of the pilot project.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 23 02: Pilot project — European network of gender-conscious investors

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	300 000	p.m.	582 000	0,0 %	94,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	300 000	p.m.	582 000	0,0 %	94,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objectives of the European network of gender-conscious investors is to raise awareness around the gender investment gap and engage with the industry to measure and stimulate change to increase the participation of women in the investment decision making and eventually improve access to different forms of financing for female-led companies.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of call for tenders delegated to the Executive Agency EISMEA.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Add relevant:

June 2024: Kick-off meeting;

July 2024: Inception Report;

September 2024: Survey to network members, Communication strategy;

November 2024: Interim report, completion of website, opening event;

December 2024: Promotional campaign.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	November 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	January 2024
Award decision	June 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	February 2025 December 2025
Final payment	June 2026

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision (C (2023) 1258 final), adopted on 27 February 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eu_funding/)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no legislative proposal is envisaged as follow up. The action aims to test new forms of support for female and gender-conscious investors, no legislative proposal could result from these activities.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 24 01: Pilot project — Comparative study on best practices for a stronger EU sanction enforcement

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget	2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		500 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	300,0 %
Reserve					0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		500 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	300,0 %

## 3. Objectives

As set out in the budget remarks included in the European Union’s annual budget for the financial year 2024, the pilot project “Comparative study on best practices for a stronger EU sanction enforcement”, aims to assess to what extent having a centralised sanction implementation body would benefit Union sanction implementation, as compared to a network of scattered national bodies.

It should thereby contribute to ensuring that the Union sanctions are implemented equally across the Union and it should help to identify a way for reducing ‘avoidable’ sanction evasion, namely in terms of asset freeze and confiscation and visa and travel bans.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open or restricted call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The financing decision will be adopted and thereafter the tender procedure will be launched with the expected signature in December 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	September 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	November 2024
Award decision	December 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2025
Final payment	July 2026

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / research institutes, academia



## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, expected end of July 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 24 02: Pilot project — Embarking companies and stakeholders into the European sustainability reporting journey

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	n.a.	3 240 000	810 000	p.m.	940 000	-100,0 %	16,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	n.a.	3 240 000	810 000	p.m.	940 000	-100,0 %	16,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project ‘Embarking companies and stakeholders into the European sustainability reporting journey’ aims to enhance the due process of developing sustainability reporting standards so that they achieve their overriding objectives while being easy to apply for companies, without unnecessary administrative requirements and costs.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant awarded to EFRAG without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The pilot project will test innovative actions to mobilise experts and stakeholders from the ground, including companies’ customers, suppliers, investors, civil society, social partners, and trade unions in the development of European Sustainability Reporting Standards

- by awareness raising and supporting them through information and education;
- and then to involve them in the preparation of draft European Sustainability Reporting Standards.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2024
Invitation to submit an application	September 2024
Award decision	October 2024
Prefinancing	November 2024
Final payment	June 2027

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Grant	EFRAG	3.240.000

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- Not-for profit organisation

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in July 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

In accordance with the provisions of Article 10.1(d) and Article 8.6 of Regulation 2021/690 establishing the single market programme grants are awarded to EFRAG to develop, assess and monitor international standards in the fields of financial and non-financial reporting in pursuit of the specific objective identified in Article 3.2(c)(ii) of the Regulation of supporting the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting standards.

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged at this moment due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 24 03: Pilot project — EU Substitution Centre - Providing support to businesses to substitute their use of hazardous chemicals through collaboration, innovation, research and direct assistance

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 550 000	387 500	p.m.	620 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 550 000	387 500	p.m.	620 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %

## 3. Objectives

- to consider how a network of substitution centres for hazardous chemicals could best be set up and identify if additional substitution centres should be created (lot 1) ;
- to facilitate the search for highly performing, cost effective alternative solutions to certain hazardous chemicals targeted by lots 2, 3 and 4, which can effectively reduce health and environmental impacts compared to the use of targeted substances ;
- to gain experience with setting up an effective and efficient framework, including relevant mechanisms and tools, that foster collaboration of various actors towards innovation and substitution of certain hazardous chemicals in uses where substitution is complex. This shall contribute to optimising and complementing the interface between regulation (e.g. REACH regulation, OSH, environmental legislation) and industry-driven innovation, inter alia through substitution planning and through enhancing the role of substitution centres.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a call for tenders (four lots).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Tender procedure, evaluation, award and signature of contract. Pre-payments for the four lots.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

- January 2025 Inception meetings for the four lots ;
- September 2025 Interim Reports ;
- November 2025 Interim Payments.

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for tenders	June 2024 (tbc)
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2024 (tbc)
Award decision	November 2024 (tbc)
Prefinancing 20% / interim payments 40%	December 2024 / November 2025

Step	Date
Final payment 40%	October 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1936, adopted on 27 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

The Commission has launched a Study on strengthening the role of substitution planning in the context of REACH and other EU chemicals legislation (GROW/2023/OP/0042), which is related to the subject of the pilot project, but with a different scope. The study is a preparatory action in relation to several pieces of chemicals legislation, including the REACH Regulation 1907/2006.

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

Yes, the Commission intends to consider the results in the context of the planned revision of the REACH Regulation 1907/2006 and potentially in similar pieces of chemicals legislation if and when those might be revised. It is however impossible at this stage to identify whether and to what extent the result of the pilot project will be reflected in any potential legislative changes in those pieces of chemicals legislation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 03 24 04: Pilot project — The promotion of handicraft products and support of craftsmen

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		970 000	242 500	p.m.	270 000	-100,0 %	11,3 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		970 000	242 500	p.m.	270 000	-100,0 %	11,3 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project “The promotion of handicraft products and support of craftsmen” will support craftsmen, such as potters, stone and wood carvers, folk craftsmen, etc. to launch, develop and promote traditional products, including via digital means. This should result in the attraction of tourists to the respective regions and contribute to economic growth; to provide financial and other types of support to European craftsmen for the launch and promotion of handicraft and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) products, including via digital means; to encourage collaboration between craftsmen from different regions across the EU, promoting social cohesion.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Signature planned within 2024, no further implementation acts planned for now in 2024

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q3 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q3 Q4/2024
Award decision	Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024
Final payment	Mid-2026

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers

Full details are not yet known.

## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1936, adopted on 27 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 04 24 01: Pilot project — EU Space Data integration to support an EU Disaster Management Plan

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 790 000	447 500	p.m.	450 000	-100,0 %	0,6 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 790 000	447 500	p.m.	450 000	-100,0 %	0,6 %

## 3. Objectives

The project shall pursue the following objectives:

- identification and analysis of the technical and regulatory barriers for the uptake of space-based solutions in support of disaster management;
- promotion of satellite-based services at Union and national level and of their access for disaster management;
- the training of national civil protection authorities in the use of Union space components with the aim of promoting them and integrating them into those authorities' local emergency procedures;
- the assessment of how private companies can provide essential services to civil protection and public authorities, in support of the governmental efforts in disaster management;
- contribution to draft new standards defining minimum operational requirements for the use of new Galileo EWSS, and delivery of the necessary test protocols required to verify the compliance with those requirements.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a procurement procedure.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

In 2024, the activity would be limited to launching the procedure, evaluating the offers and organising the kick off of the project. In case the kick off can take place before end 2024, a pre-financing of 30 % should be released.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

The activity is expected to roll-out starting Q1 2025, for a 24-month duration.

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 and Q2 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (prefinancing) end 2025 (interim payment)



Final payment	End of 2026
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#### 4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. *Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- international organisations

### 5. **Documentation and expected results**

#### 5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 2002, adopted on 4 April 2024 sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

Regarding the task ‘standardization’ in the original description of the pilot, some aspects of it are planned to be implemented directly by the Agency for the Space Programme in 2024 and 2025, as part of an on-going procurement under the EU Space programme budget for deployment of the EWSS service. Pilot description will take this into account to avoid duplication.

#### 5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged at this stage due to the already existing legal basis for the space services supporting disaster management (Galileo and Copernicus services). However, outcomes of the project will feed internal reflection at the Commission as to the need to issue legislative action in the following domains:

support market uptake of EWSS in certain mass-market sectors;

expand the scope of the DG ECHO’s systems and tools used in disaster management, e.g. via the UCPM regulation or the ERCC mandate.

# 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

## PP 04 24 02: Pilot project — Innovative deployable antennas

### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 450 000	362 500	p.m.	350 000	-100,0 %	-3,4 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 450 000	362 500	p.m.	350 000	-100,0 %	-3,4 %

### 3. Objectives

Deployable antennas are a key element of satellites enabling them to receive and transmit data. They are relevant for all types of space applications such as navigation, Earth observation, science and defence. Technology deployed on space antennas may find applications also in the civil, terrestrial market. A number of challenges and considerations affect current deployable antennas for space applications:

- the Union’s dependency on third countries for specific materials and technologies relevant for antennas, especially large deployable antennas with a diameter at or above five meters. That is particularly critical as this technology is also affected by third country export restrictions that are limiting the unrestricted access of Union space industry and therefore that industry’s ability to support Union sovereignty;
- the need for the space sector to rely on space qualified technology with high level of quality, reliability, robustness, suitability to space harsh environment demonstrated by in orbit space demonstration and validation. This approach has an important impact on the final technology cost and time to market.

Therefore, the objective of this pilot project is to focus research and development on the following:

- the development of novel techniques and manufacturing technologies for deployable antennas. This shall include efforts in the development of low-cost (e.g. re-usable and commercial off-the-shelf) and short manufacturing-time reflector moulds that are also compatible with larger diameters, at or above five metres;
- the replacement of materials needed from outside the Union by developing novel materials and surfaces to ensure equivalent current performance or improved levels in terms of losses, depolarisation, bandwidth, efficiency of reflector antennas. That includes paving the way for high data rate transmission by means of antennas operating in frequency bands higher to Ka-Band up to Q/V-Band as well as developing and testing novel materials for demonstrating quality and performance up to technology readiness level five;
- the identification of methods to retrieve the useful materials or components from end-of-life antennas for reuse in the assembly or manufacturing of new hardware on orbit;
- the definition of concepts for on-orbit assembly of large antennas or re-use of antennas from end-of-life satellites on new assets and the evaluation of trade-offs of various architectures relevant for Earth Observation and Telecom. This shall include the process verification steps related to the assembly process, assuring the necessary level of quality and performance.

### 4. Implementation

#### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant.

#### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - publication of call for proposals;
  - evaluation of the proposals;
  - selection and award of the winning proposal;
  - grant Agreement Preparation.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - proposals submitted on the calls for proposals;
  - additional, requested information with regards to the Grant agreement preparation.
- Meetings to take place:
  - meetings with regards to the Grant agreement preparation.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 - Q2 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q2 - Q3 2024
Closing date of call for proposals	Q2 - Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 - Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (prefinancing)
Final payment	End of 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Not yet applicable, since the winning proposal has not been selected so far.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 2002 adopted on 4 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

Similar activities in the related R&I area of the pilot project topic ('Innovative deployable antennas') exist also in the frame of Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Destination 5 (Space) in the scope of the Space Partnership on Satellite Telecommunication and Earth Observation, and in the context of Critical Space Technologies for EU non-dependence.

However, care is taken to ensure that there is no overlap with ongoing and planned activities.

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to existing roadmap-based approaches for both the Space Partnership and the Critical Space Technologies for EU non-dependence, which address R&I in the area of the pilot project topic (see 5.2). Subsequently, actions will be implemented according to the drafted roadmaps.

# 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

## PP 04 24 03: Pilot project — Mobile Responsive Launch Systems

### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 950 000	487 500	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	2,6 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 950 000	487 500	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	2,6 %

### 3. Objectives

In order to provide a guaranteed and on-demand access to space for European usage, Union solutions that can provide responsive access to space<sup>4</sup> are required. In a globally competitive market, in order to preserve and reinforce an autonomous Union access to space, it is crucial that both institutional and commercial European stakeholders join forces to rely on Union launch service solutions.

The implementation of a Union responsive launch capability and its impact on the market for access to space must be analysed. To that end, this project proposes a series of studies to identify the need for Union responsive space systems, including for security and defence purposes.

### 4. Implementation

#### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a procurement procedure.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o identification of relevant Framework contract;
  - o drafting and publication of call for tenders for several studies on;
  - o evaluation of received offers;
  - o award of contract(s) 3rd to 4th quarter 2024 (tbc).
- Meetings to take place: Study kick-off 4th quarter 2024 (tbc).
- Deliverables to be submitted: study / studies on
  - o definition of responsive launch service and mapping of European governmental and commercial needs, in particular from ministries of defence;
  - o mapping of technologies, capacities and concepts for responsive launch service, and identification of gaps in Europe;
  - o foresight on future space defence initiatives and potential future EU programme / component.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 - Q2 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024

<sup>4</sup> See EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence, JOIN(2023)9, chapter 2.4

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 - Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (prefinancing)
Final payment	Mid-2025

*4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

*4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

**5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 2002, adopted on 4 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

The result of the action will allow to assess the situation and identify necessary follow up actions.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PP 04 24 04: Pilot project — New Vision for resilient and autonomous access to space in Europe

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 800 000	450 000	p.m.	450 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 800 000	450 000	p.m.	450 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

Access to space is a key enabler and indispensable element in the space ecosystem, without which there is no space policy. As recalled in the 2023 European Union Space Strategy for Security and Defence<sup>5</sup>, it is essential to ensure the deployment and resilience of the Union’s sovereign space infrastructure, including for the launch of future satellites and constellations and for the replenishment, replacement and upgrade of space components.

The Union is currently lacking autonomous launch capacity to implement the Union Space Programme and other initiatives. To address this challenge, this project proposes a series of studies in support of the implementation of a Union vision for a resilient and autonomous Union access to space.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a procurement procedure.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o identification of relevant Framework contract;
  - o drafting and publication of call for tenders for several studies on;
  - o evaluation of received offers;
  - o award of contract(s) 3rd to 4th quarter 2024 (tbc).
- Meetings to take place: study kick-off 4th quarter 2024 (tbc).
- Deliverables to be submitted: study/studies on
  - o Cost-Benefit Analysis of dedicated access to space component in the EU Space Programme, focusing, at least, on:
    - aggregation of European institutional demand
    - game-changing innovations
    - critical infrastructure;
  - o methodology and implementation roadmap of dedicated access to space component in the EU Space Programme;
  - o support activities when necessary.

<sup>5</sup> EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence, JOIN(2023)9final

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 - Q2 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 - Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024
Final payment	mid-2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 2002, adopted on 4 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

The result of the action will allow to assess the situation and identify necessary follow up legislative actions.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 05 21 01: Pilot project — Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	837 633,92	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-70,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	837 633,92	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-70,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This pilot project aims at helping border regions better face future crises, by promoting a new model of elaborating cross-border public policies, based on co-development and improved multilevel governance.

It combines a short-term and a mid-term approach to provide practitioners and decision-makers with concrete tools and practical methodology easily translatable in reality and applicable to all European borders.

The overall objective is to improve the life of citizens in border regions by supporting more integrated and functional cross-border areas.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of:

- service contracts under public procurement;
- a direct grant;
- an agreement under indirect management with OECD as implementing entity;
- simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-lists<sup>6</sup> ;
- a service level agreement with the Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Methods of implementation were revised in 2023: procurement was replaced by a direct grant (with the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)), and by a Service Level Agreement with the JRC, as approved in the Amendment to the 2022 Commission decision on the financing of the pilot project “Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)” on 8 September 2023.

Ongoing and upcoming activities are implemented under the following action areas:

- reporting on the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in border regions;
- platform mapping out cross-border public services, obstacles and solutions to cross-border cooperation;
- action plan to ease and to systematise solidarity and crisis management across neighbouring regions;
- improving cross border emergency and spatial planning using the process of co-development and multi-level governance in order to strengthen their resilience for future crises.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:

The OECD performed work on multi-level governance and the co-development of strategic regional development, through the following activities:

- o on-the-spot visit of the five identified pilot cross-border regions (two visits);

<sup>6</sup> Call for expression of interest - Official Journal, 2022/S 065-167519 -01/04/2022 ([https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/whats-new/tenders-and-grants/calls-for-expressions-of-interest\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/tenders-and-grants/calls-for-expressions-of-interest_en))



- o peer-to-peer meeting for the pilot regions to exchange their experience;
- o the OECD has started its analysis with the view to present it in the final conference on 18 - 19 June 2024.

A contract was signed with an expert in November 2023 to produce the study on the "Measurement and analysis of the economic impacts of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19".

Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium, contracted to deliver the study on "Strengthening the resilience of EU border regions: Mapping risks & crisis management tools and identifying gaps" started the foreseen analysis and mapping tasks.

DG REGIO and the JRC agreed on the content and signed an administrative agreement in December 2023, with the objective of supporting DG REGIO to select and deploy relevant data and information on cross-border interactions to better inform decision-making. Concretely, this will be achieved by creating indicators and making them publicly accessible in a new section of the Urban Data Platform (UDP) dedicated to cross-border data, targeting an audience of stakeholders involved and interested in cross-border cooperation, at regional, national and European levels.

DG REGIO, AEBR and la MOT agreed and signed a grant agreement in December 2023 entitled "Resilience and crisis management in cross-border regions", with the objective to identify best practices and support innovative approaches to spatial planning and crisis management, the specific objective is to contribute to developing methodologies for cross-border spatial planning and integrated regional emergency response plans for crisis management, to avoid future unexpected disruptions in the daily life of cross-border citizens.

- Deliverables submitted:
  - o inception report (December 2023), and interim report (15 March 2024) for the study on measurement and analysis of the economic impacts of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19;
  - o interim report (June 2023); and draft inventory of risks and tools, a set of good practices and draft recommendations for review by the Commission (November 2023, then finalised and validated in 2024), for the study on strengthening the resilience of EU border regions: Mapping risks & crisis management tools and identifying gaps.
- Meetings held:
  - o As regards the work of the OECD:
    - on-the-spot visit of the 5 identified pilot cross-border regions (2 visits);
    - peer-to-peer meeting for the pilot regions to exchange their experience.
  - o Meetings and exchanges with the JRC, and with AEBR to agree on the terms of the agreements.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o organisation of events planned under the agreement with OECD (second peer-to-peer meeting on 19 April, final conference on 18-19 June 2024, international dialogue);
  - o further analysis on the valuation of the economic consequences of Covid in border regions, and on strengthening the resilience of EU border regions;
  - o first stages of implementation by the JRC of the selection and deployment of the relevant data in the Urban Data Platform (UDP): feasibility assessment of data, deployment of the content of the dedicated section on the platform;
  - o organisation by AEBR of call for proposals to border regions to build emergency plans and joint spatial planning procedures, from the launch of the call, until selection and validation of the 20 cross border pilot regions, and start of the implementation of the pilot actions (April - December 2024).
- Deliverables to be submitted:

- o final reports of the ongoing studies;
  - o as regards the JRC work: feasibility assessment of data and information layers of relevance for dissemination in the platform (May 2024); first version of the custom section for cross border regions on the platform, including some test indicators (July 2024), public version of the customs section for cross borders on the platform, including the first agreed set of indicators (December 2024);
  - o as regards the work of AEBR under the “Resilience and crisis management in cross-border regions” grant agreement: documents related to the management of the call for proposals (guidelines for applicants and all other relevant annexes, document proposing the selection of the pilot regions, from March to December 2024).
- Meetings to take place:
    - o meetings with contractors, pilot regions, JRC and AEBR to ensure follow up of implementation of the foreseen activities.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	September 2021
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	Q3 2022
Award decision	Q3 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2022
Final payment	Q4 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2022
Signature of Administrative agreement with JRC/pre-financing	Q4 2023 / Q1 2024
Signature of grant agreement with AEBR/MOT/pre-financing	Q4 2023 / Q1 2024
Interim and final payments of ongoing studies (procurement)	Q2 2024
Grant agreement: Call for proposals, selection of the pilot cases, sub-contracts and start of the implementation/ Interim payment	Q3 - Q4 2024
Successful development of customised section on cross-border interactions on JRC Platform/Final payment	Q4 2024 / Q1 2025
Grant agreement: successful implementation of 20 pilot actions/Final payment	Q4 2025 / Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Contract 2021CE160AT109 - Analysis of the impact of border-related measures taken by Member States in	Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (Mr Jean Peyrony)	43 250

the fight against Covid-19: update and follow-up		
Contract 2021CE160AT161 - Analysis of the economic impacts of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19	Politecnico di Milano Department ABC (expert Roberta Capello)	60 000
Contract 2021CE160AT163- Report of existing building blocks and gaps in crisis management and resilience in EU internal cross-border regions.	GreenEdge Consulting (expert Venelina Varbova)	22 500
Contract 2021CE160AT171 Strengthening the resilience of EU border regions: Mapping risks & crisis management tools and identifying gaps	Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium	414 175
Agreement 2021CE160AT207 Building More Resilient Cross-Border Regions	OECD	1 020 000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 560 025</b>

– 2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Contract 2022CE160AT259 Pilot on Cross-Border governance Kick off event on 25/01/2023	WMH	29 049
2022CE160AT304 - CROSS-BORDER GOVERNANCE - PEER TO PEER MEETING	WMH INSTITUTIONNEL	29 791,60
2022CE160AT311 - MEASUREMENT AND ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BORDER-RELATED MEASURES TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19	POLITECNICO DI MILANO	49 700
2022CE160AT314 AA REGIO-JRC - DATA AND ANALYSES FOR CROSS-BORDER REGIONS (ACROSS)	JRC CCR JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE	500 000
2022CE160AT315 - CROSS-BORDER GOVERNANCE FINAL CONFERENCE	WMH INSTITUTIONNEL	171 325,75
2022CE160AT316 PILOT PROJECT "CROSS-BORDER CRISIS RESPONSE INTEGRATED INITIATIVE (CB-CRII)"	ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN BORDER REGIONS	1 000 000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 779 836,35</b>

4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- international organisations

## 5. Documentation and expected results

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decisions C(2021) 6709, adopted on 20 September 2021, C(2022) 4916 adopted on 18 July 2022, and C(2023) 6001 adopted on 8 September 2023 set out the main elements of the implementation.

They are available at the following address: [Regional Policy Financing Decisions](#).

The Call is available under the following address: [Call for expression of interest to participate in a pilot action on multi-level governance and co-developed cross-border strategies](#).

Available publications:

[Analysis of the impact of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19](#)

[Analysis of the economic impacts of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID-19](#)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no immediate follow up with legislative proposals is envisaged at this stage, since the actual implementation started at the end of 2021 and will last till 2024.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 05 22 01: Pilot project — Transatlantic cooperation scheme delivering the Green Deal locally

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	394 856,12	p.m.	325 000	p.m.	236 914	0,0 %	-27,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	394 856,12	p.m.	325 000	p.m.	236 914	0,0 %	-27,1 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project will encourage the green and blue recovery in the Atlantic by creating a precursor of a cooperation scheme at transatlantic level to foster exchanges of best practices and joint projects on the green recovery of maritime sectors important to Atlantic coastal regions, including outermost regions and non-EU regions. Atlantic States and regions are deeply affected by the COVID-19 crisis and face a further economic crisis as a result of Brexit. The Atlantic area is also affected by a global issue which is the climate change. A stronger transatlantic cooperation would strengthen innovation and regional cohesion for a sustainable development of the area.

Sub-objectives:

- create a dialogue at transatlantic level on the green recovery of maritime sectors important to Atlantic coastal regions;
- encourage the internationalisation of SMEs of the Atlantic area and Upskilling and reskilling stakeholders;
- improve regional policy making (decentralised cooperations).

Scope:

- the Atlantic area including outermost regions and non-EU regions;
- a strong focus will be put on Green Maritime infrastructure and Climate adaptation.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation grants and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation [by the specific grant(s) directly awarded under (a) framework partnership(s)].

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable. The grant agreement was signed and pre-financing paid end 2023 and actual project implementation started on 18 January in 2024.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- three trans-sectorial and transatlantic workshops online with the aim to generate knowledge, exchange practices on how to enhance the sustainable development of the sector across the Atlantic. It will foster cross-fertilisation of existing projects, will enhance a dialogue between the four pillars of the Atlantic Strategy and will reflect on transversal topics such as SMEs' development and youth entrepreneurs.
- three capacity building trainings for regional authorities, SMEs, Clusters and Universities;
- two study visits and three capacity-building trainings directed towards regional administrations, wishing to develop their skills and strengthen their cooperation at a transatlantic level. The capacity-building

exercise will derive from the challenges identified in the workshops and will be a privileged tool for administration to enhance their transatlantic cooperation;

- the development of a database of contacts at a transatlantic level to foster dialogue and best practice exchanges;
- key capitalisation activities such as the development of a catalogue of best practices compiling innovations identified in the workshops and study visits, the development of a roadmap on the transatlantic cooperation to foster sustainable development of Atlantic coastal territories, and other actions helping the transfer of best practices outside the consortium and enabling cross-fertilisation and capitalisation with current projects;
- establishing an Atlantic Advisory Board.

Type of actions to be taken

- organisation of workshops and on-field visit e.g. to Quebec;
- contacts with Institutions, SMEs, policy makers at transatlantic level;
- development of documents including concept notes for workshop catalogues, roadmap;
- setting up an Advisory Board.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	13 December 2022
Adoption of amendment	24 July 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A – direct grant
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A – direct grant
Award decision	N/A – direct grant
Prefinancing or interim payments	Prefinancing paid on 22 December 2023 Interim payment – Request to be received in Q4 2024
Final payment	24 months following the prefinancing (last payments Q4 2025)

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION SCHEME DELIVERING THE GREEN DEAL LOCALLY	CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D EUROPE	789 712,24

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Regional authorities
- Clusters, SMEs
- Universities and research centres

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 9168, adopted on 13 December 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Regional Policy Financing Decisions](#).

A grant agreement was signed on 18 December 2023.

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no immediate follow up with legislative proposals is envisaged at this stage. As the implementation of the pilot project will start in 2024, the outcome and possible follow-up with a legislative proposal will be determined at the completion of the implementation.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 05 23 01: Pilot project — An innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe - restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	2 625 000	p.m.	700 000	0,0 %	-73,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	2 625 000	p.m.	700 000	0,0 %	-73,3 %

## 3. Objectives

Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. The general objective of this pilot project is to organize and develop technologically and conceptually innovative solutions leading to the restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź. Lodz is located in the centre of a region (Lodzkie Voivodship) that has been identified by the national authorities as one of the most vulnerable areas at risk of desertification in Poland. The solutions developed as part of the Lamus project will be element of an innovative system to mitigate climate changes and the preservation of urban biodiversity.

The general objective of this project is to recover the Lamus River by:

- removing it from the sewage system;
- exposing it in space;
- using rainwater and snowmelt from nearby properties and roofs to supply the Lamus River;
- revitalisation of the urban space for a green ecosystem characterized by a high level of biodiversity.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of direct grant to the City of Łódź, as the local authority designated to the projects and actions for local and urban development.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The implementation of this pilot project started with a significant delay because of complications during the preparation of the respective grant agreement. In the light of these delays, the Commission decided to create a global commitment for the appropriations of this pilot project (for EUR 3 500 0000) and sign the grant agreement in 2024.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Announcement of recruitment for beneficiaries implementing the project / preparation of the technical concept and detailed design / implementation of the planned parts in accordance with the budget for that year. City of Łódź selected Park-M as a contractor.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Ready to implement investment project, signed agreement with all stakeholders, commencement of investment works.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

Not yet defined.



– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	13 October 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A – Direct grant
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A – Direct grant
Award decision	N/A – Direct grant
Prefinancing or interim payments	Mid-2024
Final payment	Mid-2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Public service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 6777 was adopted on 13 October 2023. This document sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Regional Policy Financing Decisions](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of implementation of this pilot project.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 19 06: Pilot project — Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2019 and 2020 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	98 000	p.m.	294 000	0,0 %	200,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	98 000	p.m.	294 000	0,0 %	200,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This action is intended to complement and scale up the work aimed at development of a comprehensive object-level database of relevant archival material of Jewish-owned cultural assets plundered by the Nazis, currently run by the Commission for Art Recovery (CAR) and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany (Claims Conference).

In particular, the action will (i) widen the thematic scope, (ii) extend the database to additional collections, (iii) use more advanced applied technology like image recognition as well as (iv) foster partnership networks.

The project will provide assistance to victims, museums, and the art market through a database which could ultimately lead to an EU-wide overview of looted artworks, facilitate research and help to protect Europe's cultural heritage.

The pilot project is designed to meet the following specific objectives:

- to deepen the methodological framework developed in the first phase of the project, to map, explore and digitise relevant archival material, retrieve information from documents, create connections between related documents;
- to test the approach by digitising other collections, building on the experiences of the Schloss collection;
- to publicise good practice and case studies for tracking looted pieces of cultural heritage, notably in a form of a book and travelling exhibition;
- to foster partnerships and networks of relevant actors in Member States, including archives, museums, governmental and cultural heritage organisations;
- to make the data accessible to broader audiences via a dedicated web portal;
- to deepen the educational and awareness raising approaches in relation to historical memory of Jewish art spoiled during World War II.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The website [JDCRP Pilot Project | Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project](#). There are multiple entry points through which to explore the pilot website:

- Schloss Collection includes a few tabs:
  - o timeline of events in the life of the collection, including the events leading to its confiscation, the confiscation itself, and the subsequent movement of its paintings. The inventory numbers of the paintings are taken from the German post-confiscation inventory;
  - o artworks comprising the Schloss Collection;

- o inventories of the collection after its confiscation;
- o relationships pertaining to the collection with events, people, organizations, locations and artworks;
- o essays on the collection;
- o artworks include those comprising the Adolphe Schloss Collection as well as those that Schloss himself sold. The artwork landing page is comprised of two parts. The top part details the basic cataloguing of the artwork (Title, Artist, Medium, Dimensions, and Signature); the French and German inventories number of the painting (an “L” was added to the German inventory number of the collection paintings pre-empted by the Louvre), Linz number and crate number (when applicable), restitution status and current holder;
- o the primary titles of the paintings from the Schloss Collection are in French, in line with the first post-confiscation inventory, followed by a title in German from the German inventory and a title in English. The titles of the paintings that left the collection during Schloss' lifetime are presented in the language of the original resources;
- o a series of archival black and white photographs of the paintings, recto and verso (when it adds information) are displayed together with Munich Central Collecting Point cards (when applicable). In a few cases, museums that are current holders of paintings from the collection have generously agreed to allow the project to display their colour photographs of the paintings;
- o “People” and “Organizations” examines the art dealers, galleries, perpetrators, Nazi agencies and other entities involved in the movement of paintings over time;
- o “Events” provides an exploration of the myriad events that together tell the story of the fate of the Adolphe Schloss Collection;
- o documents from archives in France, Germany and the U.S. are displayed and linked to events, people, organizations and locations. In some cases the documents are presented along with a transcription and translation;
- o each page on the website includes a search field that can be filtered (by art object, artist, person, organization, events and documents, timeframe and location), thereby assisting users who conducting narrow or broader searches.

The launch of second phase of the project was delayed by over a year. The reason was a delay in the official processing of additional matching funds from the Claims Conference – which were only granted in late 2022.

The consortium signed the amendment to the project in December 2022 for a duration of 24 months. The kick-off meeting took place on 6 February 2023.

#### *4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024*

##### 1. Development and Population of Central Database and Website

- continue OCR and correction of transcriptions;
- engage successful candidates for linking-and-matching and front-end application;
- conduct user testing in design sprints;
- integrate two selected datasets into the digital platform;
- finalise research on two collections and integrate them into the platform.

##### 2. Preparation and Implementation of Educational Material and Activities

- conduct educational activities with Prof. Dr. Meike Hopp and Prof. Dr. Felix Naumann;
- develop and publish educational materials;
- document learning processes and make them available;
- discuss interaction between student groups.

##### 3. Development of the Network

- continue discussions with potential new members;
- organise a meeting with the official network of partner organisations;
- expand the network by participating in relevant workshops and conferences;

- present project work at events like the day of provenance research.

