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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Working Document Part IV

#EUBudget

2024
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 2024

Working Document
Part IV

**Draft General Budget
of the European Union
for the Financial Year 2024**

Working Document Part IV

Pilot projects and preparatory actions

Draft Budget Working Documents

The 2024 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 2022.

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 2021 – 2024 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 2024 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 2023, information on assigned revenue (implementation in 2022 and estimation for 2024) 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 MEPs 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 2020¹, 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 2024

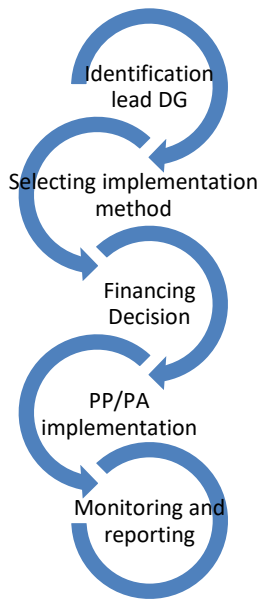
Working Document IV provides details of the state of implementation of all pilot projects and preparatory actions, with budget appropriations in the Draft Budget (DB 2024) – commitments and/or payments.

The Commission does not propose any PP/PAs in the 2024 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 27 February 2023, the Commission already provided some preliminary information on the planned implementation of all 39 pilot projects and preparatory actions, which are included in the 2023 budget with commitment appropriations. Thus, for these, further details are included in this Working Document at this early stage of the implementation. The Working Document IV also provides information on one pilot project implemented by the EEAS (section X).

¹ 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/PA, 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/PA 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 2009-2023.

Since 2009, 955 PP/PAs have been included in the annual EU Budgets.² 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 2024 draft budget a total of 134 PP/PA budget lines are included, which means more than one quarter of all budget lines in the 2023 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 1.44 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.³ The amounts of commitment appropriations for discontinued PPs exceed the amount of commitment appropriations spent on extended PPs.

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

³ 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.

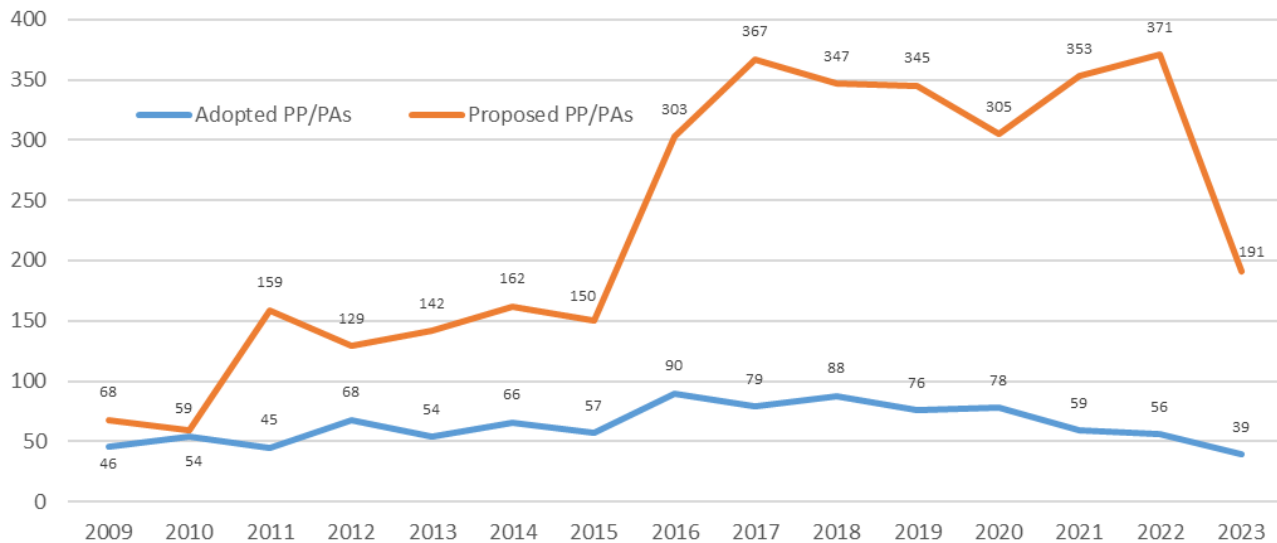


Figure 1 Total number of PPs/PAs per year included in annual budgets

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 year assessment cycle reverted the trend with a significant decrease in the number of proposed PP/PAs compared to the previous year (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.