#### 4. Preparation and Implementation of Communications Material and Dissemination Activities

- seek support from a communications expert;
- update communication materials (flyers, presentations, website);
- increase online activities, such as social media;
- develop and publish a brochure;
- intensify activities towards two exhibitions.

#### 5. Exploration and Development of a Proposal for Extension and Sustainability

- explore potential future steps and enhancements;
- compile findings into a proposal for extending and sustaining the project.

#### 6. Project Coordination

- assess and update project roadmap and structure;
- announce and hire additional project team positions;
- engage further external support as necessary;
- adapt internal project structures as needed;
- ensure close integration of the head of finance and administration with the project team;
- maintain regular reporting on project progress to foundation leadership.

A meeting on 6 March 2024 focused on the interim report and a discussion on the implementation of the above tasks.

An extension of the timeline beyond December 2024, without an increase in costs for the overall project, is under discussion.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2019
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2019
Award decision	December 2019
First prefinancing payment	January 2020
Second prefinancing payment	July 2020 / February 2021
Final payment	July 2021

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	April 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2021
Award decision	November 2021
Suspension of the project	November 2021 – December 2022
Signature of the amendment (launch of the project)	December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	March 2024
Final payment	February – March 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project	Commission for Art Recovery	490 000

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project	Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Stiftung	490 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Foundation with legal capacity pursuant to the German civil code.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2019) 1819, adopted on 12 March 2019, sets out the main elements of the implementation of the pilot project for 2019. It is available at the following address: [2019-annual-work-programme.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

The Commission Financing Decision C(2020)1194, adopted on 4 March 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [2020 Annual Work Programme for the implementation of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the area of education, youth, sport and culture C \(2020\) 1194 of 4 March 2020 \(europa.eu\)](#)

The preliminary project website is available at the following address: <http://jdcrp.org/>

The project website is available at this address: [JDCRP Pilot Project | Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project](#)

Call documents are available at the following address: [eac-s19-2020 Call Guidelines.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

Similar projects are covered by the [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme](#) (CERV). There also other actions addressing [Remembrance, research and education about the Holocaust \(Shoah\)](#). More generally, Horizon Europe's cluster 2 funds research projects [encompassing digitization and provenance research](#), while there is no specific focus on nazi looted art, this is not completely excluded

5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged since the project is still far from being concluded. An evaluation of the project's final results is needed before considering further follow up. Additionally, similar projects could be covered by the legal basis mentioned above (see question 5.2). Important to note that an extension request was received on May 22, 2024, to extend the project until May 31, 2025 at no additional costs. This is currently under consideration.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 21 07: Pilot project — BIG (Basic Income Guarantee) E-pay cards for marginalised people: innovative financial and policy instrument to promote the more effective delivery of welfare benefits for people in extreme poverty

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	818 271,30	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	818 271,30	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	

## 3. Objectives

This pilot project aims at:

- improving the effectiveness of social policies by refocussing them on smart activation;
- reducing the administrative costs associated with the current delivery system of welfare benefits and increase public spending efficiency in the long run.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of indirect management (50 % of 2021 budget for first year of implementation) and procurement under the 2021 (the other 50 % of the budget) and 2022 budget.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - establishment of the working relationship with relevant national and regional authorities in SK, RO and BG;
  - finalisation of the set of livelihood questions for the Poverty Stoplight surveys;
  - selection of the beneficiaries in Romania and Bulgaria;
  - development of a training approach and methodology by country.
- Meetings held: establishment of local task forces in the three countries- five to 15 stakeholders in each task force (municipalities, social departments, labor offices, CSOs and community centers, etc.), several meetings held.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - selection of beneficiaries in Slovakia;
  - personal development plans (Life Maps) will be developed for the beneficiaries following the assessment (from February 2024 in Bulgaria, from March 2024 in Romania);
  - mentoring, coaching, training of beneficiaries.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Methodology handbook - Poverty Stoplight Methodology (PSM) implementation guide and Facilitator's Manual.
- Meetings to take place: local and national task forces meetings (no dates yet).

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations for the Administrative Arrangement with the World Bank (1st phase)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	31 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	14 February 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	22 April 2022
Final payment	Q3 2024

– 2021 commitment appropriations for the open call for tenders (1st phase)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	13 December 2021
Publication of call for tenders	12 July 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	15 September 2022
Award decision	2 December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	15 September 2023 / Q3 2024
Final payment	Q1 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations for the open call for tenders (2nd phase)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 April 2022
Publication of call for tenders	27 July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	15 September 2022
Award decision	2 December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	15 September 2023 / Q3 2024
Final payment	Q1 2025

*Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been merged into a single call. That explains why the dates are identical.*

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
BIG – Implementation of Basic Income Guarantee for marginalised households (VC/2022/0054)	Acra Consortium	1 000 000
BIG - Pilot Project about innovative financial and policy instruments enhancing the delivery of welfare benefits for people in extreme poverty (VS/2022/0038)	World Bank	1 000 000

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
BIG – Implementation of Basic Income Guarantee for marginalised households	Acra Consortium	1 727 571

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- non-governmental organisation (ACRA)
- international organisation (World Bank)

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

For 2021 appropriations, the Commission Financing Decision C(2021)3754, adopted on 31 May 2021 and amended on 13 December 2021 (C(2021)8936), sets out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following addresses: [Publications and documents - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

For 2022 appropriations, the Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1939, adopted on 4 April 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Publications and documents - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

The brochure is available at the following address: [Implementation of Basic Income Guarantee for marginalized households - B/I/G/ Pilot Project \(acra.it\)](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no legislative follow up is envisaged as policy guidance (Semester) would be a more adequate instrument in the area of social protection.



## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 21 08: Pilot project — Media representation and inclusion for refugees and migrants

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	494 077,18	p.m.	98 100	p.m.	196 051	0,0 %	99,8 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	494 077,18	p.m.	98 100	p.m.	196 051	0,0 %	99,8 %

## 3. Objectives

Media (re)presentation and visibility of vulnerable groups like migrants and refugees remains very marginal in the mainstream media across Europe. It is therefore important to improve the visibility of these vulnerable groups in the media by supporting them to use their skills and knowledge to contribute themselves to shape their portrayal in the media. The ambition is to give a voice to these groups and support them in their media coverage, helping to offer new positive narratives on migration.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements these pilot projects by means of grants via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Implementation of the pilot project 'Re:framing Migrants in the European Media'.

- Activities carried out: a collaborative event in June 2022 in Madrid, participation in the 'International Migrants Day' in December 2022, setting up of a collaborative platform and preparation of media professionals / refugees tandem for learning and creation of new narratives.
- Deliverables submitted: a 'Narrative report', a 'Report and visualisation of media representation dynamics' and a contractual Final report.

A new call for proposals was closed 15 March 2023. The follow-up project, named "Migravoice", started on 1 January 2024 with a duration of 18 months.

The new project is tasked to continue the ongoing activities with a focus on social media and the use of technologies such as AI.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Community to be mobilised and setting up of a database;
  - Media diversity training for consortium members and media outlets;
  - Migrant Journalist;
  - Bootcamp;
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - Interim and Final Narrative reports will be delivered.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	10 June 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	10 August 2021
Award decision	29 October 2021
Pre-financing payment	February 2022
Final payment	December 2023

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	9 January 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	15 March 2023
Award decision	28 July 2023
Prefinancing payment	December 2023
interim payment	Q1 2025
Final payment	Q4 2025 / Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Re:framing Migrants in the European Media	European Cultural Foundation	500 000

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Migravoice - Migrant Voices Matter in the European Media	FUNDACION MALDITA.ES CONTRA	490 12864

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- profit-making and non-profit organisation (private or public)
- public authorities (national, regional, local)
- universities and educational institutions
- foundations and European organisations
- media companies
- research/technology and art centres

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021)3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of this pilot project voted under the 2021 budget. It is available [here](#).

Call documents can be found at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/media-representation-and-inclusion-refugees-and-migrants>

The project website is available at the following address: <https://reframingmigrants.eu/>

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of this pilot project voted under the 2022 budget. It is available [here](#).

Call documents can be found at the following address: [Media representation and inclusion for refugees and migrants | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged. Supporting a better media representation of migrants is planned as a potential use case in ongoing Horizon Europe F&I call for proposals.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 22 01: Pilot project — Establishing a European Heritage Hub to support a holistic and cost-effective follow-up of the European Year of Cultural Heritage

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 000 000,00	1 569 460,00	p.m.	1 579 456	p.m.	774 385	0,0 %	-51,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 000 000,00	1 569 460,00	p.m.	1 579 456	p.m.	774 385	0,0 %	-51,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The main objective of the Hub is to pool voices, forces and resources – both public and private – for the benefit of a holistic and integrated approach to cultural heritage policies at all levels, notably at the EU level, and to ensure that all relevant EU and national policies and priorities duly incorporate a cultural heritage dimension.

The additional appropriations of 2023 are meant to be used to continue and enlarge the scope of the European Heritage Hub. The additional amount will help increase the pilot's scope by including more stakeholders in the Hub and enlarge the geographical coverage. Special focus should be given to Ukraine and Moldova, the countries in the Caucasus and the Western Balkans.

The Hub will build on and pool the community of professionals and stakeholders in the field and bring together resources and data space for cultural heritage, including Europeana with its 15-years work of over 4000 museums, libraries and archives across Europe or the upcoming Competence Centre for the conservation of cultural heritage (which is also leading an initiative called SUM, Save the Ukraine Monuments).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The action covers a single grant as well as expert's expenditure covering the evaluation of the submitted grant proposals and a final evaluation of the selected project.

This action is implemented by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), according to the establishment and delegation act entrusting the EACEA with certain tasks related to the management of the pilot projects and preparatory actions in the field of education, youth, culture and sport, and in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 4(4) of the Commission Decision C(2021)951 delegating powers to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency with a view to the performance of tasks linked to the implementation of Union programmes in the field of education, audiovisual and culture, citizenship and solidarity, comprising, in particular, implementation of appropriations entered in the general budget of the Union.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

2022 was devoted to the selection of the proposal to be funded. The activities of the Hub started in May 2023. A key activity in 2023 was the [European Heritage Hub Forum](#) underscoring how cultural heritage can make a difference for a more effective climate policy. The project already established [European Heritage Hub Communities](#): a Community of Practice, for all stakeholders who are already participating or working in the field of heritage, and a Community of Interest, for stakeholders not involved yet but have an interest to follow the activities of the hub. The project also established two regional hubs: one in [Krakow](#) for Central and Eastern Europe and one in [Athens](#) for Southeastern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024.

Activities in 2024 and 2025 will include knowledge sharing, networking, training and capacity building, policy and advocacy, a programme development lab and extending the project's impact in EU neighbouring countries.

Activities in 2024 include working on the digital transformation, the launching of a [Small-Grants Scheme](#) for heritage-related projects led by Civil Society in EU neighbouring countries. The project will also start the process to establish hubs in Venice and Nicosia. A Policy Monitor will be also implemented in 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2022
Award decision	December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	May 2023 and July 2024
Final payment	July 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2023 and July 2024
Final payment	July 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2023 commitment appropriations

No concrete information available at the current stage.

The details will become available only upon receipt of the prefinancing report (scheduled for May / June 2024).

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Public or private organisation with legal personality based within the European Union.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 1848, adopted on 30 March 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation for 2022. It is available at the following address: [2022-annual-work-programme](#).

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1704, adopted on 20 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation for 2023. It is available at the following address: [2023-annual-work-programme](#).

The Call for Proposals as well as the Call documents are available in the [Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#) of the European Commission.

The pilot project builds on the 2018 [European Year of Cultural Heritage](#) and the ensuing [European framework for action on cultural heritage](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

This pilot project is a follow-up of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. The Year was an outstanding celebration of Europe's heritage with a reach of over 12 million people. Building on the momentum of the European Year and sustaining its legacy, the setting up of a 'European Heritage Hub', as an autonomous advocacy and knowledge platform would bring together all heritage stakeholders onto one platform. A Heritage Hub would strengthen the engagement of citizens (especially younger generations) with Europe's cultural heritage during and following the European Year of Youth 2022. No similar activities exist which are covered by a legal basis.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no legislative proposal is foreseen to this project, which will create a platform to pool voices, forces and resources.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 22 02: Pilot project — European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
	0,00	417 221,00	p.m.	495 250	p.m.	208 611	0,0 %	-57,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	417 221,00	p.m.	495 250	p.m.	208 611	0,0 %	-57,9 %

## 3. Objectives

The “European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy” aims at reinforcing dialogue, cooperation and partnership in the EU, among journalists, media outlets including public service media, civil society organisations and media literacy professionals, focusing on the crucial questions of our time. With a special attention on youth, including journalists’ students, people and social media: how to tackle disinformation in the age of post-truth.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

- Activities carried out: grant agreement was signed with start date 01 October 2023 for a duration of 18 months.
- Deliverables submitted: interim report expected by end May 2024.
- Meetings held: the first edition of the Voices Festival took place from 14 to 16 March 2024.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- production and dissemination of festival reports and recommendations and systematisation of existing knowledge;
- management of a Discussion Platform to drive and maintain dialogue with stakeholders during and after the project;
- preparation of the second edition of the Festival to be held in the first quarter of 2025;
- production of online learning materials;
- interim report expected by end May 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	19 December 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	28 February 2023
Award decision	May 2023
Pre-financing	October 2023
Interim payment	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q2 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
aideMedia	European University Institute – EUI	834 442

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- foundations
- international organisations

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, C(2022)1052 final, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy | Shaping Europe’s digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, as the “European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy” is considered to be a tool for reinforcing the dialogue and cooperation amongst EU media on the crucial questions of our time, there is no intention for a legislative proposal at that stage. The proposed pilot project is aimed at contributing to the political objectives set out and pursued by the European Democracy Action Plan, which is based on the assumption that informed and empowered citizens are the best guarantee for the resilience of the European democracy.



## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 22 03: Pilot project — European Homelessness Count

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 909 863,00	0,00	p.m.	800 000	p.m.	2 100 000	0,0 %	162,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 909 863,00	0,00	p.m.	800 000	p.m.	2 100 000	0,0 %	162,5 %

## 3. Objectives

The aim of this action is to stimulate a regular data collection on homelessness at the local level. It is a continuation of the pilot project `European Homelessness Count` (to be implemented in 2023 - 2024) which focuses on:

- identifying a common operational definition of homelessness and a common data collection methodology;
- testing it in a limited number of cities in different Member States.

In this second stage, the action will focus specifically on:

- refining the common counting methodology defined in the first stage;
- coordinating and implementing a round of a common European Homelessness Count simultaneously in a larger number of cities and Member States.

The results will show the extent of homelessness, and its different dimensions and profiles.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of procurement (open call for tenders covering 2022 and 2023 budgets).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

As the contract has entered into force on 4 December 2023, no activity has been carried out in 2023.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: engagement with cities and relevant partners, definition of a common counting methodology, coordination and implementation of the harmonised pan-European data collection, compilation, and analysis of data.
- Deliverables to be submitted: inception report, interim report with draft methodological handbook, final report with project handbook.
- Meetings to take place: kick-off meeting held in January 2024. Interim meeting and final meeting will be scheduled.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 April 2022
Publication of call for tenders	21 March 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	22 May 2023

Step	Date
Award decision	19 October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

\* The pilot project is particularly complex and innovative, requiring cities and researchers to implement a common methodology in a domain that is sensitive. For these reasons, a careful drafting of the call and analysis of the offer was needed.

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 March 2023
Publication of call for tenders	21 March 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	22 May 2023
Award decision	19 October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 and 2023 commitment appropriations (Joined call for tenders under 2022 and 2023 budgets)

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Homelessness Count	University of Leuven	2 900 363

4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- research institutes / academia

## 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1939, adopted on 4 April 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023)1351, adopted on 3 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eTendering/Data/)

5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no legislative follow up is envisaged. One of the objectives of this pilot project is to promote capacity building at local level to ensure continuation of the action (homelessness count) by the cities involved beyond the lifetime of the project itself.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 22 04: Pilot project — Sport for People and Planet - a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 500 000,00	882 142,90	p.m.	994 000	p.m.	400 000	0,0 %	-59,8 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 500 000,00	882 142,90	p.m.	994 000	p.m.	400 000	0,0 %	-59,8 %

## 3. Objectives

The project should focus on examples of inspirational behaviour and practices at grassroots level that can be multiplied and on methods to engage citizens and sport stakeholders in communities to co-create and cooperate on sustainable sport practices.

The objectives of the proposed project are to:

- raise awareness, inspire behaviour, and lead the thinking in European society on how sport can enable and accelerate social and environmental transformation;
- engage EU citizens to actively participate in sustainable measures using the communicative power of sport, its major events and leading role models.

Actions supported under this project would contribute to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of grants, procurement and contracting experts.

- Grants

The pilot project will be implemented through a call for proposals. The selected projects should be led by organizations active in the sport sector.

- Procurement

The Commission and / or EACEA will support the promotion, dissemination and valorisation of the projects throughout the current preparatory action. This will involve communication activities, mainly web-based, which will be developed through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures.

The Commission and / or EACEA will manage the selection and evaluation process through appropriate IT tools. The development of this IT tool will be financed within the pilot project through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures.

- Experts

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Five projects were selected under the 2022 call for proposals and the grant agreements were signed in 2023. An online kick-off meeting was organised and all projects commenced the implementation of activities.
- Online information sessions were organised in 2022 and 2023 in view of launching the respective calls.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- All five projects selected in 2022 will continue implementing the activities throughout the year.
- The selection of projects under the 2023 call shall be finalised and all grant agreements signed in 2024.

Expected results include:

- collecting and sharing knowledge on new behavioural approaches needed to make the sport sector more environmentally sustainable;
- develop approaches and a toolkit to be used by sport organisations to become influential leaders in environmental transformation;
- investigate new approaches allowing sport to become a model of sustainability especially for the European young generation;
- present and implement socially and environmentally sustainable solutions for sport events.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	August 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2022
Award decision	April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2023
Final payment	2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2023
Award decision	April 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2024
Final payment	2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
GOLL - GREEN OLYMPIC LIVING LAB SPORT & ENVIRONMENT CHANGE	CAMARA MUNICIPAL DE COIMBRA	398 000,00
Snow sport carbon handprint adaptation pilot project within Europe	Protect Our Winters Finland Ry	145 793,00
Water Wardens by Rowing	Fédération Française d'Aviron	271 764.00

(WWbR)		
Community Climate Captains	STICHTING EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT NETWORK	291 040,00
Golf & Biodiversity	Fédération Française de Golf	93 500,00

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
tbc	tbc	tbc

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Organisations active in the field of sport (such as sports federation or club) with legal personality (public or private body), which regularly organises sport activities and competitions and has activities in Europe, a European dimension or European impact.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?* The Commission Financing Decision C (2022)1848, adopted on 30 March 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [awp-C2022-1848-march22\\_en\\_fr\\_de.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

The call documents and results of the 2022 call are available at the following addresses: [Sport for People and Planet – a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

The Commission Financing Decision C (2023)1704, adopted on 20 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/decision-adoption-of-the-2023-annual-work-programme-for-the-implementation-of-pilot-projects-projects-and-preparatory-actions-education-youth-sport-and-culture>

The call documents and results of the 2023 call are available at the following addresses: [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No follow up is envisaged at this stage. It could be one of the actions implemented in the future by the Erasmus+ programme.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 23 01: Pilot project — Citizen facing European TV and Video News Portal for Streaming, Search and Translation of European TV and video news and political documentaries produced or transmitted by accredited public and private media in EU Member States

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
	Commitment	Payment	Commitment	Payment	Commitment	Payment	Commitment	Payment
Line	2 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 250 000	p.m.	1 250 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 250 000	p.m.	1 250 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

A functioning public sphere is essential for every democracy. However, at present a few powerful TV and video news platforms and corporations based outside Europe dominate the digital public sphere in Europe. Beyond this fact, recent challenges for a digital public sphere also include a changing consumer behaviour towards infotainment formats (including aspects of gaming) and the need for augmented presentation of content. The pilot project aims to contribute to a functioning public sphere addressing these challenges, which equips citizens with news and documentaries in modern audience format, necessary to contribute to European democracy, across borders and available in their own Member State.

For this purpose, it will allow citizens to search all content provided by public and private TV stations in Member States and provide translated subtitles in all EU languages of these news and documentaries. The platform will seek to establish a technology alliance and a content alliance among interested actors in Member States for accommodating rich and varied own content productions, including upcoming augmented reality content, from the many stations in the Member States.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

First call launched in July 2023 but no proposals received. Re-launch of call in 2024.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Re-launch of call February 2024 with estimated grant signature in fourth quarter of 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals*	13 July 2023 - 19 February 2024
Closing date of call for call for proposals*	30 September 2023 – 15 May 2024
Award decision	July 2024
Prefinancing payment	Q4 2024
Interim payment	Q4 2025
Final payment	Q2 2026

\* Relaunch of call due to non-receipt proposals first call

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since the contract is only expected to be signed in the fourth quarter of 2024, and since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisations

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents (relaunch) are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/citizen-facing-european-tv-and-video-news-portal-0>

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow-up is envisaged due to the early stage of its implementation.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 23 02: Pilot project — Documenting the best practices from experiences concerning the organisation and reduction of working time in Europe

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	250 000,00	125 000,00	1 500 000	375 000	p.m.	650 000	-100,0 %	73,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	250 000,00	125 000,00	1 500 000	375 000	p.m.	650 000	-100,0 %	73,3 %

## 3. Objectives

The project will gather evidence on individual and firm-level outcomes of working time reduction. Namely, it will collect information on the impact of working time reduction on workers' health and wellbeing, work life balance, wages, working conditions, skills development and job quality, as well as on companies' revenues, costs, productivity, work organisation, turnover, training and recruitment practices and costs, experiences of labour shortages and the evolution of the demographical composition of their workforce. Furthermore, the project will also possibly look at the broader macroeconomic and social implications of working time reduction, such as on gender equality and on the broader societal impact of changes in work-life balance.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

In 2024, the Commission intends to implement this pilot project through a Service-level agreement (SLA) with Eurofound and, potentially, via a Service-level agreement with JRC to analyse the impact of working time reduction through models. Moreover, communication activities will be implemented under the framework contract of DG COMM.

Under 2023 budget, the Commission has signed a Service-level agreement (SLA) with Eurofound.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:

In line with the SLA, in 2023 Eurofound produced the following deliverables:

- o the literature review on the evidence on working time reduction;
- o the mapping of recent government policies on working time reduction;
- o a first video to present the overview of the project.

In the context of monitoring the progress of implementation, the Commission provided written feedback on these deliverables. Furthermore, throughout 2023, several meetings between the Commission and Eurofound took place, both on the ongoing SLA and for the planning of the top-up.

Furthermore, there have been meetings between The Commission, Eurofound and the Members of European Parliament to inform the Members of European Parliament on the progress of the project.

- Deliverables submitted:

- o the literature review;
- o the mapping of recent government policies on working time reduction;
- o a first video presenting that the project has been submitted by Eurofound.



- Meetings held:
  - EMPL has met with Eurofound almost every month during 2023 and the first months of 2024.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Throughout 2024, EMPL foresees meetings with Eurofound (and potentially with the JRC and with the private service provider for communication activities), in the context of the monitoring of the implementation of the services.
  - Eurofound will work on the following deliverables: i) qualitative firm-level case studies to obtain sound evidence on the economic and social impacts of working time reduction policies; ii) quantitative company survey; iii) systematic extended literature review; iv) analysis of European Working Condition Survey data on working time.
  - Eurofound or JRC will implement macroeconomic analysis of the impact of working time reduction on productivity, employment and wages through econometric analysis and modelling.
  - The contractor for communication activities will start working on videos, infographics and will undertake preparatory work for the organisation of events in different Member States to discuss the impacts of working time reduction based on the research findings of the pilot project.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - methodology for the qualitative case studies (questionnaires for interviews and focus groups);
  - methodology for the quantitative company survey;
  - first findings from analysis of EWCS data;
  - a short summary of the preliminary findings of the macroeconomic analysis;
  - work plan on communication activities.
- Meetings to take place:
  - Meetings between EMPL and Eurofound, as well as between EMPL and JRC will take place regularly to monitor the progress of the work.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations (SLA with Eurofound)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	27 July 2023 (Signature of the SLA)
Prefinancing payment	23 October 2023
Final payment	N/A <sup>7</sup>

– 2024 commitment appropriations (Procurement part – communication activities)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	20 February 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2024 (tentative)
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 2024 (tentative)
Award decision	Q2 2024 (tentative)
Prefinancing or interim payments	TBC
Final payment	TBC

<sup>7</sup> The European Commission DG EMPL will sign a new SLA with Eurofound, using the top-up funding and the unused funding of the ongoing SLA (that will be terminated).

– 2024 commitment appropriations (SLA with Eurofound)

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	20 February 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	Signature of the SLA expected in Q2 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2024 (3 months after the signature)
Final payment	Interim payment - 18 months after the signature Final payment - 36 months after the signature

– 2024 commitment appropriations (SLA potentially with JRC)

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	20 February 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	N/A
Award decision	Signature of the SLA expected in Q2 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2024 (3 months after the signature)
Final payment	Interim payment - 18 months after the signature Final payment - 36 months after the signature

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2023 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Documenting the best practices from experiences concerning the organisation and reduction of working time in Europe	Eurofound	250 000

– 2024 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Documenting the best practices from experiences concerning the organisation and reduction of working time in Europe [multiple research deliverables]	Eurofound	1 025 000
Documenting the best practices from experiences concerning the organisation and reduction of working time in Europe [modelling on the effects of working time reduction]	Joint Research Centre (JRC) or Eurofound	250 000
Communication activities related to “Documenting the best practices from experiences concerning the organisation and reduction of working time in Europe” [work on videos,	Not yet known	225 000

infographics, any other types of communication activities and on the organization of workshops in Member States to discuss the topic of working time reduction with a broad range of stakeholders]		
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#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- A decentralised agency of the Commission
- Other internal service of the European Commission (in case of JRC)
- Private company / communication services provider

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023)1351, adopted on 3 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address:

[Publications and documents - Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

The 2024 Commission Financing Decision C(2024)789, adopted on 20 February 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The Service Level Agreement between DG EMPL and Eurofound, signed on 27 July 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged. The Working Time Directive (2003/88/EC) only foresees upper limits on working hours (e.g. on weekly working hours), thus it does not constrain Member State policies related to working time reduction. Working time reductions can also be agreed through collective bargaining. The purpose of this pilot project is to collect data on the effects of working time reductions on workers and companies to evaluate their advantages and disadvantages and make this data and information available to Member States and social partners.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 23 03: Pilot project — Sport Supports' - emergency sport actions for youth

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	2 000 000,00	0,00	2 000 000	1 760 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	-43,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	0,00	2 000 000	1 760 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	-43,2 %

## 3. Objectives

This pilot project focuses on encouraging community integration of children and youth affected by humanitarian crises and mass migration processes in the context of war. By improving their mental well-being by attending sport sessions, these individuals would eventually become ready to adjust to their new environment. Sport activities, with their power of bringing people together, would help interaction with the host community, facilitating easier integration into the education system and the labour market.

To achieve the best results those activities should be organised at the local, grassroots level, mainly through grassroots sports clubs, involving only one country, as it is easier to respond to integration needs by implementing activities at the local level.

The main beneficiaries would be children and young people affected by humanitarian crises and mass migration processes in the context of war.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission and / or EACEA intends to implement this pilot project by means of grants, procurement and contracting experts.

Grants:

The preparatory action will be implemented through a call for proposals. The selected projects should be led by grassroots sport organisations organising sport activities at local level.

Procurement:

The Commission and / or EACEA will support the promotion, dissemination and valorisation of the projects selected under this pilot project to demonstrate the results of projects and serve as inspiration for future action. This will involve communication activities, mainly web-based, related to the publication of leaflets and compendia as well as to the organisation of info days, kick-off meetings, webinars and conferences.

The Commission and / or EACEA will manage the selection and evaluation process through appropriate IT tools. The development of this IT tool will be financed within the pilot project through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

A call for proposals was launched and an online information session took place in 2023, followed by the submission of applications and the first stages of the selection procedure.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Finalisation of the selection process followed by the Award decision and signature of grant agreements. The projects should commence in 2024.

The expected results include:

- promote, in and through sport, the direct engagement of young people affected by the war with meaningful activities at local level, in their host communities;
- facilitate overcoming trauma, adapt to new environments and create bonds with the temporary hosting communities;
- improve physical and mental well-being of those displaced by attending sport sessions;
- collect experiences and good practices for dissemination and further inspiration to take up similar initiatives elsewhere in Europe.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2023
Award decision	April 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2024
Final payment	2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2024
Award decision	November 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	February 2025
Final payment	Expected in 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts.

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Sport, Integration and Mental health through Physically Active Learning	INTERNATIONAL SPORT AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION - ISCA	400 000,00
Start Cycling Together	BYCS Global Foundation	337 213,00
Let's play together.	FUNDACJA V4 SPORT	398 340,00
Building Bridges: Ethno Sports and Community Integration	Lietuvos etnosporto komitetas	105 802,00
Refugees PLAY United	PLAY INTERNATIONAL	261 178,00
Inclusive Trauma Informed Care Adventure Therapy Activities for refugee children and youth in Greece	TERRE DES HOMMES HELLAS, GI TON ANTHROPON ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIRIA	222 487,00
Sports Activities for Mental Enhancement	EUROPEAN CULTURE AND SPORT ORGANIZATION	144 664,00

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Considering that the 2024 call is not published yet, the awarded projects are not known yet.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

be an organisation active in the field of sport (such as sport federation, club, etc.) with legal personality (public or private body);

have a registered legal office in one of the Member States.

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C (2023)1704, adopted on 20 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/decision-adoption-of-the-2023-annual-work-programme-for-the-implementation-of-pilot-projects-projects-and-preparatory-actions-education-youth-sport-and-culture>

The call documents and results of the 2023 call are available at the following addresses: [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)927, adopted on 16 February 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the pilot projects and preparatory actions in the area of sport, research and innovation and the adoption of the work programme for 2024 | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Annex - Work Programme for 2024 for the pilot projects and preparatory actions in the area of sport, research and innovation | Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No follow up at this stage. It could be one of the actions implemented in the future by the Erasmus+ programme.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 23 04: Pilot project — The European Union - the media freedom hub

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	2 850 000,00	1 425 000,00	2 940 000	2 235 000	p.m.	570 000	-100,0 %	-74,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 850 000,00	1 425 000,00	2 940 000	2 235 000	p.m.	570 000	-100,0 %	-74,5 %

## 3. Objectives

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine, the eradication of independent media that followed inside Russia, and the wider geopolitical situation at our borders, including Belarus' total dismantling of independent media in the last few years, provide a unique opportunity and responsibility for the Union to take leadership for safeguarding media plurality and independence in the wider regional context.

The goal of the pilot project is to promote the preservation of a pluralistic media environment in the countries affected, also where journalists and media are working from an exile. The broader aim is to make Europe a safer place by helping the peoples of the countries in their democratic aspirations, where independent media play an indispensable role.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Launching of the first call to select beneficiaries of financial support to third parties. Selection and award of FSTP.
- Deliverables submitted: None.
- Meetings held: None.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Progress report expected by end of March 2024.
- Second call to select beneficiaries of financial support to third parties.
- Periodic report expected by end of August 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	18 April 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	19 May 2023
Award decision	23 June 2023
Prefinancing payment	July 2023
Final payment	Q2 / Q3 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q1 2025
Closing date of call for proposals	Q2 2025
Award decision	Q2 2025
Prefinancing payment	Q2 / Q3 2025
Final payment	Q3 2027

4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
FREE MEDIA HUB EAST (FMHE)	PRAGUE CIVIL SOCIETY CENTRE NADACNI	2 850 000

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisations

## 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/european-union-media-freedom-hub>

The project website is available at the following address: <https://www.praguecivilsociety.org/news-items/free-media-hub-east>

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 7 March 2024 will set out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

The Commission is supporting independent media from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus through multiple actions. These include among others:

- EU4Independent Media (ENI/2021/423-349 (EC))
- Promote accountability in Electoral processes in EaP through increased participation and capacity of civic actors (ProElect) (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/450-378 (EC))
- Resilient Civil Society and Media Respond to the Ukraine War (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2022/433-646 (EC))
- Democracy in the Eastern Partnership (DEAP) (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/451-752 (EC))
- Enhancing the Resilience of Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership (NDICI-GEO-NEAR /2023/451-753)
- Resilient Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership Region (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/ 2024/454-429)
- Boosting civic resilience and connectivity in the EaP+ region.

5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the very specific nature of this project.



## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PP 07 24 01: Pilot project — Technical means to provide Russian households with trustworthy information

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		2 600 000	650 000	p.m.	1 300 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 600 000	650 000	p.m.	1 300 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project aims to ensure that independent journalists working in exile have the technical means to bring their work to the Russian audience via satellite television. It aims to provide the technical means that such journalists can use to broadcast their content effectively into Russia. With the help of this project, the content created, not only by independent journalists but also international channels, will be repackaged and delivered to Russian citizens who currently lack access to pluralistic information. This project does not aim to create any content or financially support journalists.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The project aims at providing access to a currently unavailable technical platform, television, which is the way most Russians prefer to watch news programs. This can be done in two ways: by bringing independent journalism content into the traditional television channel format; and by providing satellite broadcast of up to 25 new and existing channels (radio and television), into the Russian market.

Activities to be carried out:

- drafting, publication and award of grant;
- study to analyse the technical requirements for leading Russian independent journalism platforms to broadcast their content to the Russian audience via satellite television.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q1 / Q2 2024
Closing date of call for proposals	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q2 / Q3 2024
Prefinancing payment	Q3 2024
Final payment	Q3 2026

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisations

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 7 March 2024 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow-up is envisaged due to the very specific nature of this project.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 08 22 01: Pilot project — Constructing an open library containing a curated and continuously growing digital catalogue of individual sound signatures from the marine underwater soundscape in shallow seas

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	745 250	p.m.	735 000	0,0 %	-1,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	745 250	p.m.	735 000	0,0 %	-1,4 %

## 3. Objectives

The pilot project aims to develop tools to support the implementation of Directive 2008/56/EC; in particular its descriptor 11 – “Introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment”. Providing a means to determine the acoustic impact of human activities will enable the identification of measures to manage these activities in a way that reduces their potential harm to marine life.

It aims to build and test a prototype of an open reference library for marine underwater sound signatures from the marine underwater soundscape, in particular in shallow, highly dynamic, sea areas. The pilot project will include (i) setting up a database of underwater sounds (both biotic and abiotic) including information about their sources, (ii) development, testing and assessing artificial intelligence algorithms for attribution of sources of underwater sounds and (iii) making the database publicly accessible and available through the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of procurement contracts.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Call for tenders published in December 2022. The contract resulting from the tender was signed on 27 July 2023 (reference: CINEA/CD(2022)5010/PP/SI2.899121) and concluded for the duration of 18 months (27 July 2023 to 26 January 2025). The kick off meeting of the project was held on 8 September 2024, followed by the first progress meeting held in November 2023. Second progress meeting took place in January 2024.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The pilot project will build and test a prototype of an open reference library for marine underwater sound signatures focused on shallow, highly dynamic sea areas. The main expected results will be:

- an open source database of measurements of underwater sounds and their sources accessible through the European Observation and Data Network that can incorporate new sounds as they become available;
- a set of artificial intelligence algorithms for analysing and attributing underwater sounds;
- knowledge of the capabilities and limits of algorithms to attribute sources of underwater noise in shallow sea;
- a tool that may help to define programmes of measures under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive;
- The organisation of an event at which the open-source database will be presented and discussed with relevant stakeholders.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2022
Publication of call for tenders	Q4 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q1 2023
Award decision	Q2 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments (50 %)	Q1 2024 (T0+ 9 months)
Final payment	Q1 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
SERVICE CONTRACT - CINEA/CD(2022)5010/PP/SI2 .899121  Constructing an open library containing a curated and continuously  growing digital catalogue of individual sound signatures from the  marine underwater soundscape in shallow seas  CALL CINEA/2022/OP/0019	Asociación Centro Tecnológico Naval y del Mar (CTN)	1 466 499,78
	ETT S.p.A.	
	Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine (SHOM)	
	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	
	Sociedad Anónima de Electrónica Submarina SME	
	ON AIR S.R.L.	

Task 1. Mapping and assessment of existing data repositories (open or otherwise);

Task 2. Selection of common format for storing data;

Task 3. Data sampling to establish pre-processing requirements;

Task 4. Propose, test and develop a library / an information system for data safekeeping and dissemination;

Task 5. Collection of additional data;

Task 6. Choice of algorithms;

Task 7. Training and testing;

Task 8. Contribute to the implementation of the EU legislation and ensure involvement of Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs);

Task 9. Library Launch Event.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Coordinator: Asociación Centro Tecnológico Naval y del Mar (CTN)

Partners (5):

- Private Companies
- Public Law Bodies

## 5. Documentation and expected results

5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project / preparatory action?*

- COMMISSION DECISION on financing the pilot project ‘Constructing an open library containing a curated and continuously growing digital catalogue of sound signatures from the marine underwater soundscape in shallow seas’ and the adoption of the 2022 work programme;
- Call for tenders CINEA/2022/OP/0019;
- Service contract: CINEA/CD(2022)5010/PP/SI2.899121.

5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged as the project is not sufficiently finalised at this point. Additionally, the domain of water noise is already addressed through Directive 2008/56/EC and Commission Decision 2017/848/EU.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 08 23 01: Pilot project — Improving the place of organic products in collective catering

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	1 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	750 000	p.m.	1 125 000	0,0 %	50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	750 000	p.m.	1 125 000	0,0 %	50,0 %

## 3. Objectives

Study on the extent to which the Green Public Procurement of organic products is currently practiced in the EU. Gathering of practices and emerging projects in the field of collective catering, exchange of practices and production of a practical guide for the introduction of organic food in canteens.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a public procurement contract.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Adoption of Financing decision;
- Signature of Global commitment.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Preparing technical specifications and signing contract.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Inception report.
- Meetings to take place: Kick off meeting.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

The duration of the pilot project could be extended up to 30 months, which is justified by the nature and purpose of this project, namely: to study the extent to which the Green Public Procurement of organic products is currently practiced in the EU, the obstacles encountered and possible solutions.

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q2 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024, March and September December 2025
Final payment	December 2025 or June 2026

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, Implementing Decision C(2023) 2610 adopted on 21 April 2023 amending Implementing Decision C(2022) 8914 of 8 December 2022 on the financing of DG AGRI contracts, grants and other actions managed directly and indirectly and the adoption of the work programme for 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up with a legislative proposal is envisaged at this stage of the project, due to the nature of the project.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 08 24 01: Pilot project — Farm Structures and organisations: Trends, definition and protection of the EU agricultural model

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		750 000	187 500	p.m.	562 500	-100,0 %	200,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		750 000	187 500	p.m.	562 500	-100,0 %	200,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this project is to study the trends in the different Member States and sectors in terms of farms' structures, type of agricultural employment, farms' organisations, the level of capitalisation on the farms and the legal forms available in the Member States. It will also examine the influence of the CAP, through its different tools and measures, on the development of agricultural structures and organisations in the EU and look into the challenges of renewing the generations of farmers.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of public procurement contract.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Preparing technical specifications and signing contract.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Inception report.
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meeting.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	18 April 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q2 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2024
Final payment	May 2025

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers



## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, 18 April 2024 C(2024) 2473 final,, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged at this stage, however, the Commission may explore how the results of this pilot project can feed in the preparation of the next Multiannual Financial Framework proposal.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 08 24 02: Pilot project — Fostering energy transition in the fisheries sector

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		2 200 000	550 000	p.m.	550 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 200 000	550 000	p.m.	550 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The Commission set in 2019 the European Green Deal (EGD), an ambitious goal of achieving a sustainable and climate-neutral EU economy by 2050. In this context the European Commission established a set of proposals through the Fit for 55 package, with the objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 % by 2030. The promotion of renewable energy sources to advance its sustainable practices is part of the above-mentioned set of proposals. The Commission suggests a new growth strategy that transforms the European Union (EU) into a modern, resource-efficient, and competitive economy where every economic sector adapts and reduces its greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. Currently, the European fishing fleet is responsible for 5,2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> of the annual greenhouse gas GHG emissions. The fishing sector could play a role in the joint efforts across economic sectors in the EU to reduce GHG emissions.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of grants. The budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme (PP) is EUR 2 200 000. The entire budget will be implemented through a Grant Agreement following a call for proposals. The project submitted in response of the call for proposals must address the objectives of the Pilot project as defined in the tender specifications.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Indicative core activities:

- Assessment of the feasibility and scope of the options for the retrofit of the chosen demonstration fishing vessel with solutions to improve the energy performance and reduce emissions and underwater noise. Proposals may draw on existing innovations in other sectors (e.g. waterborne transport), as well as relevant results from previous EU initiatives, particularly those under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe dealing with waterborne transport.
- Determination of the baseline performance of the vessel.
- Development of the concept and design for the retrofit, which may include, but not limited to, replacement/modernisation of engines, increase in vessel volume where necessary to accommodate more energy-efficient engines, and integration of other technologies to increase energy performance and reduce emissions (such as hydrodynamic optimisation, gear efficiency, alternative fuels and bridge systems for engine control).
- Definition of tests to be carried out with the retrofitted fishing vessel to determine the energy savings, safety, emissions and environmental performance in real operational conditions.
- Conducting sea trials of the retrofitted fishing vessel in real operational conditions.

- Analysis of the results and lessons learnt.
- Provide technical feedback to support the energy transition of the fishing fleet.
- Activities to showcase the vessel among the fishing sector and other stakeholders.

Complementary activities (non-compulsory):

- Activities to promote the technologies of the pilot project to potential investors.
- Activities to promote cooperation with other relevant EU funded projects or initiatives – e.g. Horizon projects, ZEWT partnership.
- Improving the business environment and raise awareness for investors and financial support.
- Youth engagement on the energy transition of fisheries and fisheries in general.

The expected impacts include:

- To develop and demonstrate viable solutions for fishing vessels which improve the energy performance, including reducing GHG emissions, a potential reduction of costs, and reducing underwater noise.
- To increase knowledge on the challenges, benefits and impacts (including economic, environmental and in terms of health and safety of fishers) of different technologies to improve the energy (including underwater noise) and emissions performance of fishing vessels.
- To strengthen understanding of the potential to adapt existing technologies to the fishing sector.
- To raise awareness of and broaden the possibilities offered to fishers to save energy and initiate the energy transition of fishing vessels.

Long term expected impacts include:

- Improving the resilience and economic viability of the EU fishing fleet.
- Improving understanding of technical, social, legal, regulatory and policy barriers to fisheries decarbonisation.
- Reduced fuel consumption and emissions from fishing vessels and improved energy efficiency in their range of activities.
- Accelerating the adoption of new technologies in the fisheries to foster energy transition.
- Support the Member States' efforts in complying with the Marine strategy framework directive (descriptor 11: underwater noise) and help the EU fishing fleet reduce its environmental impact.
- Improving the business environment and financing opportunities.

The detailed list of the impacts and the activities covered will be inserted in the call for proposals.

The contract resulting from the award of the call for proposals will be concluded for a project duration between 24 to 36 months. This extension will allow the selected consortium to complete the necessary activities and ensure that the project meets its objectives within the timeframe.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q1 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024
Final payment	Q1 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

This information is not known yet as the call for proposals is open until 11 June 2024 and the evaluation has not yet taken place.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 875, adopted on 15 February 2024 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following websites:

[Electronic Access to Commission Documents \(EASE\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Register of Commission Documents - C\(2024\)875 \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents are available at the following address:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/pppa/wp-call/2024/call-fiche\\_pppa-2024-fishvesseldemo\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/pppa/wp-call/2024/call-fiche_pppa-2024-fishvesseldemo_en.pdf)

The project website is available at the following address: [Pilot Project: Fostering energy transition in the fisheries sector \(Demonstrator of a fishing vessel\) – European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 08 24 03: Pilot project — Saving our Seas – Reducing Danger of Munitions dumped in European seas

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		5 590 000	1 397 500	p.m.	2 240 000	-100,0 %	60,3 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		5 590 000	1 397 500	p.m.	2 240 000	-100,0 %	60,3 %

## 3. Objectives

- To advance, develop and test in the sea, in the safe conditions (non-wartime basins) environmentally friendly, the most comprehensive and efficient methods and concrete tools for the disposal and destruction of conventional munition dumped in the past;
- this technology and developed tools should be available on demand, within a short time of mobilization ;
- assessment whether this technology and specific tools can be further used to eradicate the consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in the Black and Azov seas;
- further strengthening of coordination and stakeholders' engagement, raising awareness and sharing best practices.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of grants.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The call will be launched in 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2025
Final payment	Q4 2027

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

In 2024 we are launching the call for proposals for this pilot project with award at the end of 2024 or early 2025.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Potential beneficiaries include:

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia international organisations

## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision will be adopted in the second quarter of 2024.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no immediate follow up is envisaged at this early stage.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 09 21 01: Pilot project — Best Belt — more power for the Green Belt

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	900 000,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	900 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	900 000,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	900 000	0,0 %	

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is to unlock the local potential and provide inter alia training and capacity building along the European Green Belt, building on the success of the BEST (voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas) initiative. It is expected to help further unlock the local potential for biodiversity action including through small grants, capacity building and outreach activities involving organisations in the region and through training and education of young volunteers/jobseekers for biodiversity and ecosystem services. It will provide opportunities for activities for designation and management of protected areas, also exploring the synergies with climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. It shall raise awareness for the importance of biodiversity by connecting activities for ecosystem preservation and restoration with information given to tourists travelling the Iron Curtain Trail.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a direct grant.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The project team in collaboration with the collaborators in the different regions of the European Green Belt developed the operational manual for the open call for small grants building on the work under the EU's BEST initiative including LIFE4BEST.

The [first call for proposals](#) for small grants was launched on 22 February 2022. 66 concept notes were received (9 not eligible) from which 21 were invited to submit a full proposal. Eventually, 18 full proposals were submitted, from which 11 were selected for funding through BESTbelt.

The second call for proposals was launched on 18 January 2023 with 96 concept notes received (14 not eligible). 31 concept notes applications were invited to submit a full proposal, 26 were received. From the submitted full proposal 17 were selected.

All BESTbelt funded projects are presented on [the website](#).

During the two calls several webinars for applicants were offered as a measure to increase capacities, to give guidance and support. Also, after applicants have been selected and projects were initiated, webinars have been used to explain further technical details and formalities with regards to the management of the grant.

Regular consultations with the Regional Focal Points of the four regions of the European Green Belt are taking place every three months. During implementation of the small grant projects regular reports are submitted every six months. Those measures secure that grantees are implementing their project activities as foreseen and according to schedule as well as that funds are being used in line with the applicable financial provisions. Any relevant issues and problems are being identified as well as successes, best practices and innovative approaches.

Meetings of the BESTbelt Steering Committee and the BESTbelt Board have been held regularly, including the decision-making process regarding the selection of projects to be awarded a grant.

Next to the small grants and their management and monitoring the following activities have been implemented:

- [Sub-webpage for BESTbelt](#) has been included and is providing current information about BESTbelt;
- Communication Plan has been developed and is being implemented as the project progresses (e.g. project information on website);
- Communication materials have been designed and produced to promote BESTbelt and the EU-funding (e.g. roll-up, banner, postcards);
- A [comprehensive report on the green job potential of the EGB](#), best practices and the creation of further green jobs along the EGB has been completed;
- [BESTbelt Conference 2022](#) took place in Ulcinj, Montenegro .

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Overall, progress across all tasks is proceeding as planned. On 18 January 2024 the third call for proposals was launched. 97 concept notes were received which are currently being evaluated. It is expected that from this last call 20 projects will be selected for funding, with projects starting earliest in October 2024.

Webinars for applicants and grantees have also been offered and the management and monitoring of grants from the first and second call are ongoing.

In early 2024, two training sessions for implementing [European Green Belt Youth Work Camps](#) took place to stimulate concept notes building upon the approach of youth work camps as opportunity to get the young generation engaged in conservation and restoration practice and to raise awareness on the cultural-historical dimensions of the European Green Belt.

A best practice process on green jobs started in Bulgaria in the beginning of 2024. As part of this process, examples of the potential of green jobs will be presented to local stakeholders and decision makers in three different rural areas. Main findings and recommendations will be presented to ministries and other important stakeholders on national and EU level. The results can serve as a basis for future dialogues on green jobs in Bulgaria and in other regions of the European Green Belt. The first local fora will take place in April 2024.

Currently regional conferences in each of the four European Green Belt regions as well as a Pan-European BESTbelt Conference are being prepared. Regional conferences focus on the exchange and knowledge transfer between current and former grantees on the regional level, to increase networking possibilities and to strengthen the BESTbelt community. The BESTbelt Conference will provide a platform for exchanging as well as for developing further joint activities partnerships on the pan-European level. It will also increase the visibility and outreach of the BESTbelt project.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	24 March 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	-
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	-
Award decision	26 August 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	2021, 2023 and 2025
Final payment	2027

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 June 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	-



Step	Date
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	-
Award decision	6 December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	2022, 2023 and 2025
Final payment	2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project – BEST BELT more power for the European Green Belt	EuroNatur Foundation	1 500 000

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project – BEST BELT more power for the European Green Belt	EuroNatur Foundation	1 990 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- EuroNatur – European Natural Heritage Foundation is a foundation that supports nature conservation projects in Europe. The seat of the foundation is in Radolfzell. The foundation was founded in 1987, initiated by the German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation (BUND), the German Environmental Aid (DUH) and the German Nature Conservation Union (NABU).

- EuroNatur Foundation is chair of the European Green Belt Association since 2014.

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021)1856, adopted on 24 March 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation of the pilot project of 2021. It is available [here](#). The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)3522, adopted on 3 June 2022 sets out the main elements of the implementation for the pilot project of 2022. It is available [here](#).

Grant Agreement No 09.200100-P092102/2021/855776/SUB/ENV.D.2 titled “Pilot Project – BEST BELT more power for the European Green Belt”

The project website is available at the following address: <https://www.europeangreenbelt.org/bestbelt>

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

The BEST belt is being developed using the experience of the EU’s [BEST initiative](#) for biodiversity action in the EU’s Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories.

### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is currently envisaged due to the early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 09 23 01: Pilot project — Reframing the exotic pet trade in Europe: developing effective science-based demand reduction interventions

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	700 000,00	0,00	p.m.	280 000	p.m.	200 490	0,0 %	-28,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	700 000,00	0,00	p.m.	280 000	p.m.	200 490	0,0 %	-28,4 %

## 3. Objectives

The EU is a hub, transit point and destination for wild live animals, which were often illegally caught and smuggled out of their country of origin to be sold as exotic pets. Keeping exotic animals as pets is a growing trend stimulated by social media. The EU is one of the largest consumer markets for reptiles and amphibians in the world and it is home to some of the world’s largest reptile and amphibian fairs. Demand reduction interventions are increasingly recognised as a key long-term approach to tackling wildlife trafficking.

In line with the priorities identified by the revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking (COM(2022)581)<sup>8</sup> and its mid-term evaluation report, this two-year project will provide the Member States with tools and good practices to implement effective demand reduction campaigns, based on the study of exotic pet consumer profiles, values and motivation in target countries, stakeholder discussion and the testing of interventions.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implemented this pilot project by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

2023 was the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

After launching the open call on 20 July 2023 (with a deadline of 15 September 2023) we received two eligible offers. The contract (n° 09200100/2023/907667/SER/ENV.F.3) was awarded to VetEffect Consultancy | Recruiting BV (NL) and signed on 19 December 2023 for a maximum duration of 24 months.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The kick-off meeting took place on 24 January 2024. The inception report is currently under finalisation.

In 2024 the contractor will undertake in particular the evidence and literature review, identify data gaps and collect and analyse additional data. The process will include extensive stakeholder consultations. This will be the basis for developing recommendations for demand reduction interventions in the EU and design of pilot interventions in 2025.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	23 June 2023

<sup>8</sup> [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Revision of the EU action plan against wildlife trafficking, COM\(2022\)581](#)

Step	Date
Publication of call for tenders	20 July 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	15 September 2023
Award decision	24 November 2023
Interim payments	2024 and 2025
Final payment	2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project— Reframing the exotic pet trade in Europe: developing effective science-based demand reduction interventions	VetEffecT Consultancy & Recruiting BV, in consortium with Eurogroup for Animals asbl	668 300

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- foundation / NGO

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 4009, adopted on 23 June 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents and the award decision are available at the [following address](#), under ENV/2023/OP/0020.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the type of the pilot project (aiming at awareness raising and behaviour research).

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 09 23 02: Pilot project — Youth for pollinators – fostering youth engagement and participatory governance in pollinator conservation

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	4 500 000,00	150 000,00	p.m.	1 375 000	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	-27,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	4 500 000,00	150 000,00	p.m.	1 375 000	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	-27,3 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is to support youth engagement in the policy-making with regard to the conservation of wild pollinators. The project's activities will build capacity of young people to engage with public authorities and stakeholders in shaping the relevant policies at all governance levels (EU, national, regional and local) as well as capacity to take part in the implementation of policy actions. Concrete tools will be set up that will help to empower younger generations to act on the problem of the alarming decline of wild pollinators in the EU.

In particular, the activities under this pilot project will:

- set up a European Youth Assembly on Pollinators consisted of young people from all Member States. The Assembly will foster sharing of knowledge and experience with regard to pollinator conservation, and discussions on policy actions to reverse the decline of pollinators;
- develop, test and support dissemination of a toolkit for embedding pollinator conservation into the school curricula. This toolkit will feature various pedagogical approaches, integrate learning ecosystems and utilise new technologies (e.g. virtual reality);
- set up a facility to deploy a small grants scheme that will support youth-led actions across the EU. This will also include capacity building services (training and education).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of calls for tenders, direct grant and an administrative agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

2023 was the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

An administrative agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has been concluded in December 2023. This agreement secures essential expertise to conceptualise and support an effective implementation of all activities under the pilot project, in particular the Youth Assembly.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Two calls for tenders will be finalised, on Youth Assembly and on integration of pollinator conservation into educational system, and a direct grant with IUCN will be concluded for setting up a small grants scheme that will support youth-led actions across the EU.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	23 June 2023
Signature of the administrative agreement with JRC	4 December 2023
Prefinancing	2023
Final payment	2027
Publication of calls for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of calls for tenders	Q2 - Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 - Q4 2024
Interim payments	2025 and 2026
Final payment	2027
Signature of direct grant	Q3 2024
Prefinancing	2024 and 2025
Final payment	2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

The administrative agreement with JRC has been signed for an amount of EUR 300 000.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- non-governmental organisations
- international organisations

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 4009, adopted on 23 June 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents and the award decisions will be available at the [following address](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is yet envisaged due to the early stage of implementation of this pilot project.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 09 24 01: Pilot project — EU CCUS Observatory

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		500 000	125 000	p.m.	150 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		500 000	125 000	p.m.	150 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objectives of the EU CCUS Observatory will be to facilitate the deployment of industrial carbon management technologies, taking into account the contribution of the projects on EU climate neutrality, the economy and society. The pilot project will participate in the implementation by the Commission of the Communication on industrial carbon management and, in particular, in building the knowledge-sharing platform. The platform will gather and provide data and up-to-date information about the entire CCUS sector, based on the collection of primary data from current and future large-scale demonstration projects. The Observatory will be a key tool to collect information and define best practices to make the industrial carbon management projects a reality in the most sustainable way. In a first phase the observatory activities will focus on cement and waste incineration plants.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of the framework contract MOVE/ENER/SRD/2020/OP/0008.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Not yet defined.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	19 March 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Pre-financing or interim payments	Not yet defined
Final payment	Q2 2025

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Not yet defined.

## 5. Documentation and expected results

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision (Decision C(2024) 1676), adopted on 19 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It can be found on the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](#)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the fact that the pilot project aims at boosting knowledge sharing and will be a tool to enable the deployment of industrial carbon management technologies in a sustainable manner. However, the pilot project will participate in the implementation by the Commission of the Communication on industrial carbon management which include the preparation of a possible future CO2 transport regulatory package.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PP 09 24 02: Pilot project — Feasibility study to develop a model to tax comprehensively the environmental harm of goods and services in the European Union

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		500 000	125 000	p.m.	375 000	-100,0 %	200,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		500 000	125 000	p.m.	375 000	-100,0 %	200,0 %

## 3. Objectives

Using taxation to change consumer and producer behaviour is key to combatting climate change and reducing our impact on the environment. The objective of this feasibility study is to determine a model that calculates the financial cost of the environmental harm caused by products and services with a view to identifying an appropriate level of tax rates to internalise the negative externalities caused by environmentally damaging behaviour. This model should go much beyond the current energy taxation directive that focuses specifically on energy products.

The model should combine existing EU recognised methodologies calculating the estimated financial cost of offsetting the environmental harm that is caused by creating, using and disposing of specified products or services.

The model could, amongst others, be based on the Product Environmental Footprint and Organisation Environmental Footprint methods (Environmental Footprint methods) which measure and codify the environmental performance of products and organisations across their whole lifecycle. These methods are scientifically sound assessment methods that are agreed at international level. They cover 16 environmental impacts, including climate change, and impacts related to water, air, resources, land use and toxicity. These are universally applicable and there are separate models for Products and Organisations respectively. The Commission endorsed these methodologies in the 2021 Commission Recommendation on the use of the Environmental Footprint methods<sup>9</sup>.

This feasibility study should take into account the findings of the ongoing ‘Study on the Polluter Pays Principle and Environmentally Harmful Subsidies’ led by the Commission. Its findings could be informative in view of the development of benchmarks or criteria that could guide the design of (minimum) tax rates for environmentally harmful products and services.

Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2024 budget.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for tenders or use of existing framework contract if available.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 will be the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:

<sup>9</sup> C(2021) 9332 final



- o review of existing recognised EU methodologies generating the estimated financial cost of offsetting the environmental and combination of those to develop a model;
  - o review of ongoing work, in particular the findings of the ongoing ‘Study on the Polluter Pays Principle and Environmentally Harmful Subsidies’ led by the Commission, with a view to developing benchmarks or criteria that could guide the design of (minimum) tax rates for environmentally harmful products and services.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
    - o determining a model that calculates the financial cost of the environmental harm caused by products and services;
    - o development of benchmarks or criteria that could guide the design of (minimum) tax rates for environmentally harmful products and services.
  - Meetings to take place:
    - o Regular meetings with the Commission services, as well as with key stakeholders (e.g. European Environment Agency) whose work could feed into the deliverables.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	End Q2 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q3 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q4 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024 – Q1 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 – Q1 2025
Final payment	Q4 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision will be adopted in the second quarter of 2024 and will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

Yes, the Commission intends to use the model, once developed, to underpin analysis and estimate costs and benefits of possible legislative proposals.

### III. PA: Preparatory actions

#### 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

#### PA 01 20 01: Preparatory action — Art and the digital: Unleashing creativity for European industry, regions and society

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	2 190 312,91	p.m.	1 470 439	p.m.	735 220	0,0 %	-50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	2 190 312,91	p.m.	1 470 439	p.m.	735 220	0,0 %	-50,0 %

#### 3. Objectives

The goal is to stimulate the creation of centres across Europe that can serve as venues for industry (digital industry and other sectors) to work together with artists and other creatives. Such centres could be physical buildings or set of activities in a region that stimulate such collaborations between art and technology. As such they also respond to the ideas of the New European Bauhaus. The PAs build on the STARTS programme focused on promoting innovation in industry, with the arts as the catalyst for unconventional thinking and exploration.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The first year PA has already been implemented. It finished on 31 December 2022.

Their activities were successfully implemented, in particular the planned open call for artistic residencies with local technology providers and SMEs via the instrument of 'financial support of third parties'.

The results of the residencies were exposed at four major art centers across Europe: MAXXI (Rome), ZKM (Karlsruhe), MEET (Milan), and BOZAR/50aire (Brussels).

An overview of results of STARTS residencies and the project overall is given in [Repairing the Present – S+T+ARTS](#). Deliverables from the project reporting on the various activities (art residences, exhibitions, events) are available on request (most outcomes are available on the above-mentioned website).

The second- and third-year preparatory actions have been implemented via grants in an open call for proposals in 2022 merging the budgets of 2021 (EUR 1 500 000) and 2022 (EUR 2 500 000) into one call for EUR 3 750 000 to finance three projects with a maximum of EUR 1 250 000 for each.

The three projects will implement STARTS residencies (i.e. grants to artists willing to collaborate with industry or technology institutions) via an open call for artists. In total around 30 residencies are in the implementation phase.

The results of the residencies will be presented locally and during important events in the second half of 2024 on addressing challenges such as globalisation, demographic change, climate change, secure, sustainable and competitive energy, and social polarisation, in addition to the economic and financial crises, using among other tools Hyper-Performance Computing and AI.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- final events for each of the three projects
- final reports including residencies results to be submitted
- contributions to a STARTS book.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2020
Publication of call for proposals	15 September 2020
Closing date of call for proposals	30 October 2020
Award decision	February 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	June 2021
Final payment	May 2023

– 2021 and 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2021 and April 2022
Publication of call for proposals	21 June 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	28 September 2022
Award decision	November 2022
Prefinancing payments	February - April 2023
Final payment	Q1 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Repairing the present	Snowball, Kortrijk	1 799 710

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
S+T+ARTS IN THE CITY	Gluon, Brussels	1 238 916

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
GRIN	University of Linz	1 191 711
AIR	Media Solution Center and HLRS, Stuttgart	1 245 467

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2020)2259, adopted on 20 April 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents for call in 2020 are available at the following address: [Art and the digital: Unleashing creativity for European industry, regions and society | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

The Commission Financing Decision C(2021)3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

The call documents for the joint call in 2022 are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/art-and-digital-unleashing-creativity-european-industry-regions-and-society-1>

The results of the projects will be available at the following address: [starts.eu](https://starts.eu)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

The STARTS program covers certain aspects of art and technology links targeted towards digital industry. The current set of Preparatory Actions targets regional development and as such are different in scope and intentions. It goes beyond the goals of STARTS in its insistence to prepare the ground for regional initiatives linking art and technology for regional development.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no direct follow up is currently envisaged. The regional STARTS centre programme has resulted in an increased interest for industry in linking to art. This has led to new initiatives across EU (including links to the New European Bauhaus). There is a potential idea to link the ideas of art and technology synergies to the structural funds programme. However, this is not yet at a stage to lead to a legislative proposal. There is no doubt however that the projects will influence the policies on regional development (in part via the new programme around the New European Bauhaus).

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 22 01: Preparatory action — Art and the digital: unleashing creativity for European water management

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	2 500 000,00	799 613,60	p.m.	2 300 000	p.m.	2 299 614	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 500 000,00	799 613,60	p.m.	2 300 000	p.m.	2 299 614	0,0 %	0,0 %

#### 3. Objectives

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) include specific goals on water, in particular SDG 6 and SDG 14. Other goals like SDG 11 on cities emphasise the need for SDGs holistically beyond resource efficiency. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has issued a reflection on ‘water and the 4th industrial revolution’ that points to a convergence of the digital (e.g. AI), physical, biological and social domains. Following a first pilot project, this action will therefore emphasise links with other resources (including e.g. energy and mobility) and position sustainable water management in a broader context.

The main premise of this call is that a joint approach of the digital with the arts will help induce changes in our mind-sets, on a business, societal and individual level. Indeed, many of the goals identified in the UN SDGs address awareness-raising and ‘promote responsible behaviour, educate about the importance of efficiency of use of resources’.