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

MFF	2007-2013 MFF					2014-2020 MFF							2021-27 MFF			TOTAL
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Proposed	68	59	159	129	142	162	150	303	367	347	345	305	353	371	191	3 451
Included	46	54	45	68	54	66	57	90	79	88	76	78	59	56	39	955
% (Proposed/ included)	68%	92%	28%	53%	38%	41%	38%	30%	22%	25%	22%	26%	17%	15%	20%	28%

Table 1 Total number of proposed and adopted PP/PAs between 2009 and 2023

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.

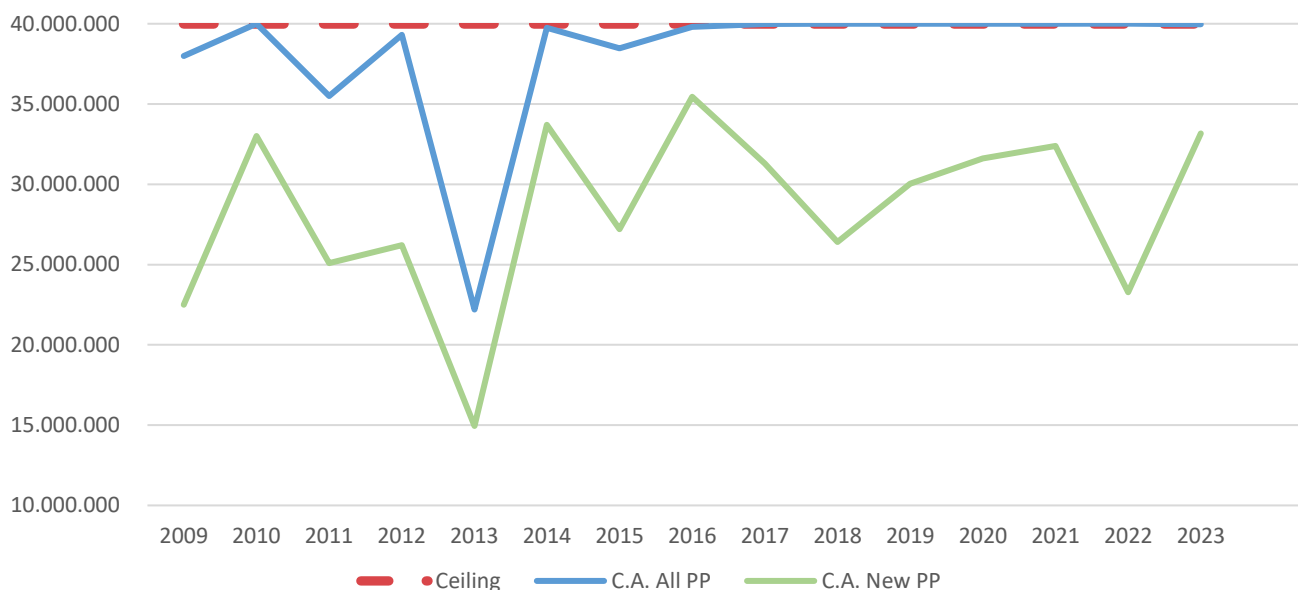


Figure 2 PPs commitment levels (including new PPs) and the annual ceiling

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.