Art and its capacity to present data and induce novel experiences (not the least with novel digital technologies like AR/VR) might be a game changer in the way information can induce changes of values and behaviour. Art-driven experiments in new types of resource management could lead to more sustainable and inclusive solutions. Art can ultimately drive creative solutions to SDG goals by questioning established patterns and pushing technology to limits. Among others, the action will build on S+T+ARTS programme - innovation at the nexus of Science, Technology, and Arts. With STARTS, the Commission has promoted art as a fruitful element in helping digital technologies making a difference for humans and environment in the spirit of the newly created New European Bauhaus initiative.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

##### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

This preparatory action is a follow up to pilot project PP 01 20 03 voted under 2020 budget.

The grant agreement for PA year 1 was signed in December 2023 with start date 15 January 2024.

##### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: As the activities have only started in 2024, the bulk of the work (including the residencies) is still to be carried out. Another new call for water will also be launched in 2024.

##### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022

Step	Date
Publication of call for proposals	12 June 2023
Closing date of call for call for proposals	16 August 2023
Award decision	November 2023
Prefinancing payment	December 2023
Final payment	Q1 2026

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	March 2024
Closing date of call for call for proposals	May 2024
Award decision	September 2024
Prefinancing payment	Q1 2025
Final payment	Q4 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
S+T+ARTS4WaterII – Ports in Transformation	VLAAMSE INSTELLING VOOR TECHNOLOGISCH ONDERZOEK	1 999 034

– 2023 commitment appropriations

A new call is to be launched in 2024 so these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies
- public service providers
- research institutes
- cultural institution
- foundations

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available [here](#).

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

Activities linking art and digital for innovation do exist (e.g. the H2020 STARTS program in CONNECT) but no activities linking art, digital and UN sustainable development goals in water do exist.

### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no concrete legislative follow up is currently envisaged. The action might lead to concrete follow-ups in terms of research funding and in context of New European Bauhaus.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 22 02: Preparatory action — European Startups 2.0 – Taking Europe’s startup economy to the next level through data-driven insights, research and events

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	400 000	p.m.	385 600	0,0 %	-3,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	400 000	p.m.	385 600	0,0 %	-3,6 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this preparatory action is to develop an interactive data-driven platform containing essential information for investors, start-up founders, policy makers and other stakeholders in the EU start-up ecosystem. This platform needs to go beyond the scope of that developed by the European Startups Pilot Project (<https://europeanstartups.co/>) in terms of:

- breadth of the underpinning data;
- the advances, challenges and evolving needs of the European ecosystem since 2019;
- the scale of the audience it reaches;
- developing deep dive policy reports that research key issues facing the start-up ecosystem. These policy reports should be prominently disseminated to actors in EU start-up and policy fields.

A target is to organise events (e.g. workshops and policy debates) around key themes and challenges that could be addressed by smart policy initiatives. The events (in person and / or virtually) should target: European investors (Business Angels, Venture Capitals (VCs), Corporate VCs, National Promotional Banks, Pension funds); European corporates; Start-up founders; and Policy makers including, but not limited, to national and EU level elected representatives (such as MEPs and Ministers).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Procurement contract was signed December 2023 with start date 22 December 2023.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: The inaugural launch event is a joint event in collaboration with the “Innovation Radar Bridge Project” (Pilot Project), scheduled for 16 April 2024 in Brussels, targeting officials from the European Commission and Parliament, as well as stakeholders in the Brussels policy and EU Affairs community. In November 2024, there will be a high-level workshop involving policymakers from EU Member States focusing on key thematic challenges and potential policy solutions at EU, national, and regional levels.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o inception report;
  - o 2-3 thematic reports.
- Meetings to take place:
  - o kick off meeting;

- o inception meeting;
- o 2-3 interim meetings.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for tenders	18 August 2023
Closing date of call for call for tender	25 September 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Interim payments	Q3 2024 – Q1 2025
Final payment	Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Startups 2.0 – Taking Europe’s startup economy to the next level through data-driven insights, research and events	INNOVA NEXT SL	964 000

#### 4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisations

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=12940>

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of its implementation.



## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 22 03: Preparatory action — New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	609 902,98	p.m.	750 000	p.m.	170 000	0,0 %	-77,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	609 902,98	p.m.	750 000	p.m.	170 000	0,0 %	-77,3 %

## 3. Objectives

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative, launched by President von der Leyen in her 2020 State of the Union address, is an environmental, economic, social and cultural project. It aims to combine sustainability, investment, affordability, accessibility and design in order to help deliver the European Green Deal and its overarching goal for the European Union to become the world's first “climate-neutral bloc” by 2050.

The core values of the New European Bauhaus are sustainability, inclusiveness, aesthetics and other elements of the quality of the experience beyond functionality. Its ambition is to develop an interdisciplinary framework to support, facilitate and accelerate the green transformation by combining those elements. This framework will embrace scientific, industrial, educational, artistic and cultural spheres creating bridges between science, research, technology and enterprises, on one hand, and culture, architecture, art and design, on the other hand. It will also help to promote social inclusion, including affordability and accessibility. To sum up, the NEB is about finding innovative, creative and suitable solutions to complex societal problems (in buildings and beyond) through co-creation.

The aim of this preparatory action is to streamline the standards and guidance around the three dimensions of the New European Bauhaus (sustainability, aesthetics, inclusiveness) and to develop a self-assessment framework allowing interested parties to align with the NEB dimensions while designing and implementing their transformation projects. The self-assessment framework will also be useful to define criteria where relevant to labelling of projects or calls for proposals.

The focus of the action is on buildings and other living spaces.

The preparatory action is being run by a number of experts. The precise expertise has been fine-tuned in consultation with representatives of the High-level Round Table already activated as a part of the New European Bauhaus initiative and other stakeholders.

A specific accessible system is being designed and developed to allow the public to conduct autonomous evaluations of their living environment or future projects on a certain number of indicators.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of procurement actions and experts' contracts.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out 2022-2023:
  - o Actions for the selection of experts: two categories of experts were appointed. A first group included one expert for each of the New European Bauhaus dimensions and one lead expert for each of the main areas (environment, economy, functionality emerging technologies, context, sense of place, governance, diversity...). These experts, who were expected to

provide a general overview of each dimension and main area, also assisted in coordinating the work provided by teams from a second group (28 experts), each one of whom tackling a more specific working area.

- o Creation and management of the teams of expert contracts.
- o November 2022: the first contracts with the selected group of 12 experts were established and signed.
- o May 2023: second group of 28 sub-area experts were established and contracts signed.

A group of IT developers has been receiving the input from the EMI experts to design and develop a structured, accessible system that will allow the public to conduct autonomous evaluations of their future projects or to classify ongoing or terminated projects on a certain number of indicators.

A direct contract has been signed for the in-user experience (UX) consultancy for the New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform online tool.

- Deliverables that were submitted:
  - o Main area experts (group of 12): They have been working and submitting the expected deliverables according to the timetable in their contracts.
  - o Sub area experts (group of 28): They worked in collaboration with the main area experts, with the result of the submission of their final deliverables during November-December 2023.
- Meetings which took place:
  - o Regular online working meetings took place during the whole project.

#### *4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024*

- Activities carried out:

The first group of main area experts continue their work through online meetings, a physical workshop and the submission of deliverables according to the schedule signed in their contracts.

Communication and dissemination activities: the Commission has included the translation of NEB values and principles in practices, as one of the subjects of the NEB Festival which took place on 9-12 April 2024. Several activities were organised around this topic, including a number of panels on the transformation of the built environment, the role of technology and quality criteria. The festival also included a number of satellite events on the same topic and a presentation of the draft self-assessment tool developed through this preparatory action to raise awareness of its publication in a few months' time.

- Meetings to take place:

A PA NEB workshop took place on 28 and 29 February 2024, at JRC Ispra, organised by JRC E.3 unit, with the participation of E.3 unit, B.4 unit, and the 12 main area experts.

Following the finalisation of the self-assessment tool, a number of dissemination activities will take place in the second half of 2024, among which:

- o info sessions with the community;
- o including the self-assessment tool in the community updates;
- o dissemination through the NEB corporate media accounts;
- o drafting of a factsheet that can be used to explain the tool.

#### *4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025*

- No planned activities

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Experts contracts	Group of 12 selected main area experts	540 000,00
IT support services	Service providers	136 109,02
Experts contracts	Group of 28 selected subarea experts	562 500,00
IT support services	Service providers	150 963,00
IT Consultancy	Private company	15 000,00
NEB Festival 2024	WMH INSTITUTIONNEL	499 086,10

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, C(2022)3337, adopted on 25 May 2022, on the financing of the preparatory action “New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform” sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged. NEB Knowledge Management Platform is an IT tool which requires hosting infrastructure, software updating, vulnerability patching, data managing, user support and maintenance throughout its online presence. The preparatory action does not foresee any of these actions or any budget to sustain them. It is therefore of high importance to consider the future of the NEB Knowledge Management Platform and secure the necessary budget for its operation. Furthermore, following the College adoption of the NEB Facility as part of the Horizon Europe Strategic plan 2025-27, it is very likely that the NEB Knowledge Management Platform shall also see further development and not only maintenance.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 23 01: Preparatory action — Energy prosumers repository - Monitor the development of prosumer actions across the EU

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	5 000 000,00	0,00	2 500 000	3 125 000	p.m.	2 250 000	-100,0 %	-28,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	5 000 000,00	0,00	2 500 000	3 125 000	p.m.	2 250 000	-100,0 %	-28,0 %

#### 3. Objectives

The provisions on consumers' empowerment in Renewable Energy Directive 2001/2018 (RED II) and the Electricity Directive 944/2019 (IMED) are among the most innovative in the Clean Energy Package (CEP). They seek to empower consumers to become active at local level on relevant energy markets by enabling them to engage in a series of innovative activities such as (collective) self-consumption, storage, energy sharing, peer-to-peer exchange and flexibility service provision. Such activities inform new business models and have the potential of accelerating the transition towards renewable energy in a cost-effective and efficient way, whilst ensuring secure access to affordable energy at the local level. At the same time, the decentralised nature of renewable energy installations provides an opportunity to democratise Europe's energy system by allowing for European citizens to become active and take ownership of the energy transition. A considerable amount of Member States are still lagging behind the full transposition of the above mentioned provisions with negative consequences in terms of an incoherent application of EU law as well as in terms of granting access to the same consumer rights across the EU. On the other hand, in some Member States, new schemes for individual or collective self-consumption beyond building and community level have started to develop and are currently not covered by the CEP. These other types of collective action initiatives could help alleviate energy poverty, provide EU citizens more options to take energy action, and increased investments in renewable energy, as well as help to bring the necessary flexibility to accommodate a cost-effective transition to more electrification and a renewable based energy system.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of an open call for tenders.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The 2023 action is a global commitment and will be implemented together with the extension of the preparatory action under the 2024 budget.

##### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: not applicable because the contract signature is foreseen for Q4 2024.
- Deliverables to be submitted: inception report to be submitted indicatively in December 2024.
- Meetings to take place: kick-off meeting in Q4.

##### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2023
Publication of call for tenders	April 2024

Step	Date
Closing date of call for tenders	June 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024
Final payment	Q3 2027

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for tenders	April 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	June 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024
Final payment	Q3 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, C(2023)4577 of 07 July 2023 and the Commission Financing Decision C(2024) 1676 of 19 March 2024 set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/financing-decisions/)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of the implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 23 04: Preparatory action — Support Service for citizens led renovation projects

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	5 000 000,00	0,00	2 500 000	3 125 000	p.m.	2 250 000	-100,0 %	-28,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	5 000 000,00	0,00	2 500 000	3 125 000	p.m.	2 250 000	-100,0 %	-28,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This preparatory action will set up a specific EU service for Citizens Energy Communities (CEC) and Renewable Energy Communities (REC) to support them in the creation and implementation of territory transitions, including renovation projects. The objective is to help them overcome financial, legal and technical barriers and raise demand for renovations of residential buildings that comply with the EU's energy and climate priorities.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable, as this is the first year of the preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Launch of the call for tenders.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2023
Publication of call for tenders	May 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	November 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	2025
Final payment	2029

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	November 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	2025
Final payment	2029

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision (C2023)4577, adopted on 7 July 2023 and the Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1676, adopted on 19 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/financing-decisions)

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 24 01 : Preparatory action — FOSSEPS 2

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		2 500 000	625 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 500 000	625 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of the FOSSEPS 2 (Free Open Source Software in European Public Services) preparatory action is to continue fostering EU-wide collaboration between public administrations on open source, so that the services relying on it become more efficient, more reliable and more secure.

In order to achieve this objective, the following actions have been defined:

1. Further develop the European Open Source Solutions Catalogue minimum viable product (MVP), which was developed in the pilot project, with additional features, and continue onboarding national catalogues whose data will be ingested and displayed in the European Catalogue.
2. Perform a new study on critical open-source software used by public administrations, with a bigger scope than the one performed in the pilot project, and building upon the previous results and lessons learnt. The new inventory exercise will also recommend an EU-wide maintenance methodology for Member States to maintain the identified critical software more autonomously.
3. Perform a pilot on a user group on open source, composed by national/regional/municipal public services, where they can identify common needs on existing open-source software used by their services, and eventually pool resources to address those needs.
4. Organisation of bug bounties and hackathons, to improve the security of specific open-source products used by public administrations.
5. Definition of initiatives to promote the re-use of existing open-source solutions developed by public administrations.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of procurement contracts.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable, as this is the first year of the preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- continue the development of the European Open Source Solutions Catalogue (action #1);
- kick-off the study on critical open-source software (action #2);
- kick-off the pilot on collaboration on open source (action #3).



#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2024
Request for services under framework contract	May - December 2024
Award decision and signature contracts	June - December 2024
Interim payments	December 2024 – 2025 - 2026
Final payments	2025 - 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)2668, adopted on 29 April 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 24 02: Preparatory action — Implementation of the SDGs in the EU regions – from monitoring to action

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 800 000	450 000	p.m.	900 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 800 000	450 000	p.m.	900 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This preparatory action is inspired by the vision of a Europe where every region, regardless of its starting point, is equipped with the knowledge and tools to weave the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the fabric of their unique societal and environmental contexts. It is about transforming the SDGs from a global mandate into a local mission, where the monitoring and implementation processes are not merely routine but are reflective, dynamic, and, most importantly, transformative. Through this work, the European Commission JRC will aim to dismantle the silos that have traditionally hindered sustainable development efforts, and foster an ecosystem of collaboration that transcends borders and sectors, one that is fuelled by data and driven by the collective wisdom of the European regions. The preparatory action will pave the way for a future where every European region contributes to and benefits from a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive world.

Building on the experiences and findings of the pilot project REGIONS2030, the core objectives of the preparatory action are to:

- Expand the currently established REGIONS2030 regional SDG indicators and discuss/validate the expanded set with relevant stakeholders and local authorities;
- Analyse complementarities and interlinkages between SDG indicators and policies with particular attention to the regional level;
- Inform EU, national and regional policy making developing relevant policy recommendations.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of procurement and expert contracts.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Call for tenders open to relevant economic operators, June-September 2024

This preparatory action will issue a call for tenders inviting data brokers, data marketplaces, online data providers or vendors, data aggregators, industry-specific data providers, online surveys and data collection platforms, data mining and scraping services, or data analytics and consulting firms to submit requests of interest for providing data on regional SDG indicators at EU level according to the project needs. The primary objective of this data purchase will be to perform territorial analysis on the performance of EU regions on the SDGs.

The call for tenders is planned for launch in June/July 2024, allowing time for:

- the completion of all procurement-related documentation, the evaluation of requests to participate, tender assessments, award decision, and contract finalization;
- the definition of project data requirements and needs.

The goal is to have a direct service contract signed with the selected company in April 2025.

- Expert contracts for carrying out research activities, May-December 2024.

The preparatory action will contract academic experts and SDG practitioners through expert contracts to conduct a series of analytical studies and provide targeted support. The contracts will finance:

- technical support to participating regions of the preparatory action;
- analytical studies (on SDG regional performances; SDG interlinkages; impact assessment of selected policies on SDG achievement).

Expert contracts expected to be launched and signed between May and December 2024.

- procurement contracts for the development of IT tools and data repositories; visual identity and communication strategy, July-December 2024.

The preparatory action will initiate procurement contracts to secure IT tools and data analysis; communication; and, visual design services. These procurements are expected to be executed through existing framework contracts as follows:

- one for IT tools and data repositories development;
- one for communication services;
- one for visual identity design.

Access to the relevant framework contracts will be requested from the Commission by July 2024 and specific contracts are expected to be signed by September 2024.

- procurement contracts for the organization of the high-level Kick-Off meeting of the preparatory action, July-November 2024.

The preparatory action will initiate contracts for the organization and execution of a high-level Kick-off meeting of the project. These procurement contracts are expected to be carried out under existing framework contracts for event management services and for audio-visual services. The event is scheduled for early December 2024. A request to access the relevant framework contracts will be submitted by July 2024 and specific contracts are expected to be signed by November 2024.

#### *4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, various relevant details are not yet known. This section includes a few initially forecasted implementation needs for 2025, which might change according to needs that may arise in 2024.

- expert contracts for carrying out research activities, January - December 2025.

It is anticipated that new needs for conducting additional analytical studies will arise in 2025. These studies aim to further explore aspects uncovered during the preceding 12 months of research activities and capitalize on findings and data developed or made available during the initial months of the project. Contracts with experts to finance these new analytical studies are expected to be launched and signed between January and December 2025.

- procurement contracts for the development of IT tools and data repositories; visual identity and communication strategy, January - December 2025.

It is anticipated that new requirements for maintaining and/or expanding the data repositories and IT analysis tools, communication services, and further fine-tune and design of visual elements for the project may arise in 2025.

Therefore, new procurement contracts are likely to be necessary under the existing framework contracts utilized in 2024, covering IT tools and data analysis, communication, and visual design services respectively. These new contracts are expected to be signed between June and December 2025.

- procurement contracts for the organization of one major European conference on SDG monitoring and implementation, July-November 2025.

It is anticipated that, in 2025, the preparatory action will initiate contracts for the organization and execution of a major European conference on SDG monitoring and implementation scheduled for November 2025.

Procurement contracts are expected to be executed under the existing framework contracts for event management services and audio-visual services used in 2024. Requests to access the framework contracts will be submitted by July 2025.

– 2024 commitment appropriations regarding the open call for tenders procedure

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	June/July 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	April 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2025
Final payment	November 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations for individual contracts from existing framework contracts

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	June-October 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	June-October 2024
Award decision	August-December 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024 – November 2025
Final payment	December 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations for individual contracts from existing framework contracts

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	June-October 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	June-October 2024
Award decision	August-December 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024 – November 2025
Final payment	December 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations for individual contracts from existing framework contracts

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tender	July 2024
Closing date of call for tender	July 2024
Award decision	September 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	-
Final payment	March 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations regarding the selected experts

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	January – December 2025
Closing date of call for tenders	January – December 2025
Award decision	January – December 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2025 – November 2026
Final payment	November 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	January – October 2025
Closing date of call for tenders	October 2025
Award decision	August – December 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2025 – November 2026
Final payment	December 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	July 2025
Closing date of call for tenders	July 2025
Award decision	August 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2025
Final payment	December 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- regional authorities and governments in Europe

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in mid-June 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of its implementation.

# 1. Heading 1 – Single Market, Innovation and Digital

## PA 01 24 03: Preparatory action — Partnerships for Regional Innovation

### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

### 3. Objectives

The objectives pursued in this preparatory actions are:

- Raise awareness and improve understanding of transformative innovation policies among the widest possible group of territories in European Union and Associated Countries. This preparatory action aims to i) mobilise local, regional, and national governments and their stakeholders (Academia, business sectors and society at all levels) ii) engage them in place-based, systemic, innovative, more resilient policies, and iii) to contribute to bridge the gap between more and less advanced territories.
- Enhance the readiness of territories to implement transformative innovation policies through the development of new capacities based on their public and private human capital, increased networking and cooperation potential, and expanded policy toolboxes and more robust governance mechanisms.
- Experiment the use innovative approaches to complex sustainability transition challenges, considering all the policies that land in the territory and their impact, overcoming silos, fostering experimentation culture, stakeholders' involvement and encouraging evidence-based decision-making and adaptive learning.
- Inform the debate on an EU Policy framework fit for the future beyond 2027.

### 4. Implementation

#### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a procurement procedure.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Launching of a Call for Expression of Interests (EOI) to European and associated territories. May 2024 – July 2024.
- To promote the participation of territories in the preparatory action, a call EOI will be published by the Commission JRC. To announce the call, a webinar will be organised, as soon as JRC receives the financial decision 2024, with the collaboration of the European Parliament. Interested territories can submit their EOI at different level (Member States, regions, cities) and in variable configuration (individual, groups of regions and/or groups of cities). In the submission process, territories will fill out a questionnaire as part of their expression of interest. The results of the survey will be processed to assess the training needs and experimentation capacities.
- Launching of an Open call for tenders for the Capacity Building and Experimentation Activities May – September 2024 (Awarding communication: December 2024).
- Territories' EOI assessment. July – August 2024. Developed by an EMI Experts pool.
- Awareness-raising events. From May – December 2024. A high level event, in collaboration with the European Parliament will take place on November 2024, with the participation of the territories and European Institutions.

- Launching of the research activities: September – November 2024.

The production of scientific evidence for policy is central to the mission of JRC, therefore research activities will be carried out throughout the preparatory action. The initiative will count on the advice of the JRC Experts on Fair and Sustainable Economy. Academic experts will be involved in the production of research deliverables related to methodologies, transformative innovation policies approach and the territorial experience unfolded across the initiative.

Contracts will be launched on November 2024 and the first meeting with the with the EMI experts pool will take place in December 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

– 2024 commitment appropriations regarding the open call for tenders procedure

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	December 2024
Interim payments	June 2025
Final payment	September 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations for selected experts

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Award decision	May/June 2024
Interim payments	July 2024 – October 2025
Final payment	October 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Award decision	May/June 2024
Interim payments	July – August 2024
Final payment	December 2024

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Award decision	June 2024
Interim payments	Every three months
Final payment	September 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6 Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in mid-June 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of its implementation.



## 1. Heading 1 – Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 01 24 04: Preparatory action — STARTUP VILLAGE FORUM AND RURAL INNOVATION VALLEYS

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 800 000	450 000	p.m.	900 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 800 000	450 000	p.m.	900 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The core objectives of this preparatory action are threefold:

1. It seeks to establish a firm foundation for measuring innovation and entrepreneurship in rural areas. Understanding and quantifying innovation in rural settings is challenging, as its nature and impact differ from urban contexts. These differences stem from various factors, including the economic structure of rural areas, such as the size and sectoral composition of rural businesses and the occupational structure of the rural workforce. As a result, traditional standard Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) indicators are often less suited to adequately capture innovation in rural areas. Therefore, developing new methods to measure rural innovation is crucial to enable policymakers to design and implement effective interventions in this area.
2. It seeks to identify and gain a deeper understanding of the conditions necessary for innovation ecosystems to flourish and for innovative entrepreneurs to be attracted to rural areas. Understanding potential barriers to innovation and startups in rural areas as well as the determinants that allow them to flourish is a critical step in fully mobilising the growth potential of rural territories.
3. It aims to increase engagement of EU rural territories in these issues, providing tools, platforms, and events to facilitate the sharing of experiences and mutual learning.

The analytical and empirical insights generated through this preparatory action will be instrumental to formulating policy recommendations for the Commission and national/local governments. These recommendations will extend across key policy domains that target rural territories, including the EU Rural Development Policy, the EU Regional and Cohesion Policy, and Horizon Europe.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of procurement and expert contracts.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Call for tenders open to relevant economic operators, May/June – September 2024.

This preparatory action will issue a call for tenders, inviting survey companies, market intelligence firms and other relevant economic operators to submit requests of interest and tenders for piloting an experimental firm-level survey. The primary objective of this survey is to collect essential information on the innovativeness of businesses in selected EU rural areas. The survey will gather data covering critical areas (e.g. obstacles and

drivers of innovation, innovation activities, product and business process innovation, innovation impact, innovation financing, etc.). The call for tenders is planned for launch in May/June 2024, allowing time for the completion of all procurement-related documentation, the evaluation of requests to participate, tender assessments, award decision, and contract finalization. The goal is to have a direct service contract signed with the selected company by March 2025.

- Expert contracts for carrying out research activities, May – December 2024.

This preparatory action will engage academic experts and practitioners through expert contracts to conduct a series of analytical studies and provide targeted support. Different expert contracts financing analytical studies (on key drivers, obstacles and characteristics of innovation and entrepreneurship in rural settings and on the functioning of rural innovation ecosystems) are expected to be launched and signed between May and December 2024.

- Procurement contracts for the development and maintenance of web platform and data visualization tools, June - December 2024.

The preparatory action will initiate procurement contracts to secure communication, web development, and data analysis services. These procurements are expected to be executed through existing framework contracts: one for communication services, one for web development and maintenance services, and another for data analysis services. Access to the relevant framework contracts will be requested from the respective Directorate Generals by October 2024 and specific contracts are expected to be signed by December 2024.

- Procurement contracts for the organization of a high-level EU Startup Village Forum, July - November 2024.

The preparatory action will initiate contracts for the organization and execution of a high-level EU Startup Village Forum. These procurement contracts are expected to be carried out under existing framework contracts for event management services and for audio-visual services. The event is scheduled for late November 2024. A request to access the relevant framework contracts will be submitted by July 2024 and specific contracts are expected to be signed by November 2024.

#### *4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, various relevant details are not yet known.

This section includes a few initially forecasted implementation needs for 2025, which might change according to needs that may arise in 2024.

- Expert contracts for carrying out research activities, January - December 2025

It is anticipated that new needs for conducting additional analytical studies will arise in 2025. These studies aim to further explore aspects uncovered during the preceding months of research activities and capitalize on findings and data developed or made available during the initial months of the project. Contracts with experts to finance these new analytical studies are expected to be launched and signed between January and December 2025.

- Procurement contracts for the development and maintenance of web platform and data visualization tools, January - December 2025

It is anticipated that new requirements for maintaining and/or expanding the web platform, data analytics, and data visualization developed in 2024 may arise in 2025. Therefore, new procurement contracts are likely to be necessary under the existing framework contracts utilized in 2024, covering communication services, web development and maintenance services, and data analysis services respectively. These new contracts are expected to be signed between January and December 2025.

- Procurement contracts for the organization of one or two high-level EU Startup Village Forum, July - November 2025.

It is anticipated that, in 2025, the preparatory action will initiate contracts for the organization and execution of an annual high-level EU Startup Village Forum scheduled for November 2025. Additionally, the requirement for an additional High-level EU Startup Village Forum will be evaluated by early 2025.

Procurement contracts are expected to be executed under the existing framework contracts for event management services and audio-visual services used in 2024. Requests to access the framework contracts will be submitted by July 2025.

– 2024 commitment appropriations regarding the open call for tenders procedure

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	March 2025
Interim payments	November 2025 – November 2026
Final payment	November 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations regarding selected experts

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	May/June 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	May - December 2024
Award decision	May - December 2024
Interim payments	May 2024 - August 2025
Final payment	June 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	June - October 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	June - October 2024
Award decision	June-December 2024
Interim payments	-
Final payment	December 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	June - July 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	July 2024
Award decision	August 2024
Interim payments	November 2024
Final payment	March 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations regarding selected experts

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	January - December 2025
Closing date of call for tenders	January - December 2025
Award decision	January - December 2025
Interim payments	March 2025 - October 2026
Final payment	October 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	January - October 2025
Closing date of call for tenders	January - October 2025
Award decision	February - December 2025
Interim payments	December 2025 - December 2026
Final payment	December 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations for an individual contract from an existing framework contract

<b>Step</b>	<b>Date</b>
Adoption of financing decision	May 2024
Publication of call for tenders	July 2025
Closing date of call for tenders	July 2025
Award decision	August 2025
Interim payments	November 2025
Final payment	December 2026

#### 4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. *Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- private companies / service providers

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### 5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in mid-June 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### 5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation,

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 02 18 01: Preparatory action — Establishing comprehensive support for coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2018, 2019 and 2020 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	2 513 710,00	p.m.	1 911 429	p.m.	2 000 000	0,0 %	4,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	2 513 710,00	p.m.	1 911 429	p.m.	2 000 000	0,0 %	4,6 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this preparatory action is to ensure on the ground the implementation of the European Green Deal and energy transition with a focus put on coal communities in selected Member States and neighbouring countries. It contributes to the success of the transformation of the EU as a whole and its closest neighbours.

Building on the existing support for coal regions, implemented through the service contract establishing the Secretariat for Coal Region in Transition (CRIT), this action provided targeted support for:

- Coal Regions in Transition in the European Union (CRIT EU), in particular through targeted technical assistance for energy-related plans and projects, peer learning and knowledge sharing between coal regions.
- Coal Regions in Transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, based on the EU experience of the Coal Regions in Transition initiative, with the launch of a dedicated initiative.

The EU initiative for Coal Regions in Transition is managed by a secretariat which helps the Commission implement sub-activities, notably with five tasks: events, technical assistance, knowledge products, communications, and international activities.

The twinning initiative that brought together regions to work on a specific topic “ExchangeEU” went into the second round in the first half of 2023, ending in June 2023. The second round encompassed 9 matches with 17 regions from 11 Member States and covered topics around economic diversification, land recultivation, citizens’ engagement and establishing energy communities.

The initiative for Coal Regions in Transition in the Western Balkan and Ukraine entered into its last year in 2023. The secretariat continued organizing exchanges between EU coal regions and coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. Furthermore, country-specific workshops were held in all target countries, in cooperation with the local authorities, the EU delegation and other Commission staff. The close collaboration with the six principles of the initiative continued and country-specific meetings were set up to better understand the ongoing activities of each of the stakeholders. Furthermore, a series of six webinars on the topic of Just Transition were launched and accompanied the efforts of the workshops and exchanges.

The CRIT EU activities in 2024 will focus, next to the management of the project providing for a full implementation of the CRIT initiative, on implementing the deliverables of the five tasks. In August 2024, another mid-term report is planned to be submitted.

Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2018, 2019 and 2020 budgets. The long duration of this action is due to the large budget allocated to it.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action through different means: open call for tenders, administration agreement with the World Bank and contribution agreement with the European Investment Bank (EIB).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - Continued the work on the initiative for coal regions in transition for the Western Balkans and Ukraine;
  - CRIT contractor continued working and coordinating all the activities;
  - Implementation of the exchange programme for EU coal regions;
  - Continuation of support EU CRIT helpdesk;
  - Regular bi-weekly meetings with DG ENER;
  - Collaboration with other existing initiatives (i.e., Just Transition Platform, CRiT WBUA, ExchangeEU, IKI-JET, Horizon projects and others);
  - Preparation of the Working Group on District Heating;
  - Managing the EU initiative for coal regions in transition website;
  - Implementation of the technical assistance for seven START regions granted support in the second call for proposals in 2022 and promoting other EU instruments in support of coal regions (EIB, TSI etc.) as well as aligning processes with JTP Groundwork (DG REGIO contract).
- Deliverables submitted:
  - Inception report and mid-term reports, as well as first annual operational report by EIB;
  - Toolkits (two – on District Heating and Green Skills) and case studies (five);
  - Seven out of seven START technical assistance completion reports;
  - Communication strategy;
  - Newsletters for CRiT and CRiT WBUA issued quarterly , one newsletter on international issues;
  - Promotional CRiT video prepared and placed on youtube;
  - Events photo coverage;
  - Regular tweeting about CRiT and CRiT WBUA activities;
  - Webinars, focusing on just transition issues in Western Balkans;
  - Revised international strategy with EU Energy Day side event at COP28.
- Meetings held:
  - Establishing of the District Heating Working Group, three sessions organised in 2023;
  - Organising a large-scale high-level meeting (Annual Political Dialogue);
  - Two just transition platform meetings, in co-organisation with another contractor (DG REGIO);
  - Various national workshops in Western Balkans;
  - Annual meeting of the Western Balkans and Ukraine initiative and submission of the final report.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Completing ongoing technical assistance projects and providing three more under the START task;
  - Seven ongoing support schemes implemented by the EIB under TARGET;
  - Promotion of CRiT through a newsletter and videos (in line with communications task);
  - Revision of international strategy and update on international transition;

- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - Completing knowledge products – Spatial planning and strategy toolkit and updating three toolkits - on technology options, transition financing and sustainable employment;
  - Lessons learnt report and case studies;
  - Webinar series on a Just Transition;
  - CRiT interim term report;
  - Regular newsletters;
  - Third call for proposals for additional three START regions to be supported;
  - Toolkit Managing post-coal assets through spatial planning and strategic planning.
- Meetings to take place:
  - A district heating meeting working group with a site visit to a Polish municipality of Zgorzelec with a decarbonised district heating system;
  - Co-organising a JTP Platform with DG REGIO in April and October (300 participant in person, 600 participants online);
  - Annual Political Dialogue in Velenje, Slovenia in July 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2018
Publication of call for tenders	July 2018
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2018
Award decision	November 2018
Prefinancing or interim payments	October 2019, March 2020, February 2021
Final payment	August 2022

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date		
Adoption of financing decision	August 2020		
	Program CRiT for Western Balkans and Ukraine	Exchange program -CRiT	Contribution Agreement
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2020	July 2020	n/a
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2020	September 2020	n/a
Award decision	November 2020	March 2021	n/a
Prefinancing or interim payments	June 2021, July 2022, April 2023	January 2022, June 2022	March 2022, then yearly
Final payment	January 2024	June 2023	2028

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PA – Establishing comprehensive support for coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition	ECORYS Brussels NV	1 700 000

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PA – Establishing comprehensive support for coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition	ECORYS Europe GEIE	2 745 100
	Guidehouse Netherlands B.V.	950 900
Technical Assistance for Regions Undergoing a Green Energy Transition” financed from the general budget of the European Union	THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK	14 000 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- service providers
- public service providers
- international organisations

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decisions C(2018)1179, adopted on 1 March 2018, and C(2020)5455, adopted on 12 August 2020, set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents for all three open calls for tenders are available at the following addresses:

<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=3679>

<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6452>

<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6792>

All the documents related to CRiT initiative are available at the following address: [EU coal regions in transition - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

All newsletters of the CRiT initiative are available at the following address: [ENERGY - Newsletter Archives \(europa.eu\)](#)

All the documents related to the initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine are available at the following address: [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-western-balkans-and-ukraine\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/coal-regions-western-balkans-and-ukraine_en)

All documents related to the new TARGET facility are available at the following address: [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions/target-technical-assistance\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions/target-technical-assistance_en)

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged at legislative level, due to the adoption of the Just Transition Fund Regulation in June 2021. However, some of the activities developed under this preparatory action are continued under the new LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme: [Clean Energy Transition - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

The CRiT WBUA programme is likely to continue next year in a different format through a just transition initiative run by the European Commission, the planning is still ongoing at this stage.



## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 02 22 01: Preparatory action — EU Road Safety Exchange +

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
			p.m.		p.m.			
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	270 000	p.m.	268 305	0,0 %	-0,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	270 000	p.m.	268 305	0,0 %	-0,6 %

## 3. Objectives

Building on the experience acquired in a previous pilot project, this preparatory action is supporting the exchange of knowledge and experience between road safety professionals in the Member States and raising awareness of the key policies and interventions that could significantly improve road safety across the EU.

It focuses on ensuring a transfer of knowledge and experience from well-performing Member States towards those where road safety records are well below the EU average. The action is testing how effectively the Commission can intervene in best practice exchanges between Member States, foster the dissemination of knowledge and expertise and, through non-legislative action, have an impact on road safety in a field normally covered by the principle of subsidiarity. This approach is justified by a strong need for action on the ground to help close the road safety performance gap between the Member States within the EU.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission is implementing this preparatory action by means of a public procurement service contract to the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out in 2023: Selection of relevant Member States, in-depth analysis of the road safety situation and priority issues in those Member States, establishment of framework for collaboration and exchange, first study visits to partner countries.
- Deliverables submitted: Inception report setting out the in-depth analysis of the supported Member States (received 15 February 2023). First interim report covering 2023 activities submitted in February 2024.
- Meetings held: High-level launch events in each of the supported Member States, launch event in Brussels.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out in 2024: Preparation and organisation of workshops and study visits in Member States, organisation of a workshop involving all participating countries.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Second interim report covering activities 2024 should be submitted in February 2025.
- Meetings to take place: organisation of a seminar in Brussels.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2022
Publication of call for tenders	July 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	September 2022

Step	Date
Award decision	December 2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> interim payments	April 2025
Final payment	Q1 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European road safety exchange	European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).	EUR 894 350

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)4509, adopted on 4 July 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Commission Decision C\(2022\)4509](#).

Call documents were available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=11697>

The award decision is available at the following address: <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:57048-2023:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Information regarding the High-level launch event on 18 October 2023 is available at the following address: [EU Road Safety Exchange Phase II - Launch Event - Part 1](#) and [EU Road Safety Exchange Phase II - Launch Event - Part 2](#)

The project website is available at the following address: [EU Road Safety Exchange – ETSC](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

Yes, the Commission is currently exploring how to continue this or similar actions in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 02 22 02: Preparatory action — EU Space Data for autonomous vessels in Inland waterways

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	550 000	p.m.	546 000	0,0 %	-0,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	550 000	p.m.	546 000	0,0 %	-0,7 %

## 3. Objectives

The general objectives of this preparatory action are (i) to support the Commission in addressing new business opportunities as well as new challenges of autonomous vessel operations on inland waterways, supporting the digitalisation and sustainability challenges of the EU and (ii) to contribute to the NAIADES III objectives for the development, demonstration and deployment of holistic, smart and automated shipping concepts.

More specific objectives are to (i) define the minimum requirements in technical, operational and regulatory terms to guarantee safe and secure navigation for automated vessels in different levels of automation on European inland waterways and (ii) demonstrate and validate the findings by means of several pilots making use of EU Space data from Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus. This project shall contribute to the EU policy framework for automated vessels on European inland waterways and shall contribute to the work of the European Committee for Drawing up Standards in the Field of Inland Navigation (CESNI).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

2023

- Activities carried out: Launch of tenders, Signature of a contract.
- Meetings held: Monthly coordination meetings, Kick-off meeting (January 2024).

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Workshops, surveys.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Inception report (April 2024), the first intermediate report (December 2024).
- Meetings to take place: Monthly coordination meetings, Inception report meeting (April 2024).

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2022
Publication of call for tenders	17 May 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	13 July 2023
Award decision	November 2023

Step	Date
Signature of the contract	December 2023
Interim payment 1	Q1 2025
Interim payment 2	Q1 2026
Final payment	Q1 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Study with pilot projects on EU Space Data for automated vessels on European inland waterways	GMV Aerospace and Defence SA	1 820 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 4506, adopted on 4 July 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/finance/financing-decisions-for-policy-support-and-pilot-projects-and-preparatory-actions)

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=12660>

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged at this stage due to the early stage of its implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 02 24 05: Preparatory action — The European Green Digital Coalition moves to Action

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	550 000	-100,0 %	10,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	550 000	-100,0 %	10,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The ultimate goal of the preparatory action “The European Green Digital Coalition moves to Action” (PA EGDC-A) is to support the green and digital twin transition of major sectors of the economy by providing metrics and guidance to all relevant stakeholders, including economic actors, digital solution developers, authorities, financial institutions, on how to deploy and finance digitalisation that has also environmental benefits. It will build on the pilot project “European Green Digital Coalition” (PP EGDC) ([www.greendigitalcoalition.eu](http://www.greendigitalcoalition.eu)) that has successfully developed methodology assessing net environmental footprint of digital solution and draft sectoral guidelines on how the methodology could be used.

The preparatory action’s objectives are two-fold, as follows:

- to foster a wide adoption and use of the PP EGDC methodology and guidelines by the stakeholders of major sectors of economy such as energy, transport, construction/buildings, agriculture as well as manufacturing, smart cities, financial and health sectors. The preparatory action EGDC-A will support the digitalisation efforts of those sectors through tailored guidelines on how to deploy digital solutions in order to optimise the environmental impact. The metrics will be used to quantify the benefits (for example reduced or avoided emissions) in order for those sectors to be supported in their net zero trajectories and report progress accordingly. Dedicated Union-wide programmes such as the Digital Decade Policy Programme will also help to deploy at scale sustainable digital solutions and infrastructures in the Member States and support also those efforts with proper upskilling of the workforce.
- based on the large scale evidence of the net positive environmental impact of digital solutions (e.g. the emissions reductions enabled by the digital solution are larger than emissions corresponding to manufacturing and using the digital solution), the financial sector and public procurers will be supported in development of their KPIs and criteria for green public procurements that would guide sustainable financing of digital solutions with proven net positive environmental impact benefits. The goal is to enable sustainable finance to support digitalisation of major sectors in a way that the environmental impacts of such digitalisation can be monitored and quantified. Major Union programmes and initiatives such as the NextGenerationEU and Digital Decade Policy Programme will also benefit from these metrics.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a procurement via an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable, as this is the first year of the preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The project is expected to start mid-November 2024;

There will be no deliverables yet, but a meeting is expected in 2024 with all the beneficiaries and supporting partners as well as ecosystem of interested parties including financial institutions, city authorities and vertical sector stakeholders. This meeting will take place in Brussels in December 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024
Interim payments	Q2 Q4 2025
Final payment	Q4 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- foundations
- international organisation

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision [C\(2024\)1349](#), adopted on 07 March 2024 sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of its implementation. However, the results will be analysed and a decision will be taken if the EU Taxonomy climate mitigation delegated act will need to be updated / amended based on the findings – in particular regarding the section 8.2 – ICT solutions that reduce GHG emissions.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 20 04: Preparatory action — EU Tax and Financial Crimes Observatory — Capacity building to support Union policymaking in the area of taxation

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	900 000,00	p.m.	900 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-66,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	900 000,00	p.m.	900 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-66,7 %

## 3. Objectives

The large number of tax evasion and tax avoidance revelations over the last few years has significantly shaken the confidence of Union citizens, businesses and trade unions in the robustness and fairness of Union rules against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning. When three out of four citizens expect the Union to do more on taxation, it is essential to ensure that public interests and the interests of all stakeholders are taken into account in designing initiatives aiming at strengthening the Union framework against tax evasion and tax avoidance.

This preparatory action aims at creating a specialised and independent observatory on Union tax matters related to tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a yearly grant that has been renewed twice.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Under the 2022 - 2023 grant, the EU Tax Observatory has delivered the following outputs:

Work Package 1: Minimum five research/policy papers on tax evasion and tax avoidance

- Research Paper 1: A Modern Excess Profit Tax<sup>10</sup>
- Research Paper 2: Estimating profit shifting using new micro-level country-by-country reporting data

Three working papers were gradually released as part of the Research Paper 2 activity:

- Aliprandi, G. and von Zedlitz, G.: *Benchmarking Country-by-Country Reports*, 2022.
- Aliprandi, G., Faccio, T., Godar, S. and Jansky, P.: *The Long Way to Tax Transparency: Lessons from the Early Publishers of Country-by-Country Reports*, 2022.
- Aliprandi, G. and Borders, K.: *Tax Transparency by Multinationals: Trends in Country-by-Country Reports Public Disclosure*, 2023.

- Research Paper 3: Mapping the global geography of shell companies<sup>11</sup>
- Research Paper 4: Consumption Taxes and Corporate Income Taxes: Evidence from Place-based VAT<sup>12</sup>
- Research Paper 5: Global Tax Evasion Report 2024<sup>13</sup>

Work Package 2: EU Tax Observatory website

<sup>10</sup> François, M., Oliveira, C., Planterose, B. and Zucman, G.: *A Modern Excess Profit Tax*, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> Ducept, J., Koumanakos, E. and Nicolaidis, P.: *Mapping the global geography of shell companies*, 2023.

<sup>12</sup> Ducept, J., Koumanakos, E. and Nicolaidis, P.: *Consumption Taxes and Corporate Income Taxes: Evidence from Place-based VAT*, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> Alstadsæter, A., Godar, S., Nicolaidis, P. and Zucman, G. (coordinators): *Global Tax Evasion Report*, 2024.

New innovative visualisations of the Country-by-Country Statistics Explorer were added to the website. The repository has been developed to a fully-fledged Atlas with open-access data series on tax evasion.

#### Work Package 3: Five interactive public events

- Public Event 1: Inheritance Taxation in the EU (co-organised with the JRC in Spain, 1 July 2022)
- Public Event 2: How to Tax Excess Profits of Energy Companies (Paris, 29 November, 2022)
- Public Event 3: Tax Justice and Energy crisis: How to tax Windfall profits? (co-organised with Eteron in Athens, 1 March 2023)
- Public Event 4: New Times, new Taxes? Financing State and Welfare in a Globalized World (co-organised with SACO in Stockholm, 29 March 2023)
- Public Event 5: Tax Evasion: How Big Is It? How Can We Stop It? (co-organised with Oxfam International in Rome, 13 November 2023).

#### Work Package 4: Thematic workshops

- Thematic Workshop 1: “Transparency and Tax Avoidance: Country-by-Country Reporting by Multinational Enterprises” in cooperation with Charles University in Prague, 3 – 4 November 2022
- Thematic Workshop 2: New Data for Research on Tax Avoidance (in cooperation with Université Libre de Bruxelles, 19 April 2023)
- Thematic Workshop 3: EUTO-IEB Workshop on the Economics of Taxation (in cooperation with the IEB in Barcelona, 31 May – 1 June 2023).

#### Work Package 5: High-level meeting in Brussels

A high-level event took place at Sofitel Hotel in Brussels on 30 May 2023. It was attended by 215 persons and included policy-makers, academics, representatives of the civil society and the general public.

#### 4.3. *Forthcoming implementation in 2024*

The Observatory will produce at least five original reports and research papers during the 18 months of this grant. Among the topics proposed are:

- The risk of tax abuse arising from cryptocurrencies and crypto-assets, using data from Denmark and Norway on the reporting of crypto to the tax authorities.
- Assessing tax haven blacklists: A review of best practices to fight aggressive tax planning and tax evasion in non-EU countries, and possible recommendations for the EU.
- Quantitative estimation and analysis of the benefits and compliance costs of anti-tax avoidance/evasion measures, estimating profit shifting using tax returns in France.
- Assessing the Automatic Exchange of Information, taxing Wealth in a Globalized World: The Compliance Effect of Automatic Information Exchange (in cooperation with the Danish Tax Authorities).

The Observatory will organize six public, professionally advertised, events in the next 18 months across the European Union. This will include a high-level full day event in Brussels, three interactive public events in three different EU countries, and two thematic workshops. Additional academic and public activities will complement these events, such as hybrid bi-monthly academic presentations, participations in panels during external events and co-organisation of additional events with collaborators in EU countries.

The Observatory will update and expand its public repository of data and analysis on tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning, to cover new studies and datasets as new research findings emerge and additional sources of information become available. The Observatory will update its website to disseminate the available data in a user-friendly manner, inform the wider public of issues related to tax fairness, including related issues such as anti-money laundering rules. The website will host interactive tax simulation and visualisation tools allowing users to simulate the effect of ongoing and projected reforms and to access data (e.g., country-by-country data of multinational companies) clearly and efficiently.

Last, the Observatory will advertise its initiatives in each EU Member State through its network of academics, advocates, policymakers, journalists, civil society organizations and business representatives.

#### 4.4. *Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025*

– 2022 commitment appropriations



Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q4 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q4 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Q1 2023
Award decision	Q1 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2023
Final payment	Q2 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

The activities funded for the EU Tax Observatory cover the following tasks:

- updating, improving, and feeding with information and data the publicly-available repository on tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning in the Union and the effects of policy reform in these domains;
- disseminate the available data in a user-friendly manner and inform the wider public of issues related to tax fairness for business and individual taxpayers and the wider public;
- steer the debate on aggressive tax planning, tax evasion and tax avoidance, notably by organising events, conferences and workshops;
- produce evidence and recommendations related to fighting tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning, notably through the drafting and publication of research papers and reports;
- provide policymakers with robust and diversified expertise, research and data;
- liaise with different international organisations and national administrations on issues related to Union tax policy making.

Number of items per activities are:

- minimum five research/policy papers on the topics mentioned in the appendix to the call for proposals. Other topics can also be suggested by the applicant;
- Updates of the website containing the public repository on tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning in the EU and the effects of policy reform in these domains (<https://www.taxobservatory.eu/>);
- one digital brochure (maximum 10 pages) disseminating data from the public repository in a simple, visually attractive and easy to understand manner for the general public;
- one high-level, one-day, interactive public event with external stakeholders representing civil society, policy makers (both national and EU) and business organizations (max of around 200 – 300 participants). The event should be organized in Brussels;
- minimum three small scale interactive public events with external stakeholders (max. 60 participants) where the research is presented. These should be organized in different EU countries, in English;
- two thematic workshops involving experts, regarding the measurement and mitigation of aggressive tax planning measures relevant to the EU.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

For the continuation of this project in 2024, the European Tax Observatory remains hosted at the Paris School of Economics (lead applicant) and will keep working in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen (co-applicant), DIW Berlin (co-applicant) and Charles University of Prague (co-applicant). Associate organisations in the consortium are the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, the Skatteforsk Centre for Tax Research at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, the Finnish Centre for Excellence in Tax Systems Research (FIT) and OXFAM International. All these beneficiaries are research institutes / academia or foundation for OXFAM international.

## 5. Documentation and expected results

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, Commission Decision C(2022)8750, adopted on 6 December 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [EUR-Lex - C\(2022\)7550 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents are available at the following address: [Call for proposals EUTO 2022.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

The project website is available at the following address: [EU Tax Observatory](#)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

The Commission intends to follow up on this preparatory action by grants through the FISCALIS Programme for the years 2025 - 2028 that will keep on supporting the research of a European Tax Observatory.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 22 01: Preparatory action — Analysis of life-cycle GHG emissions of EU buildings

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	449 805,00	p.m.	449 805	p.m.	599 740	0,0 %	33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	449 805,00	p.m.	449 805	p.m.	599 740	0,0 %	33,3 %

## 3. Objectives

The preparatory action would enable a comprehensive overview of the whole life cycle greenhouse gas impact of the EU buildings sector and the associated construction, renovation and demolition activity. It would enable a clearer understanding of the feasibility and effects of applying whole life carbon reduction and carbon removal strategies on a large scale (across national building stocks and at the EU level), by modelling such strategies in different scenarios. It would also develop a methodology to continuously update and improve the data underlying such scenario modelling, thereby facilitating a monitoring of whole life carbon and a better future understanding including policy implications.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission is implementing this preparatory action by means of a service contract that was awarded via open public tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:

The consortium carried out activities in several tasks as foreseen. They identified and collected relevant data, consulted stakeholders, met with the Commission on several occasions (outlined below) and prepared several deliverables. The consortium created a project website: <https://c.ramboll.com/life-cycle-emissions-of-eu-building-and-construction>

The contractor presented the work to the High-Level Construction Forum on 17 October 2023 and on 21 March 2024.

- Deliverables submitted:

- o Report describing existing sources of data, gaps or shortcomings in data, and ways to collect or generate new data;
- o Report on the most promising carbon reduction and removal strategies, taking into account national contexts;
- o Report with quantitative baseline figures for whole life carbon and carbon removals;
- o Report describing the methodology to collect or generate new data, taking into account the capacity to do so in each Member State;
- o Detailed plan for consultation of relevant stakeholders and authorities.

- Meetings held:

- o 2 June 2023: Progress meeting with GROW, ENER, ENV and CLIMA;
- o 6 July 2023: Modelling meeting with experts from CLIMA and ENER;
- o 19 July 2023: Progress meeting with GROW, ENER, ENV and CLIMA;
- o 9 November 2023: In-person meeting in Brussels, with GROW, ENER, ENV and CLIMA;

- o 1 February 2024: Meeting on carbon removals with CLIMA and GROW;
- o 2 February 2024: Virtual meeting with GROW and ENV;
- o 11 March 2024: Meeting with GROW, ENER, CLIMA and ENV.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Following the submission of the baseline analysis in 2023, work will proceed in 2024 on the modelling of future scenarios, including a scenario modelling tool.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - o D3.2 New dataset for use in other tasks;
  - o D4.1 Report with quantitative figures for future scenarios;
  - o D4.2 Scenario modelling tool.
- Meetings to take place: Further regular progress meetings with the Commission services are planned (exact dates to be confirmed, but expected to be at least once per two months).

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	September 2022
Award decision	December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2023, August 2024
Final payment	June 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Analysis of life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions and removals of EU buildings and construction	Consortium led by Ramboll Management Consulting [Ramboll Management Consulting, Buildings Performance Institute Europe ASBL, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Technische Universitaet Graz]	1 499 350

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies
- research institutes / academia / universities

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision [C\(2022\)654](#), adopted on 09 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](#)

The award decision is available at the following address: [Services - 51554-2023 - TED Tenders Electronic Daily \(europa.eu\)](#)

The project website is available at the following address: <https://c.ramboll.com/life-cycle-emissions-of-eu-building-and-construction>

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

The action would complement the Renovation Wave action ‘Developing a 2050 whole life-cycle performance roadmap to reduce carbon emissions from buildings and advancing national benchmarking with Member States’.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no specific legislative follow up is envisaged. Informal discussions have started among Commission services on the potential uses that could be made of the final results. The action is relevant to several pieces of legislation: the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) the certification of carbon removals, the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). It is also relevant to non-legislative policy initiatives, in particular the Transition Pathway for construction under the Industrial Strategy.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 22 02: Preparatory action — Developing a system for the automated measuring of tail length and tail lesions of pigs at the slaughter line

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	837 304,46	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	418 652	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	837 304,46	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	418 652	0,0 %	

## 3. Objectives

The main objective of this preparatory action is to support the development of a system for the automated measuring of tail length and tail lesions of pigs at the slaughter line. The automated measuring system will serve as a systematic, comprehensive and tailored feedback system to assist farmers to: (i) make trials to shift from routine tail docking to raising intact pigs; (ii) monitor episodes of tail biting in the holdings/batches of tail docked or intact pigs, in order to take appropriate corrective measures (farmers encountering a high incidence of tail lesions could seek further assistance); (iii) identify early signs of tail biting episodes in the holdings/batches of tail docked or intact pigs, in order to take preventive measures.

The phasing out of routine tail docking presents high animal welfare benefits. In parallel, the avoidance of tail lesions increases the profitability of farmers by minimising relevant problems of carcass quality. The feedback of monitoring in the slaughterhouses through a common, harmonised system of measurement of tail length and tail lesions can also be used for collective activities in the context of farmers' cooperatives as well as for purposes of benchmarking. The system could also be used to measure the impacts of compliance and support measures taken by the authorities to reduce the practice of tail docking.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

2022

- Activities carried out: Not applicable
- Deliverables submitted: Not applicable
- Meetings held: Not applicable.

2023

- Activities carried out: Grant Agreement signed on 12 October 2023
- Deliverables submitted:
  - D1.1 Signed contract and consortium agreement
  - D1.2 Data management, IPR and GDPR plan
  - D2.1 Summary from kick-off meeting
  - D7.1 Project internet site.
- Meetings held: Kick-off meeting.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: the implementation of the preparatory action is ongoing.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - D1.3 Midway report (M13)
  - D3.1 Tailscan prototype (M14)
  - D3.2. Tailscan ICT (M14)
  - D3.3 Prototype report (M15)
  - D4.1 Validation of performance (M15).
- Meetings to take place:
  - Monthly virtual meetings and problem solving
  - End webinar for relevant stakeholders summarising the project.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2022
Publication of call for proposals	6 September 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	15 February 2023
Award decision	10 October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Pre-fin 13 October 2023, Interim expected: March 2025
Final payment	February 2026

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

TAILSCAN addresses the challenges of tailbiting among pigs, the unwanted practice of taildocking and the impact on pig welfare. The call requests for an automatic tool to survey prevalence and severity of short tails and tail lesions in pig abattoirs. TAILSCAN builds on the commercially available ADAL platform. The suggested approach includes digital images collected by a camera mounted on a robot arm. The images are processed and analysed locally before reported to a cloud-based API service available for any users with appropriate access rights. The statistical reports will be available in Farm4trade's interface towards farmers, or integrated into industrial users' ICT systems. TAILSCAN will be assessed regarding all stakeholders' practical experiences and perceptions, and tested in a multicenter industrial field pilot. Abattoirs from Germany (VION), Netherlands (VION), Spain (Incarlopsa) and Italy (Martini) are the abattoir industrial partners. Farm4Trade, will also coordinate the TAILSCAN project. The universities of Bologna (Italy), Teramo (Italy) and Leon (Spain) are the academic partners. Important European stakeholders invited to the reference group will provide the project with broader perspectives. Results will be communicated openly in a range of channels and networks.

Project management and coordination:

- Project design and planning Phase
- Development Phase
- Validation Phase
- Assessment
- Pilot Phase
- Dissemination.

Total eligible costs: EUR 2 146 934,53

Maximum grant amount: EUR 1 395 507,44

Co-Financing rate: 65%

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
101127986 - DEVELOPING A SYSTEM FOR THE AUTOMATED MEASURING OF TAIL LENGTH AND TAIL LESIONS OF PIGS AT THE SLAUGHTER LINE - TAILSCAN	FARM4TRADE SRL, via 4 Novembre nr. 33, Atessa, Chieti, IT	1 395 507,44

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Public service providers
- Research institutes / academia
- Private entity

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 3319, adopted on 25 May 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-practice/animal-welfare-farm/pigs/tail-docking\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-practice/animal-welfare-farm/pigs/tail-docking_en)

Call documents were available at the following address: [https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/developing-system-automated-measuring-tail-length-and-tail-lesions-pigs-slaughter-line\\_en](https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/developing-system-automated-measuring-tail-length-and-tail-lesions-pigs-slaughter-line_en)

The project website is available at the following address: <https://www.f4tlab.com/tailscan>

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No follow up activity is envisaged. The work on the revision of animal welfare legislation is ongoing without confirmed deadlines.



## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 22 04: Preparatory action — Establishing basis for a tourism common policy

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1 500 000	p.m.	1 126 210	0,0 %	-24,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1 500 000	p.m.	1 126 210	0,0 %	-24,9 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this preparatory action is to implement activities with a view to the creation of a common basis for future tourism policy. It covers three separate projects.

The first project aims to facilitate change towards more sustainable and resilient EU tourism destinations, in line with the Transition Pathway for Tourism. It will do so by surveying local and regional destination management organisations (DMOs), recognising key challenges and gathering good practices, establishing a twinning mechanism for destinations with common challenges, and implementing communication campaigns towards DMOs and the public.

The second project supports the development of Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCRs) and the acquisition of relevant environmental footprint compliant datasets for the hotel accommodation sector. The objective is to support tourism accommodations by enabling them to measure and communicate their environmental impacts, adopting a life-cycle approach and using a tested method of Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), developed by the Commission.

The action also supports the creation of a code of conduct for online reviews and ratings of tourism accommodation (e.g. the hotel star rating system). It may enable activities aiming at increasing consumer awareness on the tourist accommodation rating and review frameworks and contribute to the development and operation of a web-based information integrator allowing consumers to review objective and subjective information on tourist accommodation quality to make informed decisions. The objective is to co-create this code of conduct with relevant stakeholders and incentivise them to endorse it. This action therefore includes both the process to create the code but also communication activities.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of three calls for tenders: one project of one year to support the creation a code of conduct on online reviews (hereafter “code of conduct”), one project of two years to support sustainability and resilience of tourism destinations (hereafter ”Sustainable EU Tourism”) and one project of three years on the development of PEF Category Rules for hotel accommodations (hereafter “PEFCR”).

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

For Sustainable EU Tourism, the contract was signed on 15 November 2023 and the kick-off meeting took place on 6 December 2023.

The PEFCR project started in October 2023 and will last until September 2026. The Technical Secretariat was set up in February 2024. It is the governing body that is developing the PEF Category Rules (PEFCR), a set of specific rules that needs to be defined for the respective product category. It will meet periodically to make technical decisions, discuss the progress made, and organise hotel industry testing of the draft PEFCR. The Technical Secretariat is a multi-stakeholder working group, representing at least 51 % of the EU hotel

market. The work on defining the PEFCR scope has started. In parallel, the work on datasets and the outreach to the stakeholders, building their awareness has started from the onset of the project.

As for the code of conduct, the kick off meeting took place on 11 December 2023 and the implementation is taking place in 2024.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

For Sustainable EU Tourism, the main activities in 2024 will be the implementation of work package 1: *Design and implementation of a survey for local and regional destination management organisations across the EU* (concrete deliverables: preparation of the survey form, dissemination of the survey to 500+ DMOs, and summary of survey results), and work package 2: *Recognise key challenges and gather best practices for supporting sustainable and resilient tourism in destinations* (concrete deliverables: development of an analysis framework, mapping of key challenges and best practices, presentation of key messages to DMOs). Parts of work package 3: *Establish a twinning mechanism for destinations with shared challenges* and work package 4: *Communication and awareness raising* will also take place in 2024, namely the development of an online peer collaboration mechanism to support DMO twinning, the initiation of first twinning relationships between DMOs, the collection of DMOs to be engaged in the survey, and communication towards DMOs on sustainable and resilient tourism.

For PEFCR, during 2024, the Technical Secretariat will prepare the first draft PEFCR which will go to the external review and to the public consultation in September 2024. During 2024, two Technical Secretariat meetings are foreseen, one in July with the goal to present the first draft PEFCR and another one during the fall, with the goal to present the first RP study, before launching the critical review and the first open consultation. In parallel, the list of datasets will be developed and delivered during 2024 and the outreach to the stakeholders will be an important element throughout the project.

As for the code of conduct, the scope had first to be defined in the beginning of 2024 due to the entry into force of important legislations (e.g., Digital Service Act) and consultations with other Directorates General took place. The process for creating the code takes place during Q1 - Q2 2024. Communication activities to raise awareness about the code of conduct should mainly take place as from Q3 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Sustainable EU Tourism financial offer of the winning tenderer: EUR 1 348 675

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Interim payments	30 % interim payment request received on 14 March 2024
Final payment	November 2025

PEFCR project financial offer of the winning tenderer: EUR 1 955 800,00

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	28 April 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	13 June 2023
Award decision	September 2023
interim payments	30 % 1 <sup>st</sup> interim payment in September 2024 30 % 2 <sup>nd</sup> interim payment in 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2026
Final payment	60 % for 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter 2026

Code of conduct's financial offer of the winning tenderer: EUR 463 950,00

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	9 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2023 (code of conduct)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2023 (code of conduct)
Award decision	November 2023 (code of conduct)
Prefinancing or interim payments	50 % interim payment – June/July 2024 (code of conduct)
Final payment	December 2024 (code of conduct)

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers - international organisation

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

Commission Decision of 9 February 2022 on the financing of certain pilot projects and preparatory actions relating to 'Horizon Europe' and the 'Single Market Programme' and on the adoption of the work programme for 2022, C(2022)654 (financing decision).

Sustainable EU Tourism:

Call documents are available at the following address: [TED eTendering website](#)

The award decision is available at the following address: [OJ Contract Award Notice | 2023/S 225-708993](#)

The survey is available at the following address: [EUSurvey - Survey \(europa.eu\)](#)

The project website is available at the following address: [Sustainable EU Tourism – Shaping the Tourism of Tomorrow - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

PEFCR:

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](#)

The award decision is available at the following address: [OJ Contract Award Notice | 2023/S 191-598394](#)

The project website is available at the following address: [pefhotelaccommodation.eu | PEF Hotel Accommodation/Home](#)

Code of conduct:

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged at this stage, given the early stage of the projects (Sustainable EU Tourism and PEF-CR). For the third project, the final output will be a Code of Conduct (expected by the end of the year).

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 23 01: Preparatory action — Developing a methodology and sustainability standards for mitigating the environmental impact of crypto-assets

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	800 000,00	0,00	p.m.	240 000	p.m.	560 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	800 000,00	0,00	p.m.	240 000	p.m.	560 000	0,0 %	

#### 3. Objectives

The general objective of this study is to enhance the EU's capacity to assess and mitigate the climate and environmental impact of consensus mechanisms used by crypto-assets, including the assessment of various factors, such as the carbon footprint, consumption of energy and other natural resources, and electronic waste.

The specific objectives underlying the conduct of the study are:

- To develop a robust scientific-based methodology, including qualitative criteria and quantitative indicators, to measure the climate and environmental impact of the consensus mechanism protocols used for crypto-assets, including the total amount of carbon emissions produced, the consumption of energy, natural resources, water, and the electronic waste produced by the entire network of a particular crypto-asset and by the crypto-asset ecosystem of that crypto-asset as a whole, on a global level.
- To conduct a comprehensive mapping of the various types of consensus mechanisms used by crypto-assets and their classification in relation to their climate and environmental impact, including an analysis of potential trade-offs (in terms of security, efficiency, etc.) in case of opting for more or less environmentally friendly mechanisms as well as the geographical validation footprint of major permissionless networks and any notable concentrations of validation power.
- To assess the broader impact on ESG factors, in particular the relevant environmental, economic and social externalities generated by achieving consensus on and securing a blockchain network (crypto-mining, validation of transactions) including impact on highdemand chip supply, noise pollution, electricity consumption and water, as well as the impact and financial risks posed on European public power utilities.
- To identify sustainable alternatives to energy intensive methods of achieving consensus and securing a blockchain network and best practices for the development and adoption of consensus mechanism protocols that are less energy intensive and do not cause any significant harm to the Union climate and environmental objectives and energy targets.
- To outline different policy options to mitigate the environmental impact of crypto-assets and to accelerate the adoption of alternative green solutions.
- To assess the feasibility of developing sustainability standards for crypto assets.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of an open call for tenders, published on 26 September 2023.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: open call for tenders published and evaluated.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: contract to be signed;
- Deliverables to be submitted: final study to be submitted after 13 months contract.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2023
Publication of call for tenders	September 2023
Closing date of call for tenders	November 2023
Award decision	May 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Depending on signature date of the contract
Final payment	In 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Feasibility study FISMA/2023/OP/0005	Awaiting award decision	N/A

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 4792, adopted on 19 July 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Commission Decision C\(2023\) 4792 of 19 July 2023 on financing the implementation of the preparatory action on “Developing a methodology and sustainability standards for mitigating the environmental impact of crypto-assets” and adopting the work programme - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 24 01: Preparatory action — Creation of the European Capital of Small Retail (ECSR)

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		3 000 000	750 000	p.m.	900 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		3 000 000	750 000	p.m.	900 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The aim of the procurement will be to select a contractor who will assist the Commission in managing the competition for selecting the European Capital(s) of Small Retail and assisting the awarded city(ies) in the relevant activities. The contract will cover two editions of the action, namely to grant the European Capital of Small Retail award to a city which has achieved remarkable results in supporting small retailers and maintaining vibrant city-centres based on criteria which will be developed.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Publication of the call (August 2024 tbc).

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	August 2024 (tbc)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2024 (tbc)
Award decision	January 2025 (tbc)
Prefinancing or interim payments	January, December 2025
Final payment	November 2026

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations

## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1936, adopted on 27 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

There are other European Capitals of a permanent nature covered by the Multiannual Financial Framework.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

The Commission is currently exploring how to continue this or similar actions in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 24 02: Preparatory action — Harmonized fire statistics as a tool for enhancing pan-European fire safety efforts

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 500 000	375 000	p.m.	300 000	-100,0 %	-20,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 500 000	375 000	p.m.	300 000	-100,0 %	-20,0 %

## 3. Objectives

To test and finetune the methodology developed in the pilot project “CLOSING DATA GAPS AND PAVING THE WAY FOR PAN-EUROPEAN FIRE SAFETY EFFORTS”. The project will support Member State authorities in testing the practical implementation and prepare the ground for the complete roll-out of the European level method for effective data collection.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o Preparation of the open call for tenders
  - o Evaluation of offers
  - o Award and signature of the contract.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	September 2024
Award decision	November 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024, September 2025, June 2026, June 2027
Final payment	July 2028

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Likely contractor to the tender is going to be a company / public organisation or consortium.



## **5. Documentation and expected results**

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1936, adopted on 27 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no legislative follow up is envisaged due to the fact that collection, management and reporting of fire safety related data and information is a Member State competence. It may however be evaluated during the project what would be the most appropriate and efficient method to implement the system.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 03 24 03: Preparatory action — Upskilling and reskilling the Tourism Ecosystem I Tourism Knowledge hub and Tourism Data Space

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

In line with the preparatory action entitled *Tourism of Tomorrow Lab* (PA 03 22 05) tabled by the Tourism Task Force in 2021 for the 2022 budget exercise, which has resulted in the ongoing preparatory action *EU Competence Centre to support data management in tourism destinations 2022 TOTOLAB*, with a grant of EUR 3 million assigned to the project D3HUB, this preparatory action aims to support destination management organisations (DMOs), SMEs and other tourism stakeholders to fully participate in the preparation of the tourism data space and the Tourism Knowledge hub by easing their access through the creation of multiple tools. This project also takes into consideration the Skills Partnership for the Tourism Ecosystem. The beneficiary is expected to develop guidelines on how to participate and use the Tourism Knowledge hub and the Tourism data space.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Call to be launched in 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Tentative Q4 2024
Closing date of call for proposals	Tentative Q1 2025
Award decision	Tentative Q2 2025
Prefinancing - Interim payments	Prefinancing – EUR 500 000 mid-2025 Interim payment - after 12 months: EUR 400 000 in 2026
Final payment	After 24 months in 2027

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

Public and private entities such as (but not limited to) public administrations and/or governmental bodies, economic actors/SMEs, relevant associations, alliances and NGOs, academia/universities/research organisations, media companies, foundations, international organisations, etc.

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1936, adopted on 27 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

PPPA-2022-TOTOLAB – legal basis is the Commission Decision of 9 February 2022 on the financing of certain pilot projects and preparatory actions relating to 'Horizon Europe' and the 'Single Market Programme' and on the adoption of the work programme for 2022, C(2022)654 (financing decision).

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to the nature of the expected deliverable, i.e. guidelines linked to non-controversial support measures for destinations.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 04 24 01: Preparatory action — Game-changing innovation for European launch solutions

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		5 000 000	1 250 000	p.m.	2 500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		5 000 000	1 250 000	p.m.	2 500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The action intends to support the development of game-changing innovations that have the potential to revolutionise the future of access to space and improve the competitiveness of the European space industry. Access to space is an indispensable element of the space ecosystem, without which there is no Union space policy, which supports many political priorities.

The preparatory action is expected to pursue the following objectives:

- enable the development of game-changing innovations for European launch solutions by adopting an innovative implementation method, supporting the different development cycles of technology and showing readiness to concretely use these technologies on future launchers.
- Facilitate industry's initiative to propose disruptive technologies, in particular next generation innovative solutions for cheaper, more sustainable, agile and resilient access to space by focusing on ambitious innovations which are not yet available and go beyond the state of the art in the international pipelines for access to space.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of the award of prizes.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Drafting and publication of rules of contest
  - Evaluation of received applications
  - Award of prizes Q2 2025 (tbc).

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 – Q2 2024
Publication of rules of contest	Q2 – Q3 2024
Closing date of the prize	early 2025
Award decision	mid-2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	N/A
Final payment	mid-2025

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Up to five most disruptive game-changing innovations will receive prizes of up to EUR 1 000 000 each.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

Since the rules of contest will be published in the second to third quarter of 2024, these details are not yet known.

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in the second quarter of 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation.

## 1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

### PA 04 24 02: Preparatory action — Innovative user terminals for European secure satellite communication service

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		5 000 000	1 250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		5 000 000	1 250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-60,0 %

#### 3. Objectives

This preparatory action is intended to enable timely adoption of the space secure connectivity services provided by the Union secure connectivity programme, IRIS<sup>2</sup>, and GOVSATCOM, filling the gap in Union industrial capability to develop high-performance, cheap and secure satellite user terminals.

The Union is currently implementing measures to provide secure connectivity via satellite to governments and citizens, through IRIS<sup>2</sup> and the GOVSATCOM component of the Union Space Programme.

These services will be based on a new generation of state-of-the-art satellites, using orbits, frequencies and signal characteristics that have not been used yet by European industry players.

The effective utilisation of such services relies therefore on the prompt availability of user terminals and receivers that are compatible with such characteristics. Such terminals and receivers are particularly important for emerging SATCOM service combining seamlessly terrestrial and SATCOM capabilities, for example in the automotive sector.

The objective of this preparatory action is therefore to set the condition for a competitive industry to develop terminals that can be commercialised with minimal additional effort, enabling production and market penetration with the utilisation of open standards. In particular, the action will support companies in reaching maturity and having a solid business plan to provide high-performance, cheap and secure satellite user terminals. Such terminals shall be able to perform the following:

- Integrate multiple systems and orbits, including non-geostationary satellites in low Earth orbit and possibly medium Earth orbit;
- Use the IRIS<sup>2</sup> frequencies (including Ka-gov);
- Suit both commercial and governmental services provided by IRIS<sup>2</sup>;
- Integrate terrestrial networks, 5G standards and possibly Internet of things applications;
- Provide for end-to-end solutions;
- Adopt all IRIS<sup>2</sup> secure features.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of indirect management. This action will be implemented by means of a contribution agreement with ESA which will launch call(s) for procurement.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: negotiate the dedicated Contribution Agreement with ESA and draft the tender specifications for the action.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Not applicable
- Meetings to take place: Not applicable.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q1 – Q2 2024
Publication of call for tender	Q1 – Q2 2025
Closing date of call for tender	Q1 – Q2 2025
Award decision	Q3 – Q4 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 – Q4 2025
Final payment	End 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia (TBC)

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision expected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024 will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

It is planned to modify an existing contribution agreement with ESA related to the implementation of the Space Programme Regulation<sup>14</sup> to also cover the topic of SATCOM user terminal development, to foster synergies with this preparatory action.

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow-up is envisaged due to the existence of a Regulation for the implementation of the Secure Connectivity Programme<sup>15</sup>. However, such legislation will need to be updated after 2027 and specific provisions on user terminals could be included.

<sup>14</sup> REGULATION (EU) 2021/696 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013 and (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU

<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/588 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2023 establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 05 20 02: Preparatory action — The European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects supporting multilevel governance and partnerships with added value for the region

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	22 315,47	p.m.	140 000	p.m.	73 875	0,0 %	-47,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	22 315,47	p.m.	140 000	p.m.	73 875	0,0 %	-47,2 %

## 3. Objectives

The European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region was proposed by the European Commission in June 2014 (COM(2014) 357) and endorsed by the Council in the second semester of 2014 (General Affairs Council 29 September 2014 and European Council 23 - 24 October 2014).

The general objective of this preparatory action is to organise and develop:

- effective multi-level governance in pursuit of the objectives laid down in the EUSAIR for key implementers;
- capacity building among EUSAIR key implementers as a prerequisite for effective implementation of the EUSAIR Action Plan;
- awareness-raising initiatives, cultural events, training programmes and/or seminars for citizens, in all EUSAIR countries, with the aim of creating ownership with regard to EUSAIR, of emphasising shared regional identity and of promoting partnership and networking across the region.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission is implementing this preparatory action by means of tenders and direct grants to national/regional authorities designated as "key implementers" of the EUSAIR in accordance with article 190 of the Rules of application to the Financial Regulation.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region was proposed by the European Commission in June 2014 (COM(2014) 357) and endorsed by the Council in the second semester of 2014 (General Affairs Council 29 September 2014 and European Council 23-24 October 2014).

The preparatory action was launched at the early stages of EUSAIR implementation and intended to provide key implementers (National and Pillar Coordinators, Thematic Steering Groups) and stakeholders with a wide range of support required for the effective implementation of the strategy. Support areas include: multi-level governance; capacity building of key implementers; awareness-raising initiatives, seminars, cultural events and/or training programmes for citizens in the region; generation, preparation and implementation of initiatives and projects with a genuine macro-regional value.

The preparatory action includes following actions (all were implemented except one still ongoing):

- The [6th EUSAIR Forum](#) under the Slovenian Presidency aimed at raising visibility, take stock of the progress in the EUSAIR implementation and determine further directions through the support to the organization of the 5th EUSAIR Forum held in Serbia, with side events and other events in line with the



Presidency programme. It took place on 11 – 12 May 2021. The final report was delivered but is still subject to some Commission’s verification.

- “EUSAIR bringing the Green Deal to the region” aimed to improve EUSAIR implementers’ capacities on implementing resource efficiency policies that promote eco-innovation and green growth through Green Public Procurement (GPP), mostly by using new award criteria in calls and tenders that pay particular attention to environmental considerations. Furthermore, it has established sustainability principles (restricting single-use, mobilising the potential of digitalisation of product information, circularity in production processes, making “recycled in the EU” a usual practice, etc.) and will incentive EUSAIR participating countries and their representatives to act more sustainably and raise their environmental awareness in their daily working and everyday life. The activity is in its very final steps.
- The EU support to implementation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) in North Macedonia supports this new partner country to speed up developments and activities on national level. This includes strengthening the capacities of national pillar coordinators, other key implementers and public administrations involved in assuming the obligations raising from participation in the Strategy. Thus, it raises awareness on the Strategy among various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at both national and local level, contributing to the EUSAIR communication strategy in North Macedonia as well as to enhance the embedding process as overall exercise in all EUSAIR countries.
- [The EUSAIR facilitating the enlargement process in the Western Balkans](#) determined how the EUSAIR supports the EU enlargement process under each EUSAIR Pillar looking at individual negotiating chapters and Cohesion Policy’s enabling conditions and identify possible actions specific to the EUSAIR candidate and potential candidate countries that would speed up the achievement of benchmarks. The activity was finalised and the report published.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2025

In 2025, the preparatory action will be closed once the EU support to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) in North Macedonia, which was extended in December 2024 for six months, will end on 30 June 2025.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

- 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Art.195 (f) financial regulation – no call for proposal
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Art.195 (f) financial regulation – no call for proposal
Award decision	December 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	7 January 2021
Final payment	Suspension ongoing

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	24 March 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	21 April 2021
Award decision	26 May 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2021
Final payment	2023

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	Art.195 (f) financial regulation – no call for proposal
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	Art.195 (f) financial regulation – no call for proposal

Step	Date
Award decision	24 November 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2021
Final payment	2025

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	13 August 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	21 September 2020
Award decision	24 November 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	March, July 2021
Final payment	5 July 2021

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Slovenian Chairmanship of the EUSAIR (1st June 2020 – 31st May 2021): 6th EUSAIR Forum and other side events in the context of the Slovenian Chairmanship	Public agency for entrepreneurship and developing project of Municipality of Izola	199 999,05
EUSAIR bringing the Green Deal to the region	Forum of the Adriatic Ionian Chamber of Commerce	74 800
EU support to implementation of the EUSAIR in North Macedonia	Secretariat of European Affairs, North Macedonia	347 750,00
EUSAIR facilitating the enlargement process in the Western Balkans	OBC Transeuropa (OBCT) - Centro per la Cooperazione Internazionale / Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa	48 600,00

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Public body
- Private company
- Research institutes

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2020)4513 final, adopted on 8 July 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. Is available at the following address:

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/financing-decisions/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/financing-decisions/)

Information regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR Annual Forum on 11 - 12 May 2021 is available at the following address: [6<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR Annual Forum](#)

The study “EUSAIR bringing the Green Deal to the region” was approved in 2022 and is available on the following website [Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce’s website](#).

The study “EUSAIR facilitating the enlargement process of Western Balkans” is available at the following address: [EC Website](#).

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

Yes, the Commission intends to continue setting up a green governance framework for EUSAIR and making it at the same time an even more effective and successful cohesion policy tool for the EUSAIR partner countries.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 20 02: Preparatory action — Grassroots sports programmes and infrastructure innovation

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	1 463 236,03	p.m.	944 180	p.m.	500 000	0,0 %	-47,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 463 236,03	p.m.	944 180	p.m.	500 000	0,0 %	-47,0 %

#### 3. Objectives

The general objective of this action is to give the opportunity to sport organisations to develop and promote new forms of practicing sport and physical activity through the adaptation of the infrastructure and/or soft programmes.

This includes the development of new forms of sport and physical activities, the communication about these activities and their benefit as well as the development of light sport facilities.

The specific objective of this action is to support the promotion of physical activity through flexible, modern ways of practicing sport both in terms of offer (trainings, activities) and in terms of infrastructure.

Organising cooperation with different EU Member States and/or involving different sports will be an asset.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of grants, procurement and contracting experts.

Grants:

The preparatory action will be implemented through a call for proposals. The selected projects should be led by sport federations, organisations or clubs which have activities in Europe, a European dimension or European impact.

Procurement:

The Commission and/or EACEA will launch a study in order to improve knowledge about the current situation in EU countries.

The Commission and/or EACEA will support the promotion, dissemination and valorisation of the projects through the current preparatory action. This will take the form of communication activities, seminars and conferences. These activities will be developed through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures.

The Commission and/or EACEA will ensure the selection and evaluation process through appropriate IT tools. The conception of this IT tool will be financed within the current preparatory action. This will be ensured through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures.

Experts:

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals.

#### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

In total, 19 projects have been selected: five in 2020, six in 2021 and eight in 2022. Four of the five projects funded in 2020 are closed and one, which has closed its activities in 2023 will be administratively closed in 2024. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in some cases planned meetings were organised online and in some cases some activities, for which virtual activities were not a valid alternative, have been postponed.

Online kick-off meetings were organised in 2022 and 2023 for the projects awarded under the 2021 and 2022 calls respectively. All 2021 and 2022 projects were under implementation, with one finishing at the end of 2023, for which the final report was received in the first quarter of 2024.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

All projects selected under the 2021 and 2022 calls for proposals are currently being implemented, with nine finishing in the course of the year, for which a reception of eight final reports is expected and a number of final payments should follow in 2024. The remaining four projects will continue implementing the activities throughout 2024, with the expected final date in 2025.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

##### – 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	July 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2020
Final payment	Last payment expected in first quarter 2024

##### – 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	May 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	June 2021
Award decision	January 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2022
Final payment	Expected in 2024

##### – 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tenders	August 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tenders	October 2022
Award decision	April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2023
Final payment	2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts.

##### – 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
FOOTLAB - the new, flexible way of playing football	The Royal Dutch Football Association, (NL)	452 000,00

JUNGLE ATHLETICS	Royal Spanish Athletic Federation - Youth Committee, (ES)	300 000,00
Sport goes digital - To break new molds for the sports in the Rhein-Erft-Kreis	Kreissportbund Rhein-Erft e.V, (DE)	430 449,60
Generation Fit	Klub sportske rekreacije Amika centri, (HR)	43 728,80
Come and Play 4.0	Sport Club Comac Sport, (BG)	131 840,00

– 2021 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
LousadaFITCity	Municipio De Lusada	342 400,00
SPORTOUT	Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund (Dosb)	383 060,00
AqUA	Ronilacki Klub Roniti Se Mora	59 995,00
Sportmatch	Nederlands Olympisch Comite-Nederlandse Sport Federatie Vereniging	390 250,00
Football+	Federacion Espanola De Futbol	390 550,00
MDRNSPRTS	Espeen Kaupunki	381 000,00

– 2022 commitment appropriations

<b>Title / Action</b>	<b>Beneficiary / Contractor</b>	<b>EUR (maximum)</b>
Transforming our cities into smart playgrounds for Urban Sports	CityLegends	332 010,00
New recreational offer of rowing and canoeing at Lake Banyoles, by adapting light infrastructures and introducing digital games	CLUB NATACIO BANYOLES	125 904,00
CHALLENGE YOURSELF - Rhythmic Gymnastics Challenge	BULGARIAN RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS FEDERATION	285 839,20
Placemaking and sport - Innovative European solutions	INTERNATIONAL SPORT AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION - ISCA	400 000,00
LOURES - PLAYGROUND4ALL	MUNICIPAL DE LOURES	282 872,80
Building Innovative Light Sport Facilities in institutional care centers	CHAMPIONS FACTORY	118 215,20
Leuven Urban Sports Hub	STAD LEUVEN	321 000,00
Quidditch/Quadball Development Project	FEDERATION DU QUIDDITCH FRANCAIS	16 088,00

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Sport federations
- Organisations or clubs with legal personality, which regularly organise sport competitions and have activities in Europe, a European dimension or European impact.

## 5. Documentation and expected results

*5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C (2020)1194, adopted on 4 March 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address:

2020 Annual Work Programme for the implementation of Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the area of education, youth, sport and culture C (2020) 1194 of 4 March 2020 (europa.eu)

The Commission Financing Decision C (2021) 1658, adopted on 17 March 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: 2021-annual-work-programme-pilot-projects-preparatory-actions-c2021-1658.pdf (europa.eu)

The Commission Financing Decision C (2022)1848, adopted on 30 March 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: awp-C2022-1848-march22\_en\_fr\_de.pdf (europa.eu)

Call documents for 2020 are available at the following address: Call for proposals: Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation | Sport (europa.eu)

The call documents and results of the 2021 call are available at the following addresses: Funding & tenders (europa.eu)

call-fiche\_pppa-sport-2021-grassroots-innovation\_en.pdf (europa.eu)

The call documents and results of the 2022 call are available at the following addresses: Funding & tenders (europa.eu)

call-fiche\_pppa-sport-2022-grassroots-innovation\_en.pdf (europa.eu)

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow-up at this stage. It could be one of the actions implemented in the future by the Erasmus+ programme.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 20 06: Preparatory action — Roma Civil Monitor — Strengthening capacity and involvement of Roma and pro-Roma civil society in policy monitoring and review

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory actions were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	399 828,40	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	799 657	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	399 828,40	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	799 657	0,0 %	

## 3. Objectives

- Empowering Roma Civil Society Organisations (CSO) to enable them to participate in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of national strategies for Roma equality, inclusion and participation, action plans and other policies in order to effectively reflect the Roma communities' needs.
- Facilitating constructive dialogue and equal partnership between Roma CSOs, National Roma Contact Points, equality bodies as well as other stakeholders to reflect the Roma communities' needs.
- Producing and disseminating reports concerning CSOs point of view on the implementation of national strategies, additional chapters (or case studies) assessing mainstream policy measures with significant impact on Roma or relevant new developments (such as new legislation or relevant initiatives on Roma inclusion under the 2021-2027 EU funds).

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
  - o development and implementation of plans for capacity-building of Roma civil society organisations in 23 Member States (in total 20 events);
  - o development and implementation of plans for sustainable participation of Roma civil society in 21 Member States (including 30 activities);
  - o communication and dissemination of the Roma Civil Monitor (RCM) project, including organisation of an event in the European Parliament;
  - o five hearings with Commissioners co-organised.
- Deliverables submitted:
  - o one thematic report;
  - o three ad-hoc reports.
- Meetings held:
  - o four online meetings for CSOs from all Member States (except Malta) were organised.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o continuation of implementation of plans for capacity-building of Roma civil society organisations;
  - o continuation of implementation of plans for sustainable participation of Roma civil society



- o development of country monitoring reports in all Member States (except Malta);
  - o communication and dissemination of the RCM project, including organisation of an event in the European Parliament.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
    - o five thematic reports;
    - o three ad-hoc reports.
  - Meetings to take place:
    - o one in-person meeting for CSOs from all Member States (except Malta);
    - o at least two online meetings.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2020
Publication of call for tender	26 January 2021
Closing date of call for tender	26 February 2021
Award decision	22 June 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	January 2022, December 2022, December 2023, Q1 2025
Final payment	Q4 2025 <sup>16</sup>

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Preparatory Action - Roma Civil Monitoring - Strengthening capacity and involvement of Roma and pro-Roma civil society in policy monitoring and review.	Consortium - Central European University, ERGO Network, European Roma Rights Centre, Fundacion Secretariado Gitano	1 999 142

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

Local and national civil society organisations in 26 Member States, as well as EU level civil and not for profit organisations, academia, public or private organisations or international organisations.

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission financing decisions C(2020) 4220 of 29 June 2020 set out the main elements for the implementation of this preparatory action. The publication on the tender documents including the call for tenders can be found at eTendering: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=7277>

The publication of the results of the tender – award notice can be found at eNotices: <https://enotices.ted.europa.eu/noticeInformation?noticeId=6179872>

The project website has been developed and is available at the following address: <https://romacivilmonitoring.eu> (the website is still under development).

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

<sup>16</sup> Due to the nature of this preparatory action, which is focusing on building capacity of civil society organisations, the timing is longer than a regular preparatory action timeframe.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

The Commission is currently exploring how to continue this or similar actions once the preparatory action comes to an end.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 21 01: Preparatory action — European media platforms

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2021, 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	6 000 000,00	4 903 083,18	p.m.	6 000 000	p.m.	3 000 000	0,0 %	-50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	6 000 000,00	4 903 083,18	p.m.	6 000 000	p.m.	3 000 000	0,0 %	-50,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this action is to pull together existing technological solutions to set up media platforms capable of improving Union citizens' access to trusted information from across the Union.

The action should help increase the available offer of independent news and quality information produced under high professional and editorial standards, increase citizens' access to quality content in multiple Union languages and create the underlying conditions to develop a cross-border media public sphere.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a grant via call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

2021:

- Activities carried out: under this preparatory action a call for proposals was published on 8 July 2021. Three projects were selected:

<https://www.ebu.ch/eurovision-news/european-perspective>

<https://www.evanews.eu/en/home>

<https://www.arte.tv/en/videos/RC-019948/the-european-collection/>.

- Deliverables submitted: interim reports have been sent and are currently under process – as they are linked to an interim payment for each of the three actions.
- Meetings held: inception meetings / ad hoc meetings based on needs, questions and incidences.
- Actions started in the second quarter of 2022 – ending in the second quarter of 2023

2022:

- Activities carried out: a new call for proposals was launched and finalised in October 2022. Three projects were selected:

o <https://displayeurope.eu/>

o <https://www.arte.tv/sites/corporate/en/the-european-collection/>

o <https://www.enex.news/ai-based-video-distribution-platform-to-boost-news-exchange-across-europe-and-beyond/>.

- Deliverables submitted: interim reports are currently under process – as they are linked to an interim payment for each of the three actions.
- Meetings held: inception meetings / ad hoc meetings based on needs, questions and incidences. All actions have already been presented.
- Actions started in the second quarter of 2023 – ending mid-2024.

2023:

- The new call was launched in July 2023. The award decision was signed in March 2024. Applicants have been informed of the results and the negotiations to sign the new contracts are ongoing.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Actions are estimated to start in the second quarter of 2024 and are estimated to be implemented until mid-2025.
- They will involve a prefinancing (2024), an interim and a final payment (2025).
- Meetings to take place: projects will entail an inception meeting upon start.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	8 July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	6 October 2021
Award decision	2 March 2022
Prefinancing payment	April 2022
Interim payment	April – June 2023
Final payment	December 2023 – February 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	6 July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	17 October 2022
Award decision	24 February 2023
Prefinancing payment	May - July 2023
Interim payment	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q4 2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	13 July 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	18 October 2023
Award decision	March 2024
Prefinancing payment	Q2 2024
Interim payment	Q2 2025
Final payment	Q4 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
A multilingual current affairs offering for all Europeans	ARTE GEIE	2 550 338,16
EVA news	Instant News Services	1 229 661
A European perspective: Creating a networked pan-European newsroom anchored	EBU	2 198 423,94

in public service values		
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– 2022 commitment appropriations:

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Display Europe – Democracy runs on screens	European Culture Foundation	2 314 225,75
Create and Exchange	ENEX	1 555 721,65
An enlarged multilingual affairs offering for all Europeans	ARTE GEIE	2 130 052,60

–2023 commitment appropriation:

The contracts are still not signed and commitment appropriations are yet to be prepared.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- News media organisations
- Media technology developers
- Other organisations active in the media domain

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2021 Commission Financing Decision C(2021)3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/european-media-platforms>

*[To consult the project websites' please refer to section 4 above].*

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [European media platforms | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](https://european-media-platforms.eu)

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/european-media-platforms-2023>

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

An action under the Multimedia Actions' budgetary line covered the curation and provision of European content using European media platforms in 2020 and is hence connected to this preparatory action, which focuses on the technical dimension.

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

The action will feed into Multimedia Actions' calls as of 2024. The 2024 Commission Financing Decision was adopted on 8 February 2024, containing a new call on digital reporting that partially draws on the results of the preparatory action, also within the line's budgetary limits.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 21 03: Preparatory action — Writing European

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2021, 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	3 000 000,00	1 811 002,71	p.m.	2 440 917	p.m.	1 500 000	0,0 %	-38,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	3 000 000,00	1 811 002,71	p.m.	2 440 917	p.m.	1 500 000	0,0 %	-38,5 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of this action is to strengthen the capacity of the European audiovisual industry to create cutting edge fiction series that can attract audiences across borders, and to nurture a community of European talents able to work across national and linguistic borders.

It should enable European companies to scale up their collaboration and to offer talents continuous opportunities in Europe throughout their career. The aim is to foster the collaborative creation process within an intercultural context, bringing creators from different nationalities together.

The project should involve creative talents throughout Europe. It should stimulate exchanges at European level and foster participation of creatives from different backgrounds in order to come up with stories that reflect the diversity of European societies. Ultimately, this will be a vector to reach out to new transnational audiences. It is expected to catalyse innovation in the audiovisual creative process to encompass all mediums of expression.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

– 2021 commitment:

- Activities carried out:

- o Grant “EWC”:

- Two camps in 2022 and two in 2023 (of one week duration) with different sessions for “boosting ideas”, “boosting concepts” and “boosting broadcasters” for sharing ideas and collaboration amongst creative writers of TV series across Europe.

- To conclude the first pilot year, a Reunion event (Rome, October 2023) was organised for the writers who participated in both Boosting Ideas and Boosting Concepts.

- o Grant “Creative Connection”:

- Preparation of three workshops in 2023 (first/second quarter) with the objective of forming a hybrid and innovative writer’s room and festival event (fourth quarter) in Venice to present the workshops.

- Deliverables submitted: Interim reports and Final reports

– 2022 commitment (delegated to EACEA):

- The purpose of this preparatory action “Writing European” is to help the European audiovisual industry to develop excellence in creating and writing high-quality drama content and foster innovative storytelling. It aims to promote co-writing practices, thereby also enlarging the experience of creative talents working on fiction series. Grant activities below European Writers Club – Boosting Impact (EWC):
  - o six selected projects consisting of:
    - six experienced writers;
    - six content-providers (two journalists, two scientists, one documentarist and one high-ranked diplomat, on whose research the story is based upon);
    - six very experienced producers from six high-end production companies in Europe;
    - six emerging writers.
- War Room Content (WRC) :
  - o Clusters organised: Organised Crime and Corruption, Disinformation and radicalisation, The understanding of the European Union, The collapse of environment, Game Changers of today, Intimacy. These clusters bring together individuals with an in-depth understanding of the subject through fieldwork and pair them with a writer from the region where the project is based.
  - o Presentation of War Room Content at Serial Killer TV Days (September 2023, Brno).
  - o Meetings with broadcasters and production partners during Serial Killer TV Days (Czechia).
- FullMoon CreativeLab:
  - o Launch of the Call for Applications; selection of the three facilitators who will lead each of the Writers’ rooms; selection of the mentors who will join the Lab for one-to-one mentoring, feedback and knowledge sharing with participants.
  - o Selection of participants for the first edition of the Lab: 12 participants from seven European countries.
  - o Delivery of the first residency (28 October - 3 November 2023 in Transylvania).
  - o Continuous online work inbetween residencies via digital platforms.
- WORDS ACROSS EUROPE (WAE aka WEF):
  - o Technical set-up of the virtual VR/AR writing rooms, including software and hardware; marketing and promotion (e.g. creating material and publicity necessary to make the project known to applicants and buyers); organisation of the project financial controlling system and operational planning.
- EastSide StoryEngine: (starting date 1 July 2023; the members of the consortium did not accede to the grant).
  - o Meetings with key industry players, including distribution companies, broadcasters, and streamers, to discuss project implementation and gather market insights.
  - o Created a network and methods to empower writers, in order to sustain by the end of the project their transition into leaders from pre-writing to project greenlighting.
  - o Preparation of a 'call by invitation' to prospective writers and projects; selection of promising projects and talents for further development.

– 2023 commitment:

- o The call was prepared and launched by EACEA for the 2023 commitment grant agreements with closing date 7 November 2023.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

- Activities to be carried out:
  - o European Writers Club – Boosting Impact (EWC):

- During the forthcoming camps in 2024, the six projects will be paired with 12 broadcasting representatives from nine national broadcasters in Europe.
- Each of the three camps are/will be placed and prepared for in the EWC regional hubs: in Hamburg (April), Santiago de Compostela (June) and Copenhagen (September).
- o War Room Content (WRC):
  - Presentation of War Room Content at Cannes Marché du Film (May 2024).
  - Meetings with broadcasters and production partners during Serie Serie (France) and other one-to-one meetings.
  - Other events: a special conference taking place at an existing international forum; Projects will be pitched in meetings and during key European TV markets.
- o FullMoon CreativeLab:
  - Delivery of the second residency (7 - 13 March 2024 in Transylvania).
  - Preparation of the third residency and the pitching sessions (June 2024, during the Transylvania Intl Film Festival).
  - Presentation of the project at Cannes Marché du Film (May 2024).
- o WORDS ACROSS EUROPE (WAE -aka WEF):
  - Over a period of 30 months, the project will be running three virtual events (two in 2024 and one in 2025) with the latest VR/AR technology available. Each event will have five writers and will be split into Phase I and Phase II, each consisting of three sessions of three days with three weeks between each session. Each event will be supplemented with experts from the industry.
  - Marketing and promotion: outreach to at least 40 broadcasters/TV producers/distributors by 2025.
- o EastSide StoryEngine:
  - Grant was terminated on 17 February 2024. This grant was initially meant to be a multi-beneficiary grant but consortium members did not sign the accession forms within the 30 days, therefore it became a mono-beneficiary grant and was eventually terminated as it was no longer viable with just a single beneficiary.

– 2023 Commitment appropriations

Grant preparation is under way for the 2023 commitment projects, envisaged start date fourth quarter of 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	6 July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	20 September 2021
Award decision	March 2022
Prefinancing payment	May/June 2022
Interim payment	April/June 2023
Final payment	February/May 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations (delegated to EACEA)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	1 September 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	8 November 2022
Award decision	8 March 2023
Prefinancing payments	June - July 2023
Final payments	Depending on the project, between Q1 2025 and Q1 2026



– 2023 commitment appropriations (delegated to EACEA)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	30 August 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	7 November 2023
Award decision	Q2 2024
Prefinancing payments	Q4 2024
Final Payments	2026 (tbc depending on start date project)

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Call PPPA-MEDIA-2021-WRITINGEU

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
EWC – European Writers Club	VISION DENMARK	1 000 000
Creative Connection	LEMMING Film	704 584,31

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Call PPPA-MEDIA-2022-WRITINGEU

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
WEF – The Room	WIDE EYE FILMS LIMITED	462 133
European Writers Club - Boosting Impact	Vision Denmark (Coordinator)	727 902
War Room Content	Dark Riviera AB (Coordinator)	872 210,50
FullMoon CreativeLab	ASOCIATIA PENTRU PROMOVAREA FILMULUI ROMANESC	185 000
EastSide StoryEngine	Digital Cube Film Studio	692 926,12

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Call PPPA-MEDIA-2023-WRITINGEU

Grants in preparation below

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Writers Club (EWC) Bridging Generations	VISION DENMARK	997 579,00
Pop Up Series Incubator	TATINO FILMS	200 000,00
THE CREATIVE CONNECTION	VERSUS PRODUCTION	569 240,00
WAR ROOM CONTENT ENHANCED	DARK RIVIERA AB	997 700,00

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- media companies
- foundations
- international organisations

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2021 Commission Financing Decision C(2021)3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#)

2021 Call documents are available at the following address:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/preparatory-action-writing-european>

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#)

2022 Call documents are available at the following address:<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&status=31094503&callIdentifier=PPPA-MEDIA-2022-WRITINGEU>

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023) 1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

2023 Call documents are available at the following address:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&status=31094503&callIdentifier=PPPA-MEDIA-2023-WRITINGEU>

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

Some of the projects supported under this preparatory action could potentially evolve and consolidate the networks under a more general future call of Creative Europe.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 22 01: Preparatory action — A European public sphere: a new online media offer for young Europeans

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022, 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	9 000 000,00	4 500 000,00	9 000 000	10 350 000	p.m.	3 721 077	-100,0 %	-64,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	9 000 000,00	4 500 000,00	9 000 000	10 350 000	p.m.	3 721 077	-100,0 %	-64,0 %

#### 3. Objectives

The preparatory action will address the challenges to communicate Europe to young Europeans, thus contributing to the European Year of Youth. Young Europeans consume information foremost online, using sources such as social media and content-sharing platforms. Legacy media are struggling to capture their attention, and there is a gap in communicating cross-border topics to young Europeans, partially because of the lack of a truly transnational public media sphere.

The action aims to engage with young Europeans by creating curated online spaces that gather thought-provoking content around current affairs, empowering them to compare perspectives from across Europe and discuss and discover how their interests link to interests of young Europeans in other Member States. The aim is to address relevant topics of pan-European importance, and create an open, true, deep and constructive debate about recent and future life in Europe among young Europeans, using innovative formats on digital platforms, with the ultimate goal of creating greater awareness about European visions and realities, European values, ideas and decision-making processes so that they subsequently contribute to a more active civil society.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a grant via a call for proposals.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

This preparatory action follows a pilot project 07 20 06 voted under 2020 and 2021 budgets.

- Activities carried out: Daily production of content around current affairs for youth. Two projects were selected, covering English, French, German, Polish, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian: [https://youth.europa.eu/news/looking-news-and-young-europeans-stop-searching-keep-reading\\_en](https://youth.europa.eu/news/looking-news-and-young-europeans-stop-searching-keep-reading_en)
- For the follow up preparatory action four projects have been selected, involving media from across the EU.
- Deliverables submitted: Mid-term reports.
- Meetings held: Regular follow-up with coordinators.

##### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: Continuous reporting and debates about EU affairs.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Daily reports, mainly via social media.
- Meetings to take place: Regular follow-up with coordinators for technical questions (and EU elections).

##### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	8 July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	24 October 2022
Award decision	February 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2023
Final payment	November 2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	12 October 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	29 January 2024
Award decision	April 2024
Prefinancing payment	Q3 2024
Final payment	Q1 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q1 2025
Closing date of call for proposals	Q1/Q2 2025
Award decision	Q2/Q3 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2025
Final payment	Q1 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

–2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
ENTR3 - WHAT'S NEXT	Deutsche Welle	2 789 222,71
SPHERA - SCALE UP	Babel International	1 940 094,04
PERSPECTIVES	Goethe Institut	1 962 667
BE ACTIVE! BE YOUR CHANGE	Paletko / GrupaWP	2 308 016,25

– 2023 commitment appropriations

The award decision is not final yet and therefore these details are not yet known.

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Since this is the first year of implementation, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- News media organisations
- Non-profit organisations, including youth organisations (private or public)

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation of the first year of the preparatory action. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/european-public-sphere-new-online-media-offer-young-europeans>

The project websites are available at the following addresses: [https://youth.europa.eu/news/looking-news-and-young-europeans-stop-searching-keep-reading\\_en](https://youth.europa.eu/news/looking-news-and-young-europeans-stop-searching-keep-reading_en) and <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-supports-four-media-consortia-enrich-pan-european-debate-among-young-europeans>

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023)1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the next year of this preparatory action. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/european-public-sphere-new-online-media-offer-young-europeans-2023>

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 7 March 2024 sets out the main elements of the third and last year of implementation. It is available [here](#).

*5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

The Commission is currently exploring how to continue this or similar actions once the preparatory action comes to an end. Some parts of the action might be covered under the Multimedia Actions' line once the current cycle expires.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 23 01: Preparatory action — Network of European Fact-checkers to fight Disinformation

#### 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2023 and 2024 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	850 000,00	0,00	1 637 500	409 375	p.m.	212 500	-100,0 %	-48,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	850 000,00	0,00	1 637 500	409 375	p.m.	212 500	-100,0 %	-48,1 %

#### 3. Objectives

The primary objective of this preparatory action is to continue to provide European fact-checking organisations with a concrete package of resources that can help them identify and debunk disinformation campaigns on online platforms and through new, emerging technologies such as generative artificial intelligence.

The preparatory action will focus on the medium to long-term needs of the European Fact-Checking community and should include learnings from the most recent national and European elections in its resources and toolkits.

#### 4. Implementation

##### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

##### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

##### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out:
  - Kick-off meeting of the project consortium partners
  - Needs Assessment Design, Data Collection and Analysis
  - Needs Assessment Report
  - Development of a community of verified climate expert sources from the ECF community of climate researchers and experts
  - Design and development of the centralised climate mis-/disinformation and fact-check database equipped with AI powered tools.
  - Communication Activities (Press Releases, Social Media, Newsletter).
- Deliverables to be submitted:
  - Quarterly activity report.
- Meetings to take place:
  - Kick-off meeting of the project consortium partners
  - Introductory meeting with the Commission.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	19 October 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	15 December 2023
Award decision	February 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2024
Final payment	Q1 2026

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q1 2025
Closing date of call for proposals	Q1 2025
Award decision	Q2 2025
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2025
Final payment	Q1 2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

As the 2023 award decision has only just been finalised, the contract signature is pending.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- Fact-checking organisations
- Civil society organisations
- News Media
- Academic institutions
- Commercial entities

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The 2023 Commission Financing Decision C(2023)1699, adopted on 17 March 2023, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/preparatory-action-network-european-fact-checkers-fight-disinformation>

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 07 March 2024 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation. A meaningful consideration of the merits of following up on the action with a legislative proposal will only be possible at the earliest when the two current budgeted actions have been concluded and evaluated.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 24 01: Preparatory action — European Festival of Journalism and Media Freedom

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		3 000 000	750 000	p.m.	750 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		3 000 000	750 000	p.m.	750 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The proposal of a “European Festival of Journalism and Media Freedom” aims at reinforcing dialogue, cooperation and partnership in the Union, especially among journalists, media outlets, civil society organizations and media literacy professionals, focusing on the crucial questions of our time, such as EU legislation on media, disinformation, the safety of journalists, or the challenges of media economic models. The “European Festival of Journalism and Media Freedom” should become a powerful tool to facilitate exchanges between media professionals from across Europe, and an occasion to raise awareness on the valuable but ever more difficult work of journalists and press freedom violations in the Union. The Festival should dedicate special focus to the role and work of journalists and it should represent a moment to exchange on the conditions under which journalists carry out their daily work, with a focus at both psychological and physical aspects as well as regulatory conditions.

## 4. Implementation

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Drafting and publication of call for proposals in the fourth quarter of 2024.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q4 2024
Closing date of call for proposals	Q4 2024
Award decision	Q1 2025
Prefinancing payment	Q2 2025
Final payment	Q3 2027

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.



#### 4.6. *Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- foundations
- international organisations

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### 5.1. *Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 7 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### 5.2. *Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### 5.3. *At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, as the “European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy” is considered to be a tool for reinforcing the dialogue and cooperation amongst EU media on the crucial questions of our time, there is no intention for a legislative proposal at that stage. The proposed preparatory action is aimed at contributing to the political objectives set out and pursued by the European Democracy Action Plan, which is based on the assumption that informed and empowered citizens are the best guarantee for the resilience of the European democracy.

## 1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

### PA 07 24 02: Preparatory action — European Narratives Observatory to fight disinformation

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		3 150 000	787 500	p.m.	1 575 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		3 150 000	787 500	p.m.	1 575 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The preparatory action will support the European Narratives Observatory in monitoring and analysing how new narratives are created and spread within European public discourse, decipher the emotional values that guide successful narratives, map sources and key actors active in the spreading of these narratives and develop recommendations for effective communication and policy.

The preparatory action will build on the networks of stakeholders and actors already established under the pilot project such as journalists, AI experts and the main fact-checker communities such as the European Digital Media Observatory ('EDMO'), policy makers and policy actors. It will organise working sessions to identify ongoing narratives and develop new ones to combat fake news and disinformation, and so to expand areas of the research infrastructure.

It will also keep building on the tools for policy makers, citizens and key stakeholders on how insights from the European Narrative Observatory can help to reframe issues in a way that depolarises conversation and makes the narrative communities less receptive to disinformation.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The call for proposals for this preparatory action will be published in the second or third quarter of 2025.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2024
Publication of call for proposals	Q2/Q3 2025
Closing date of call for proposals	Q2/Q3 2025
Award decision	Q3/Q4 2025
Prefinancing payment	Q3/Q4 2025
Final payment	Q3 2027

#### *4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts*

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### *4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors*

- non-profit organisation (private or public)
- public authorities (national, regional, local)
- international organisations
- universities
- educational institutions
- research centres
- profit making entities

### **5. Documentation and expected results**

#### *5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision C(2024)1349, adopted on 7 March 2024, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

#### *5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?*

No

#### *5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to its early stage of implementation. A meaningful consideration of the merits of following up on the action with a legislative proposal will only be possible at the earliest when the current budgeted action has been concluded and evaluated.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PA 09 20 04: Preparatory action — Promoting alternatives to animal testing

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	624 914,84	p.m.	514 452	p.m.	207 226	0,0 %	-59,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	624 914,84	p.m.	514 452	p.m.	207 226	0,0 %	-59,7 %

## 3. Objectives

The preparatory action builds on the results of the pilot project PP 09 17 06 “Promoting alternatives to animal testing”. It aims at facilitating the uptake of existing alternatives; the development and validation of new alternatives; fostering exchanges of information, knowledge and best practices, and providing tools for education and training to incorporate the Three 'R's'<sup>17</sup> into the curricula of current and future researchers.

Four objectives are defined for this preparatory action:

1. To develop further open access (online) e-Learning modules on areas where harmonisation of approaches is critically needed to ensure competence and implementation of the Three Rs in line with the Directive’s objectives with a specific focus on continued professional development. The results of the review of the Directive<sup>18</sup> and its first implementation report<sup>19</sup> guided the identification of topics, *inter alia*. The final set of e-Modules to be developed cover those targeting inspectors, designated veterinarians and competence assessors, and EU modules<sup>20</sup> levels 1 and 2 of “Ethics, Animal Welfare and the Three Rs”, and species-specific modules for the theory on “Basic and appropriate biology”, and “Recognition of pain, suffering and distress” covering mouse, rat, zebra, fish and farm animal species.
2. To make harmonised assessment resources centrally available as a prerequisite for competent and continuously trained staff across the EU. Further, strengthen the Education and Training Platform for Laboratory Animal Science (ETPLAS), which pools together Member State authorities, course providers and course accreditors. ETPLAS databases established under the pilot project for assessment tools should be expanded to cover other key modules and function groups under the Directive in line with the EU Education and Training Framework guidance.
3. To implement educational material developed to integrate the 3Rs into curricula and teaching programmes at secondary schools and universities, and also undertake outreach activities to disseminate and promote the educational material produced under the previous pilot project. The intention is also to engage educational authorities in Member States as well as major networks of educators to ensure uptake of the teaching material and wide dissemination of the topic. The European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) that incorporates the EU Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing (EURL ECVAM) will undertake this objective.
4. To carry out a feasibility study on the development of a knowledge sharing framework in the area of non-animal models and methods used in biomedical research and testing, to foster collaboration and

<sup>17</sup> Replace, Reduce and Refine the use of animals for scientific purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU - OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 33–79)

<sup>18</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1510219889073&uri=COM:2017:631:FIN>

<sup>19</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1581689520921&uri=CELEX:52020DC0015>

<sup>20</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/pdf/guidance/education\\_training/en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/guidance/education_training/en.pdf)

innovation and to accelerate their uptake across disciplines and sectors. This will draw from the results of two recent JRC (EURL ECVAM) projects on the identification and collection of non-animal models and methods in seven disease areas, and the BeAMS initiative to promote more cross-disciplinary approaches in bioscience<sup>21</sup>. The study will explore optimal configurations that could underpin an impactful, scalable and sustainable mean for sharing knowledge on non-animal models and methods used in science. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre that incorporates the EU Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing (EURL ECVAM) will undertake this objective.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of an open call for tenders, a grant without call for proposals and an administrative agreement.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

The preparatory action is implemented through:

- A procurement contract for the production of interactive e-Learning training modules (Objective 1).
- A grant to the Education and Training Platform for Laboratory Animal Science, ETPLAS (Objective 2).
- An administrative agreement to the Joint Research Centre (Objectives 3 and 4).

In 2020 and 2021, due to the disturbances to the planned work programme caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the deliverables under the previous pilot project - PP 09 17 06 "Promoting alternatives to animal testing" which formed the basis for this preparatory action, were significantly delayed.

In reference to Objective 1, the procurement under this preparatory action was not launched before the completion of the deliverables under the above-mentioned pilot project, which was finalised in June 2021. This allowed for the Commission to launch a call for an additional 13 e-Modules to be developed under the preparatory action. The contract was signed on 16 December 2021 for a duration of 36 months.

The kick-off meeting took place on 17 January 2022 and since then the team maintains monthly virtual meetings with the Commission for status update reports and continuous alignment.

In 2022, the following activities have been completed for Objective 1:

- guidance and assessment criteria for all core and function specific EU training modules have been developed, the work has included finetuning of the level of detail and scoring criteria. Finalisation of the work in 2023;
- The learning outcomes have been defined for the competence assessor e-Module;
- A reflection group of external experts in the different fields covered by the modules has been recruited.

The content for all 13 e-Modules has been defined by the team and been refined after expert input from the reflection group.

Concerning Objective 2, the tasks under ETPLAS grant were divided into six activity areas with a total duration of 36 months for the entire grant.

- The framework consisting of assessment criteria with different levels of detail and scoring (ideal and acceptable) was developed under Activity 1. Modules where the learning outcomes are broad, like module 11, a more detailed description of assessment criteria was preferred and will serve for Activity 2 in preparing questions. Less detailed assessment criteria will suffice for more focussed learning outcomes.
- Under Activity 2, question database expansion has continued by the development and collection of relevant questions using available networks of training and course providers specialised in laboratory animal science. The monthly working group meetings focused on quality control of proposed questions.
- The work under Activity 3 was delayed due to a withdrawal of the Working Group several months into the project. Activities are now being taken forward by ETPLAS webmaster (also chair of Activity 6).

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<sup>21</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/bridging-silos-biosciences>

- Under Activity 4, the Directly Observed Practical Skills (DOPS) produced under the EP Pilot Grant were reviewed. These were multi-page DOPS. The working group redrafted the template to a comprehensive but more succinct version of two pages consisting of a score sheet and a short description of the procedure. This template has been used to re-draft example DOPS.
- The group under Activity 5, liaised with the FELASA working group on activities on the harmonisation of education, training, including CPD. A joint survey was launched to get stakeholder input for a CPD framework for EU-functions A, B and C. More than 690 responses were received, however, some Member States were underrepresented. The Working Group has therefore specifically targeted organisations in those Member States.
- Regarding the improvement of ETPLAS functional web-site under Activity 6, after the closure of the Pilot grant, it was decided that the contract with Ecorys as IT-provider would not be continued. Ecorys had failed to deliver a fit for purpose web-environment, which is also vulnerable to cyber-attacks, and provide adequate cost-effective server support. A new IT-partner was found in OneSource. After careful consideration it was decided that the ETPLAS web-platform will be moved to another IT-environment.

Relevant milestones for secondary education, Objective 3:

- Following a successful re-run of Three Rs MOOC<sup>22</sup> September/October 2021, it is currently being transferred to a European Commission learning platform (EU Academy). Following outreach activities were carried out:
  - 4 Three Rs expert career profile and live online chats;
  - Stem Discovery Campaign 2022, a competition to gain further feedback and input for the new teaching / learning materials;
  - a workshop in March 2022 organised by Lausanne University, the Swiss 3Rs Competence Centre, European Schoolnet and EURL ECVAM to train secondary school teachers to teach the Three Rs and use the material developed under the European Schoolnet contract.
- Development of several teaching resources (presentation slides, podcasts, games) to support the learning scenarios in 2022
- Adaptation of learning scenarios to primary school level in October 2022;
- Translation of some of the learning scenarios and resources in many EU languages in 2022;
- Finalisation of new learning scenarios developed for secondary schools in December 2022;
- New Three Rs web page with all learning scenarios and resources launched in December 2022 containing all resources developed in the contract;
- Presentation of the contract work to the Ministries of Education STEM representatives Working Group in January 2023;
- Establishment of a contract for the development an open access virtual reality teaching resource to support Three Rs education for students aged 14 – 19;
- Delivery of a storyboard taking place in the EURL ECVAM virtual lab to provide a virtual reality experience which educates on important technologies used in science that do not require animals in December 2022.

Relevant milestones for university education, Objective 3:

- Eight university level learning scenarios added to the JRC Data Catalogue.

Completion of Objective 4 on knowledge sharing activities on alternative methods:

- Two interlinked activities took place to explore knowledge sharing strategies in methods and models:
  - Social media audit on the performance of methods and models key players. The study conducted by GOPA through an invitation for tender characterised the behaviour on the use of Socialmedia by these key players through the analysis of 1000 relevant accounts.
  - Identification of Knowledge Sharing successful activities. The study, assigned to FRESKI, through a low value negotiated contract collected information on existing online activities for sharing knowledge on the Three Rs. It established recommendations for sharing knowledge in

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<sup>22</sup> Massive Open Online Course

different communities, highlighting the importance of defining a clear objective and of developing a structured approach to achieve them. This took place through the following activities:

- Relevant Stakeholder interviews for the Knowledge Sharing Analysis in March 2022;
- Survey of Knowledge Sharing Analysis as well as the Q&A webinars between March and October 2022;
- The final results presentation in December 2022.

Implementation and achievements in 2023:

Concerning Objective 1 on the production of interactive e-Learning training modules:

- In 2023, finalised the outlines for all 13 e-Modules Learning Outcomes (LO) on how information shall be presented and the didactic approach to be taken;
- Selected the technologies to be used to develop, review and publish the e-Modules;
- Developed and presented a prototype e-Module based on module #7 Recognition of pain, suffering and distress – species specific (mouse) (EU module 5);
- Developed the 13 e-Modules based on the LO outline and the learnings from the module #7 prototype. This included:
  - Building of the module contents and creation of e-Learning modules in “Articulate” platform;
  - Educative creative process review and multimedia content for the LOs completed for most modules;
  - Modules proofreading partially completed.
- Developed the supporting material was partially completed;
- Reviewed and extended reflection group (experts) participants;
- Started the review process and revision of e-Modules based on the feedback received;
- Developed questionnaires for individual and blended learning testers (trainers and trainees);
- Initiated the recruitment of individuals and course organisers for e-Module testing.

Concerning Objective 2 under ETPLAS grant:

- Under Activity 1 the work for all function B and C modules have been finalised. A report has been shared and a manuscript has been submitted to Laboratory Animals Journal for peer review and publication. The manuscript has been accepted.
- The question database expansion under Activity 2 will continue until the end of the grant. The working group is working closely together with Activity 1 to ensure the questions meet the assessment criteria for the Learning Outcomes as proposed by Activity 1.
- Under Activity 3, a beta version of the exam module has been programmed and is being tested using questions prepared by Activity 2. The beta version is based on a similar module developed for Lab animal science courses in Portugal. The exam module will be linked with an online payment method module.
- Under Activity 4, the revised template for DOPS has been trialled with different stakeholders. The results led to a further refinement of the template and the drafting of specific DOPS for modules.
- Under Activity 5, a draft version of the CPD framework was finalised and presented at the October 2023 MS meeting under Directive 2010/63/EU. The working group continued to work on the draft.
- Under Activity 6, the structure of the ETPLAS IT-platform was discussed with ETPLAS-Stakeholder board. A beta version has been prepared and is ready for review.

Concerning Objective 3 on secondary education:

- August 2023: Establishment of a contract of the implementation of the virtual reality teaching resource to support Three Rs education for students aged 14 - 19 based on the existing storyboard.
- July 2023: Establishment a contract with laboratory animal science experts to develop a comprehensive introductory manual for early-career technicians working directly with animals, providing much-needed support across the EU for careers.

Concerning Objective 3 on university education:

Meeting of the Expert Meeting on the 3Rs in Higher Education in April 2023 to define the content of a teaching programme to implement in the EU academy platform.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Concerning Objective 1 on the production of interactive e-Learning training modules:

- Finalise e-Modules production and the related supporting material;
- Finalise e-Modules review by extended reflection group (experts) and any revision of e-Modules as appropriate;
- Finalise questionnaires for individual and blended learning testers (trainers and trainees);
- Share of e-Learning courses, supporting material and questionnaires to volunteered individuals and course organisers (blended learning) testers;
- Analyse feedback received from testers and revision of e-Learning modules and supporting material, as appropriate.
- Develop technical documentation of the implementation choices for seamless handover.

Concerning Objective 2 under ETPLAS grant:

- Under Activity 1, the manuscript explaining and presenting the assessment criteria has been accepted for publication by Laboratory Animals Journal and is expected to be published before the end of the grant period. The Working group will continue to work together with Working group 2 to ensure questions drafted by Working group 2 meet the assessment criteria as proposed by Activity 1.
- Under Activity 2, the questions database will continue to be expanded to cover all modules for the EU-functions covered by both the previous pilot and the current action grant. Working group 2 will continue to collaborate closely with Working group 1 to ensure meeting the assessment criteria for all the Learning Outcomes.
- Under Activity 3, the Exam module will be finalised and tested with stakeholders.
- Under Activity 4, DOPS will be finalised for modules requiring skills assessment. Field testing will continue as versions are being produced.
- Under Activity 5, the CPD framework draft will be represented during the April MS meeting. After that meeting, the then latest version will be shared with MS experts for review. A final version will be prepared taking into account comments received.
- Under Activity 6, the beta version of the ETPLAS platform will be released in the second quarter of the year. Stakeholders will be asked for feedback in time for improvements to be implemented before the end of the grant period.

Concerning Objective 3 on secondary education:

- March 2024: Delivery of a virtual reality teaching resource to support Three Rs education for students aged 14 - 19 based on the existing storyboard.
- March 2024: Delivery of a comprehensive introductory manual for early-career technicians working directly with animals, providing much-needed support across the EU for careers.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 August 2020
Publication of call for tenders	12 July 2021
Closing date of call for tenders	16 September 2021
Award decision	2 December 2021
Interim payments	2022, 2023 and 2024
Final payment	2025
Signature of the grant agreement (ETPLAS)	15 December 2021
Pre-financings	2021 and 2023
Final payment	2025



Step	Date
Signature of the administrative agreement with Joint Research Centre	September 2020
Interim payments	2020 and 2023
Final payment	2024

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Administrative agreement	Joint Research Centre	800 000
Direct Grant without call for proposal	Education & Training Platform for Laboratory Animal Science (ETPLAS)	300 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers
- research institutes / academia
- foundations

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, C(2020)5200 adopted on 4 August 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The Call documents ENV/2021/OP/0011 and the award decision are available [here](#).

The first six e-Modules developed under the pilot project can be accessed [here](#). DOPS and assessment criteria are freely available at [ETPLAS](#) website.

The Three Rs MOOC for teachers 2021 can be found [here](#).

Objective 4 is a follow up of the BeAMS – Breeding across methods in biosciences - [report](#) published in 2020.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

This preparatory action as well as the pilot project PP 09 17 06 “Promoting alternatives to animal testing”, aimed at facilitating the uptake of existing alternatives; the development and validation of new alternatives; fostering exchanges of information, knowledge and best practices, and providing tools for education and training to incorporate the Three 'R's<sup>23</sup> into the curricula of current and future researchers.

It is not envisaged to follow up this action, which facilitated soft measures and knowledge building in the policy area of laboratory animals, with a legislative proposal immediately. However, further work in this area is scheduled and the Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is planned to undergo an evaluation at a later stage. The outputs of the pilot project and the preparatory action will feed into this policy process. Following the result of its evaluation, the Directive may be subject to further changes and update if appropriate.

<sup>23</sup> Replace, Reduce and Refine the use of animals for scientific purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU - OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 33–79)

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PA 09 22 01: Preparatory action — EU Clearing House for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	300 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	300 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This project will develop and evaluate a proposal to set up a European Clearing House by following these primary objectives:

- Set up a new European capability to provide SAF approval solutions via an EU Clearing House for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF);
- It would cover the definition, validation and test of the concept to be implemented in Europe by setting up the required European capabilities and tools.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of indirect management with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) under the Contribution Agreement MOVE/EI/SUB/2022-519/SI2.877543.

EASA also engages with the Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Industrial Alliance (RLCF Alliance), notably in view of seeking input on the design of the EU Clearing House as well as contributing to the monitoring of implementation and evaluation of this preparatory action's results.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Procure an implementing partner to set up and support the operation and core functions of the European SAF Clearing House, developing progress report, continue participation in Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Industrial Alliance now with dedicated Clearing House working group, refining the workflow process initiating the promotional outreach campaign.
- Deliverables submitted: First Annual Report on 30 January 2024 (corrected version 7 February 2024)
- Meetings held: Regular update meetings of the Steering group EASA-MOVE (monthly or bi-monthly basis depending on the developments) and meetings as part of Round Table 2 (Aviation) of the Renewable and Low Carbon Fuels Alliance where SAF Clearing House is represented in Working Group 5. Meeting with newly established Clearing House, EASA and MOVE also took place in March; the aim was to present the new structure and governance as well as the progress of the first year as reflected in the deliverable submitted.

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

- Activities to be carried out: The work of the contractor has officially commenced with the signatures of the first two specific contracts in November 2023. Several activities under the form of work streams will be carried over, as described in the 1<sup>st</sup> deliverable report from EASA. These include: promotional outreach campaign, setting up an EU Clearing House structure and governance model, developing a workflow process, setting up demonstrator activity, evaluate the effectiveness of the Clearing House demonstrator in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and coherence with other initiatives and include proposals with a view to adoption of future actions, including towards the financial self-sufficiency of the EU Clearing House.

- Deliverables to be submitted: 2<sup>nd</sup> Progress report including reports on outreach campaign and its results, report on the EU Clearing House structure and governance model, procedural documents (report) on workflow process, report on demonstrator activities. Initial impact assessment and proposals for future actions will be submitted as final work package, most likely in 2025.
- Meetings to take place: Regular update meetings of the Steering group EASA-MOVE (monthly or bi-monthly basis depending on the developments) and meetings as part of Round Table 2 (Aviation) of the Renewable and Low Carbon Fuels Alliance where SAF Clearing House is represented in Working Group 5. An interservice meeting to be organised in the second quarter of 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 July 2022
Signature of Contribution Agreement	19 September 2022
1st Prefinancing	2 November 2022
2nd Prefinancing (payment request soon to be submitted by EASA)	March 2024
Final payment	Q1 2025

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Contribution Agreement MOVE/EI/SUB/2022-519/S12.877543 for EASA EU SAF Clearing House	European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)	2 000 000

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- public service providers

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 4509, adopted on 4 July 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Work programme for grants and contracts in the fields Mobility and Transport \(europa.eu\)](#)

In order to deliver on the Clearing House preparatory action and its objectives, the Agency has procured an implementing partner during this first reporting period. The call for tenders for High Value Procedure EASA.2023.HVP.15 was opened on 31 May 2023, closed on 21 July 2023 and awarded in October 2023.

Call documents describing the set up and structure of the EU SAF Clearing House are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-documents.html?cftId=14216>.

The project website is planned to be available in a dedicated address in Q2 2024.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

Yes, the Commission intends to make a legislative proposal provided that the preparatory action demonstrates that an EU Clearing House:

- is needed in order to simplify procedures for producers of Sustainable Aviation Fuels;
- would be a proportionate measure with positive impacts and no negative side-effects;

- can be financed through fees paid by producers of Sustainable Aviation Fuels and not disproportionately rely on the EU budget.

## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PA 09 22 02: Preparatory action — EU Grassland Watch

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn		2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	749 994	0,0 %	-25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	749 994	0,0 %	-25,0 %

## 3. Objectives

This preparatory action builds on the recent successful completion of a pilot project called “Using satellite images to improve the operation of the Natura 2000” (PP 09 18 02), also short named “Cop4N2K”, that delivered an Earth Observation based system (“EU Grassland Watch”) for monitoring land cover land use changes, with a focus on detecting grassland degradation and losses of grassland areas in Natura 2000 sites. The public website displays grasslands losses at European scale, but also provides details for individual Natura 2000 sites, including annual land cover data updates from the date of entry into force of the Habitats Directive<sup>24</sup> until present. The purpose of this preparatory action is to develop this system further by extending the mapped and monitored area, improving the quality of automated land cover identification from remote sensing imagery, and improving the quality and relevance of indicators on grassland-related land use changes. These objectives cannot be achieved through technical improvements only, but will also require an active engagement with the community of users.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- 2022:

In 2022, the Financing decision was prepared and adopted, and the call for tenders procedure was prepared and launched.

The call for tenders was published from 7 November 2022 to 10 January 2023. After evaluation, it was decided to award the offer presented by the consortium led by “Space4Environment”.

The contract was signed on 17 May 2023, and the award notice was published in the Official Journal: <https://ted.europa.eu/en/notice/-/detail/317134-2023>.

The project has three main activities: improving and extending the satellite-based monitoring system; to gather a community of users and stakeholders (of grassland protection) and engage with, and to update and improve the existing web-tool.

- 2023:

Year 2023 was mostly dedicated to the analysis of users' requirements and the definition of technical improvement. Users' requirements are collected through a series of expert workshops, with contribution from the EEA (including the expert from EEA's Copernicus Core Service, CLMS-Copernicus Land Monitoring Service, and EEA experts on biodiversity assessment), JRC experts, DG ENV experts, and national experts

<sup>24</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

involved in national reporting on protected habitats conservation status under the Habitats directive (also known as “article 17 reporting”).

The contractor communication team helped advertising the workshop and gathering a large community of actively participating experts. At least 15 national experts participated directly in the workshops, in addition to the EEA and JRC experts. DG ENV could also present this project to its “Environment Reporting Expert group” and run a quick survey that showed the high interest for the approach developed in the project (e.g. creating an information system with the purpose of supporting the Member States in their obligation to report on the state of nature, under article 17 of the Habitats directive). As a conclusion, the communication activities were found successful: the national experts are aware of this project and are actively participating. A newsletter, as well as frequent updates on social media, are used to keep other experts updated.

A series of discussions with DG ENV IT unit was initiated to make sure that the new IT solutions will fit in the Commission IT infrastructure (software and servers).

- Timetable for 2024

On the basis of the first workshop, start the implementation of the new land cover classification, the new indicators and start the production of datasets (production should start in autumn 2024).

List of workshops

- 29 December 2023: revision of the Land cover/Land use classification;
- 13 March 2024: revision of the indicators;
- 9 April 2024: revision of the web application.

Newsletter: upon request to [info@cop4N2K.eu](mailto:info@cop4N2K.eu)

Overview of the project planning:

At this date there is no deviation from the initial planning.

The figure below shows the project planning.

The first block of activities (WP1) is related to the user engagement:

- Initiating the building a user federation (this will last for the whole project);
- Start user workshops and consultation: this is a large part of the project activities, that should help better shape the tools to address users’ needs, try to open field data from them, and in return provide user with earth observation-based information of interest for their activities (in particular for the implementation of the Habitats directive);
- External communication: a launch event in 2023;
- Use cases: a series of more advanced/ad hoc analysis will be launched, in particular to reflect on data quality.

The second block (WP2) is related to the improvement of the earth observation system and its operation (operation meaning that the system process continuously and automatically satellite imagery):

- The implementation of the improvements proposed in the offer is the first step that will keep the team busy for 12 months. This concerns both the detection and monitoring of grasslands and the detection of human activities (eg. ploughing, mowing), or abandonment, and their links to potential grasslands degradations.
- The IT implementation system will be improved, one of the main gains being related to the recent improvement of the cloud-based platform used to process satellite (Sentinel) imagery (this improvement is led by the European Space Agency and DG DEFIS).
- Also, the data validation strategy, will be entirely re-discussed. This point is extremely important, as the monitoring of natural environment (in general, not specifically for this project), suffers a lack of good quality reference data.

The last block (WP3) is related to the re-design of the web site. In this first part of the project, the point is mostly to consult users, the actual implementation taking place in the project second year.

Table 27: Project GANNT chart

		Project Month																																					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36		
WP 1	User engagement	Concept / preparation phase									Programming / implementation phase																	Operational phase											
WP 1A	User federation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
WP 1B	User workshops / consultation	C	C	LE	T				UC																														
WP 1C	External communication																																						
WP 1D	Use case coordination																																						
WP 2	Improvement and running the EO System																																						
WP 2A	Development of methodological concepts																																						
WP 2B	Indicators																																						
WP 2C	System optimisation																																						
WP 2D	Operations and maintenance																																						
WP 2D	Validation																																						
WP 3	EU Grasslands web platform																																						
	Revise web structure & content																																						
	Update EU Grassland Watch platform																																						
	Operational roll-out																																						
WP 0	Project mangement																																						
	Project meetings		KOM																																				
	Project progress reporting		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
	Handover from the bridging contract																																						
	Handover to the EC																																						

C = user consultation event, LE = Launch event, UC = UC meeting, KOM = Kick-off meeting, PM = progress meeting, FM = Final meeting

### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

Progress across all tasks is expected as described above.

### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 June 2022
Publication of call for tenders	7 November 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	10 January 2023
Award decision	25 April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	2024 and 2025
Final payment	2026

### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
EU Grassland Watch – CO4PN2K Update	Space4Environment, GISAT s.r.o, Bilbomatica S.A., Specto Natura Limited, Joanneum Research Forschungesellschaft mbH, VITO N.V.	2 499 980

### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- private companies / service providers.

## 5. Documentation and expected results

### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)3522 was adopted on 03 June 2022, and sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available [here](#).

### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

This project is meant to extend and improve the work initiated in a former, above-mentioned pilot project. The delivered system is unique in its genre and directly address the needs of the Habitats directive for natural/semi-natural grasslands in particular in the context of the article 6 of the Habitats directive.

The main specificities are:

- data are updated every year (only every six years for the current Copernicus data);
- data are available since the beginning of the directive in 1992 (since 2012 for Copernicus);
- a series of specific indicators are developed for characterising grasslands and their degradation;
- there are specific webtools to explore the data;
- all data are public;
- this project will engage with stakeholders, to aggregate a community of users to better shape the tools and products, in line with the application of the Habitats directive.

*5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?*

No, no follow up by a new legislative proposal is envisaged. The delivered systems are meant to support the implementation of existing legislation, such as the Habitats directive, in particular for what concerns the article 6 and the reporting under article 17. It is also useful in relation to the proposal for Nature Restoration Law (identification of areas to restore).



## 1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

### PA 09 24 01: Preparatory action — EU Biodiversity Observation Centre

## 2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this preparatory action were voted under the 2024 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2023 Outturn	2024 Budget		2025 DB		Var(2025/2024)	
Line		5 000 000	1 250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		5 000 000	1 250 000	p.m.	500 000	-100,0 %	-60,0 %

## 3. Objectives

The objective of the preparatory action is to support the development and deployment of a coordination centre for an EU biodiversity observation centre.

The implementation of the biodiversity policy frameworks has to be well monitored, in order to ensure effective tracking of the progress towards the goals and targets. The robust policy monitoring will critically depend on the regular and frequent provision of high-quality data and information, underpinned by a systematic observation of biodiversity in relevant environments (including terrestrial and aquatic ones) over a long timeframe. The challenge is also to harness scientific advances and bring together Member States, stakeholders, various institutions, and other organisations or initiatives to strengthen current efforts and devise a structured and cost-effective EU-level approach to biodiversity observation.

The preparatory action will address the urgent need for coordination, integration, harmonisation and strengthening of biodiversity data collection and analysis, to inform policymaking at local, national, European and international level and society in general. The action will focus on the operationalisation of a set of biodiversity variables with a direct application in policy and decision-making. This will include capacity building, including professional taxonomic expertise and citizen science.

## 4. Implementation

### 4.1. Method of implementation (tenders, grants, other) and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of an open call for tenders.

### 4.2. Previous years' implementation

- The co-design of the coordination centre at EU level is expected to benefit from preparatory work, scientific developments and/or concrete contributions from:
  - the European Environment Agency Biodiversity Information System for Europe ([BISE](#));
  - the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity ([KCBD](#)) hosted at JRC;
  - Horizon Europe (HE) projects in particular:
    - the coordination & support action [EuropaBON](#) (e.g. via the Essential Biodiversity Variables – EBVs and recommendations for a European biodiversity monitoring centre);
    - projects that will be selected under the 2024 calls of HE under the topic “digital for nature” (evaluation is on-going);
    - the project Biomonitor4CAP (Advanced biodiversity monitoring for results based and effective agricultural policy and transformation).
  - [Biodiversa+](#) Partnership’s concept of national centres and concrete testing frameworks for biodiversity monitoring schemes;
  - other relevant initiatives (e.g. [STING](#), [SPRING](#), [EMBAL](#) and [INSIGNIA](#) for pollinators monitoring, GBIF <https://www.gbif.org/>).

- The final report and outcomes of EuropaBON will be delivered at a stakeholder conference in Brussels on 27 - 28 May 2024;
- The preparatory action proposal was presented at the EU Biodiversity Platform on Monitoring and Assessment (EUBP MA) meeting in 2023 and included in EUBP MA 2024 Work Plan. The group involves representatives from MS, stakeholders and experts.

#### 4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2024

The members of the EU Biodiversity Platform on Monitoring and Assessment (EUBP MA) will be informed on the procedure (open call procurement and timetable) at their fifth meeting on 17 April 2024.

#### 4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2025

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2024
Publication of call for tenders	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for tenders	Q3 2024
Award decision	Q4 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	2025 - 2026
Final payment	2027

#### 4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2024 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

#### 4.6. Types of beneficiaries/contractors

- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- private companies / service providers
- international organisations

### 5. Documentation and expected results

#### 5.1. Is there any documentation setting out the main elements of this pilot project/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, expected in the second quarter of 2024, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

#### 5.2. Do similar activities exist, which are already covered by a legal basis?

No

#### 5.3. At this stage, is it envisaged to follow up this project/action with a legislative proposal?

In the context of rationalisation of reporting burden and increasing efficiency of policy-making process, the Commission will assess options to improve the efficiency and the added value of the reporting, monitoring and data publication collection and reporting requirements necessary to comply with EU and global commitments.

#### IV. Summary tables

**Table 1: Summary table – Pilot Projects**

PP1 - pilot project first year; PP2 - pilot project second year; CPP - completion pilot project

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
<b>PP 01 21 01</b>	1	GROW	CPP	Pilot project — Feasibility study on reduction of traffic-related particulate emissions by means of vehicle-mounted fine dust filtration	0,00	415.887,00	p.m.	554.516	p.m.	554.516
<b>PP 01 21 02</b>	1	ENER	CPP	Pilot project — Support service for citizens led renovation projects	0,00	282.817,50	p.m.	880.000	p.m.	955.227
<b>PP 01 21 03</b>	1	CNECT	CPP	Pilot project — Promote worldwide a European way to digital innovation rooted in culture	0,00	399.824,00	p.m.	642.300	p.m.	599.736
<b>PP 01 21 05</b>	1	GROW	CPP	Pilot project — European entrepreneurial E-learning platform helping SMEs to adapt to the current context	0,00	191.985,00	p.m.	391.990	p.m.	239.130
<b>PP 01 22 01</b>	1	JRC	CPP	Pilot project — Development of an automated database to collect and structure non-animal methods (NAMs) for use in biomedical research	0,00	0,00	p.m.	183.938	p.m.	200.000
<b>PP 01 22 02</b>	1	RTD	CPP	Pilot project — Establish new common methodologies, including metrics and statistics and using data analytics, which are more adequate to analyse the gender gap in investments in innovative ventures at regional, national and European level (in particular EIC, EIF and EIB)	600.000,00	0,00	p.m.	267.150	p.m.	447.150
<b>PP 01 22 05</b>	1	CNECT	CPP	Pilot project — Innovation Radar Bridge - Building links and increased activity between Innovation Radar innovators, European investors and policy makers.	0,00	0,00	p.m.	490.500	p.m.	195.950
<b>PP 01 23 01</b>	1	ENER	PP2	Pilot project — EU Forum for Boosting Energy Efficient Behavior	2.000.000,00	0,00	p.m.	600.000	p.m.	600.000
<b>PP 01 23 05</b>	1	DEFIS	PP2	Pilot project — Search and Rescue operations for Aviation and Maritime	2.000.000,00	0,00	990.000	1.247.500	p.m.	500.000
<b>PP 01 23 06</b>	1	GROW	PP2	Pilot project — Young European Entrepreneur Award - The EU's Acceleration and Investment Programme for Young Entrepreneurs	350.000,00	0,00	p.m.	245.000	p.m.	245.000
<b>PP 01 24 01</b>	1	CNECT	PP1	Pilot project — Chips Diplomacy Support Initiative			990.000	247.500	p.m.	682.500
<b>PP 01 24 02</b>	1	DEFIS	PP1	Pilot project — Development of a space sector specific environmental footprint methodology			2.450.000	612.500	p.m.	500.000
<b>PP 01 24 03</b>	1	JRC	PP1	Pilot project — Stimulating Local and Regional New European Bauhaus Grassroots Projects			1.450.000	362.500	p.m.	725.000
<b>PP 01 24 04</b>	1	RTD	PP1	Pilot project — Strengthening Research Talent Retention in Europe			500.000	125.000	p.m.	125.000

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
PP 02 19 03	1	ENER	CPP	Pilot project — Covenant of Mayors as an instrument to tackle energy poverty	0,00	1.109.649,00	p.m.	420.000	p.m.	284.942
PP 02 21 02	1	MOVE	CPP	Pilot project — Enabling sustainable Management and Development of Ports in the Rhine-Main-Danube basin	0,00	0,00	p.m.	920.000	p.m.	612.150
PP 02 21 03	1	CNECT	CPP	Pilot project — Fostering digitisation of public sector and green transition in Europe through the use of an innovative European GovTech platform	0,00	269.890,00	p.m.	539.980	p.m.	540.080
PP 02 21 05	1	MOVE	CPP	Pilot project — Sustainable rural mobility for Covid-19 resilience and support of ecotourism	0,00	359.993,60	p.m.	640.006	p.m.	799.968
PP 02 21 08	1	MOVE	CPP	Pilot project — Single European Railway Area — Prototype Corridor Munich-Verona	0,00	455.190,00	p.m.	350.000	p.m.	395.250
PP 02 21 09	1	MOVE	CPP	Pilot project — IRS Smart Cities Project: New Railway Station concept for green and socially inclusive Smart Cities	0,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	350.000
PP 02 21 10	1	MOVE	CPP	Pilot project — Effect of energy efficient and solar power generating vehicles on grid capacity and charging infrastructure	0,00	0,00	p.m.	668.844	p.m.	1.672.110
PP 02 22 01	1	JUST	CPP	Pilot project — Novel forms of contracting in the digital economy	0,00	125.000,00	p.m.	295.250	p.m.	157.525
PP 02 23 01	1	CNECT	PP2	Pilot project — A Space for the Metaverse	800.000,00	0,00	p.m.	400.000	p.m.	200.000
PP 02 23 02	1	CNECT	PP2	Pilot project — De-monopolized access to EU applications	500.000,00	0,00	p.m.	250.000	p.m.	250.000
PP 02 23 03	1	CNECT	PP2	Pilot project — Development of a study to boost environmentally sustainable artificial intelligence in the EU - Green AI	425.000,00	0,00	p.m.	212.500	p.m.	212.500
PP 02 23 04	1	CNECT	PP2	Pilot project — Development of interoperability tools in the digital single market	400.000,00	0,00	p.m.	200.000	p.m.	200.000
PP 02 23 05	1	MOVE	PP2	Pilot project — European body for jet fuel standards and safety certification	1.000.000,00	1.000.000,00	990.000	247.500	p.m.	990.000
PP 02 23 06	1	ENER	PP2	Pilot project — Proposal for a Joint European Approach towards Radioactive Waste	1.000.000,00	0,00	p.m.	400.000	p.m.	300.000
PP 02 24 02	1	MOVE	PP1	Pilot project — The development of cross-border cycling lane infrastructure			800.000	200.000	p.m.	400.000
PP 03 22 03	1	MOVE	CPP	Pilot project — Single European Digital Enforcement Area	0,00	0,00	p.m.	300.000	p.m.	300.000
PP 03 22 04	1	CNECT	CPP	Pilot project — The role of copyright laws in facilitating distance education and research	700.000,00	0,00	p.m.	695.250	p.m.	648.327
PP 03 23 01	1	GROW	PP2	Pilot project — Building Capacity for Tourism Ecosystem - Accessing EU Funding	3.000.000,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	900.000
PP 03 23 02	1	GROW	PP2	Pilot project — European network of gender-conscious investors	1.000.000,00	0,00	p.m.	300.000	p.m.	582.000

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
<b>PP 03 24 01</b>	1	FISMA	PP1	Pilot project — Comparative study on best practices for a stronger EU sanction enforcement			500.000	125.000	p.m.	500.000
<b>PP 03 24 02</b>	1	FISMA	PP1	Pilot project — Embarking companies and stakeholders into the European sustainability reporting journey			3.240.000	810.000	p.m.	940.000
<b>PP 03 24 03</b>	1	GROW	PP1	Pilot project — EU Substitution Centre - Providing support to businesses to substitute their use of hazardous chemicals through collaboration, innovation, research and direct assistance			1.550.000	387.500	p.m.	620.000
<b>PP 03 24 04</b>	1	GROW	PP1	Pilot project — The promotion of handicraft products and support of craftsmen			970.000	242.500	p.m.	270.000
<b>PP 04 24 01</b>	1	DEFIS	PP1	Pilot project — EU Space Data integration to support an EU Disaster Management Plan			1.790.000	447.500	p.m.	450.000
<b>PP 04 24 02</b>	1	DEFIS	PP1	Pilot project — Innovative deployable antennas			1.450.000	362.500	p.m.	350.000
<b>PP 04 24 03</b>	1	DEFIS	PP1	Pilot project — Mobile Responsive Launch Systems			1.950.000	487.500	p.m.	500.000
<b>PP 04 24 04</b>	1	DEFIS	PP1	Pilot project — New Vision for resilient and autonomous access to space in Europe			1.800.000	450.000	p.m.	450.000
<b>Heading 1 - Total</b>										<b>20.44.061</b>
<b>PP 05 21 01</b>	2	REGIO	CPP	Pilot project — Cross-Border Crisis Response Integrated Initiative (CB-CRII)	0,00	837.633,92	p.m.	1.000.000	p.m.	300.000
<b>PP 05 22 01</b>	2	REGIO	CPP	Pilot project — Transatlantic cooperation scheme delivering the Green Deal locally	0,00	394.856,12	p.m.	325.000	p.m.	236.914
<b>PP 05 23 01</b>	2	REGIO	PP2	Pilot project — An innovative and comprehensive concept of urban biodiversity development for local governments in Europe - restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Łódź	0,00	0,00	p.m.	2.625.000	p.m.	700.000
<b>PP 07 19 06</b>	2	EAC	CPP	Pilot project — Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project	0,00	0,00	p.m.	98.000	p.m.	294.000
<b>PP 07 21 07</b>	2	EMPL	CPP	Pilot project — BIG (Basic Income Guarantee) E-pay cards for marginalised people: innovative financial and policy instrument to promote the more effective delivery of welfare benefits for people in extreme poverty	0,00	818.271,30	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	1.000.000
<b>PP 07 21 08</b>	2	CNECT	CPP	Pilot project — Media representation and inclusion for refugees and migrants	0,00	494.077,18	p.m.	98.100	p.m.	196.051
<b>PP 07 22 01</b>	2	EAC	CPP	Pilot project — Establishing a European Heritage Hub to support a holistic and cost-effective follow-up of the European Year of Cultural Heritage	1.000.000,00	1.569.460,00	p.m.	1.579.456	p.m.	774.385
<b>PP 07 22 02</b>	2	CNECT	CPP	Pilot project — European Festival of Journalism and Media Information Literacy	0,00	417.221,00	p.m.	495.250	p.m.	208.611
<b>PP 07 22 03</b>	2	EMPL	CPP	Pilot project — European Homelessness Count	1.909.863,00	0,00	p.m.	800.000	p.m.	2.100.000

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
PP 07 22 04	2	EAC	CPP	Pilot project — Sport for People and Planet - a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe	1.500.000,00	882.142,90	p.m.	994.000	p.m.	400.000
PP 07 23 01	2	CNECT	PP2	Pilot project — Citizen facing European TV and Video News Portal for Streaming, Search and Translation of European TV and video news and political documentaries produced or transmitted by accredited public and private media in EU Member States	2.500.000,00	0,00	p.m.	1.250.000	p.m.	1.250.000
PP 07 23 02	2	EMPL	PP2	Pilot project — Documenting the best practices from experiences concerning the organisation and reduction of working time in Europe	250.000,00	125.000,00	1.500.000	375.000	p.m.	650.000
PP 07 23 03	2	EAC	PP2	Pilot project — Sport Supports' - emergency sport actions for youth	2.000.000,00	0,00	2.000.000	1.760.000	p.m.	1.000.000
PP 07 23 04	2	CNECT	PP2	Pilot project — The European Union - the media freedom hub	2.850.000,00	1.425.000,00	2.940.000	2.235.000	p.m.	570.000
PP 07 24 01	2	CNECT	PP1	Pilot project — Technical means to provide Russian households with trustworthy information			2.600.000	650.000	p.m.	1.300.000
<b>Heading 2 - Total</b>										<b>10.979.961</b>
PP 08 22 01	3	MARE	CPP	Pilot project — Constructing an open library containing a curated and continuously growing digital catalogue of individual sound signatures from the marine underwater soundscape in shallow seas	0,00	0,00	p.m.	745.250	p.m.	735.000
PP 08 23 01	3	AGRI	PP2	Pilot project — Improving the place of organic products in collective catering	1.500.000,00	0,00	p.m.	750.000	p.m.	1.125.000
PP 08 24 01	3	AGRI	PP1	Pilot project — Farm Structures and organisations: Trends, definition and protection of the EU agricultural model			750.000	187.500	p.m.	562.500
PP 08 24 02	3	MARE	PP1	Pilot project — Fostering energy transition in the fisheries sector			2.200.000	550.000	p.m.	550.000
PP 08 24 03	3	MARE	PP1	Pilot project — Saving our Seas – Reducing Danger of Munitions dumped in European seas			5.590.000	1.397.500	p.m.	2.240.000
PP 09 21 01	3	ENV	CPP	Pilot project — Best Belt — more power for the Green Belt	0,00	900.000,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	900.000
PP 09 23 01	3	ENV	PP2	Pilot project — Reframing the exotic pet trade in Europe: developing effective science-based demand reduction interventions	700.000,00	0,00	p.m.	280.000	p.m.	200.490
PP 09 23 02	3	ENV	PP2	Pilot project — Youth for pollinators – fostering youth engagement and participatory governance in pollinator conservation	4.500.000,00	150.000,00	p.m.	1.375.000	p.m.	1.000.000
PP 09 24 01	3	ENER	PP1	Pilot project — EU CCUS Observatory			500.000	125.000	p.m.	150.000

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
<b>PP 09 24 02</b>	3	TAXUD	PP1	Pilot project — Feasibility study to develop a model to tax comprehensively the environmental harm of goods and services in the European Union			500.000	125.000	p.m.	375.000
<b>Heading 3 - Total</b>										<b>29.797.912</b>
<b>Pilot projects - TOTAL</b>										<b>61.221.934</b>

**Table 2: Summary table on Preparatory Actions**

PA1 – preparatory action first year; PA2 - preparatory action second year; PA3 preparatory action third year; CPA - completion preparatory action

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
PA 01 20 01	1	CNECT	CPA	Preparatory action — Art and the digital: Unleashing creativity for European industry, regions and society	0,00	2.190.312,91	p.m.	1.470.439	p.m.	735.220
PA 01 22 01	1	CNECT	PA3	Preparatory action — Art and the digital: unleashing creativity for European water management	2.500.000,00	799.613,60	p.m.	2.300.000	p.m.	2.299.614
PA 01 22 02	1	CNECT	PA3	Preparatory action — European Startups 2.0 – Taking Europe’s startup economy to the next level through data-driven insights, research and events	0,00	0,00	p.m.	400.000	p.m.	385.600
PA 01 22 03	1	JRC	PA3	Preparatory action — New European Bauhaus Knowledge Management Platform	0,00	609.902,98	p.m.	750.000	p.m.	170.000
PA 01 23 01	1	ENER	PA2	Preparatory action — Energy prosumers repository - Monitor the development of prosumer actions across the EU	5.000.000,00	0,00	2.500.000	3.125.000	p.m.	2.250.000
PA 01 23 04	1	ENER	PA2	Preparatory action — Support Service for citizens led renovation projects	5.000.000,00	0,00	2.500.000	3.125.000	p.m.	2.250.000
PA 01 24 01	1	DIGIT	PA1	Preparatory action — FOSSEPS 2			2.500.000	625.000	p.m.	1.000.000
PA 01 24 02	1	JRC	PA1	Preparatory action — Implementation of the SDGs in the EU regions – from monitoring to action			1.800.000	450.000	p.m.	900.000
PA 01 24 03	1	JRC	PA1	Preparatory action — Partnerships for Regional Innovation			1.000.000	250.000	p.m.	500.000
PA 01 24 04	1	JRC	PA1	Preparatory action — STARTUP VILLAGE FORUM AND RURAL INNOVATION VALLEYS			1.800.000	450.000	p.m.	900.000
PA 02 18 01	1	ENER	CPA	Preparatory action — Establishing comprehensive support for coal and carbon-intensive regions in transition	0,00	2.513.710,00	p.m.	1.911.429	p.m.	2.000.000
PA 02 22 01	1	MOVE	PA3	Preparatory action — EU Road Safety Exchange +	0,00	0,00	p.m.	270.000	p.m.	268.305
PA 02 22 02	1	MOVE	PA3	Preparatory action — EU Space Data for autonomous vessels in Inland waterways	0,00	0,00	p.m.	550.000	p.m.	546.000
PA 02 24 05	1	CNECT	PA1	Preparatory action — The European Green Digital Coalition moves to Action			2.000.000	500.000	p.m.	550.000
PA 03 20 04	1	TAXUD	CPA	Preparatory action — EU Tax and Financial Crimes Observatory — Capacity building to support Union policymaking in the area of taxation	0,00	900.000,00	p.m.	900.000	p.m.	300.000
PA 03 22 01	1	GROW	PA3	Preparatory action — Analysis of life-cycle GHG emissions of EU buildings	0,00	449.805,00	p.m.	449.805	p.m.	599.740
PA 03 22 02	1	SANTE	PA3	Preparatory action — Developing a system for the automated measuring of tail length and tail lesions of pigs at the slaughter line	0,00	837.304,46	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	418.652



Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
PA 03 22 04	1	GROW	PA3	Preparatory action — Establishing basis for a tourism common policy	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1.500.000	p.m.	1.126.210
PA 03 23 01	1	FISMA	PA2	Preparatory action — Developing a methodology and sustainability standards for mitigating the environmental impact of crypto-assets	800.000,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	560.000
PA 03 24 01	1	GROW	PA1	Preparatory action — Creation of the European Capital of Small Retail (ECSR)			3.000.000	750.000	p.m.	900.000
PA 03 24 02	1	GROW	PA1	Preparatory action — Harmonized fire statistics as a tool for enhancing pan-European fire safety efforts			1.500.000	375.000	p.m.	300.000
PA 03 24 03	1	GROW	PA1	Preparatory action — Upskilling and reskilling the Tourism Ecosystem I Tourism Knowledge hub and Tourism Data Space			1.000.000	250.000	p.m.	500.000
PA 04 24 01	1	DEFIS	PA1	Preparatory action — Game-changing innovation for European launch solutions			5.000.000	1.250.000	p.m.	2.500.000
PA 04 24 02	1	DEFIS	PA1	Preparatory action — Innovative user terminals for European secure satellite communication service			5.000.000	1.250.000	p.m.	500.000
<b>Heading 1 - Total</b>										<b>22.459.341</b>
PA 05 20 02	2	REGIO	CPA	Preparatory action — The European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects supporting multilevel governance and partnerships with added value for the region	0,00	22.315,47	p.m.	140.000	p.m.	73.875
PA 07 20 02	2	EAC	CPA	Preparatory action — Grassroots sports programmes and infrastructure innovation	0,00	1.463.236,03	p.m.	944.180	p.m.	500.000
PA 07 20 06	2	JUST	CPA	Preparatory action — Roma Civil Monitor — Strengthening capacity and involvement of Roma and pro-Roma civil society in policy monitoring and review	0,00	399.828,40	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	799.657
PA 07 21 01	2	CNECT	CPA	Preparatory action — European media platforms	6.000.000,00	4.903.083,18	p.m.	6.000.000	p.m.	3.000.000
PA 07 21 03	2	CNECT	CPA	Preparatory action — Writing European	3.000.000,00	1.811.002,71	p.m.	2.440.917	p.m.	1.500.000
PA 07 22 01	2	CNECT	PA3	Preparatory action — A European public sphere: a new online media offer for young Europeans	9.000.000,00	4.500.000,00	9.000.000	10.350.000	p.m.	3.721.077
PA 07 23 01	2	CNECT	PA2	Preparatory action — Network of European Fact-checkers to fight Disinformation	850.000,00	0,00	1.637.500	409.375	p.m.	212.500
PA 07 24 01	2	CNECT	PA1	Preparatory action — European Festival of Journalism and Media Freedom			3.000.000	750.000	p.m.	750.000
PA 07 24 02	2	CNECT	PA1	Preparatory action — European Narratives Observatory to fight disinformation			3.150.000	787.500	p.m.	1.575.000
<b>Heading 2 - Total</b>										<b>12.132.109</b>

Budget line	MFF	Lead DG	2025	Heading	2023 CA	2023 PA	2024 CA	2024 PA	2025 CA	2025 PA
<b>PA 09 20 04</b>	3	ENV	CPA	Preparatory action — Promoting alternatives to animal testing	0,00	624.914,84	p.m.	514.452	p.m.	207.226
<b>PA 09 22 01</b>	3	MOVE	PA3	Preparatory action — EU Clearing House for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF)	0,00	0,00	p.m.	300.000	p.m.	300.000
<b>PA 09 22 02</b>	3	ENV	PA3	Preparatory action — EU Grassland Watch	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1.000.000	p.m.	749.994
<b>PA 09 24 01</b>	3	ENV	PA1	Preparatory action — EU Biodiversity Observation Centre			5.000.000	1.250.000	p.m.	500.000
<b>Heading 3 - Total</b>										<b>1.757.220</b>
<b>Preparatory actions - TOTAL</b>										<b>36.348.670</b>

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