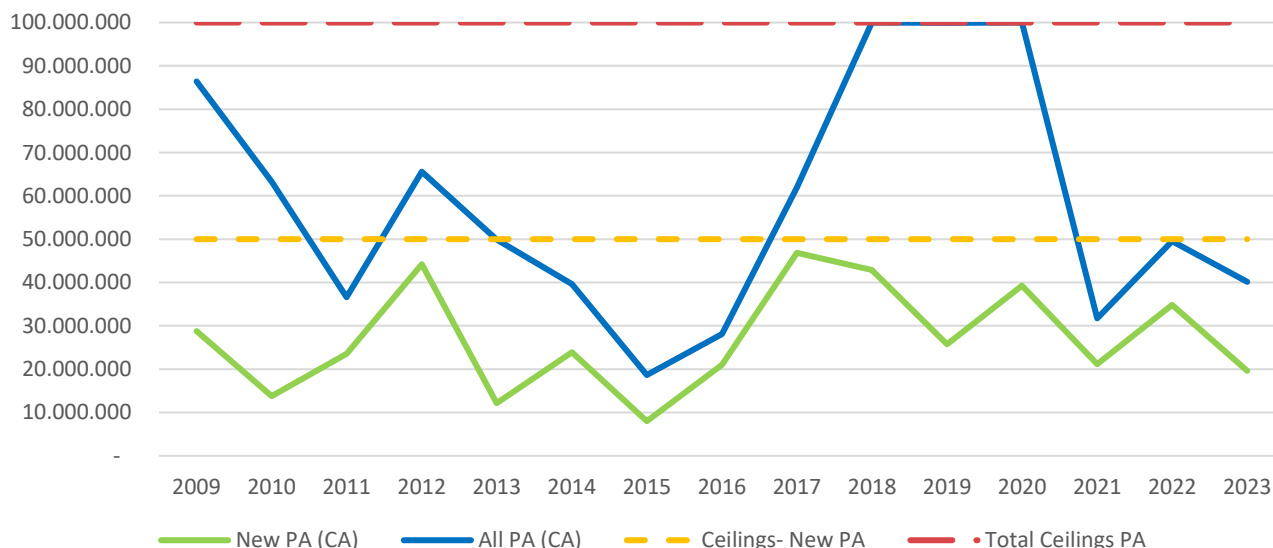


Figure 3 PAs commitment levels (including new PAs) and the annual ceilings

Average commitment appropriations per PP/PA

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 increase. 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.

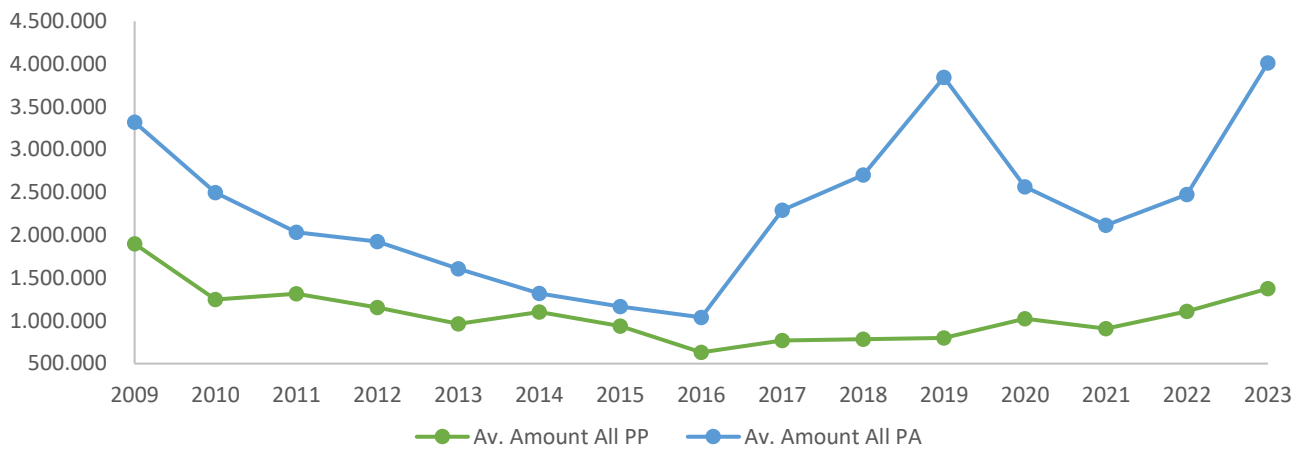


Figure 4 Average yearly amount per PP and PA

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 2023 were not proposed to be prolonged by the European Parliament (299) 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, with a slight increase in the past three years. This indicates that an increasing number of proposals does not lead to a higher extension rate (Figure 5).

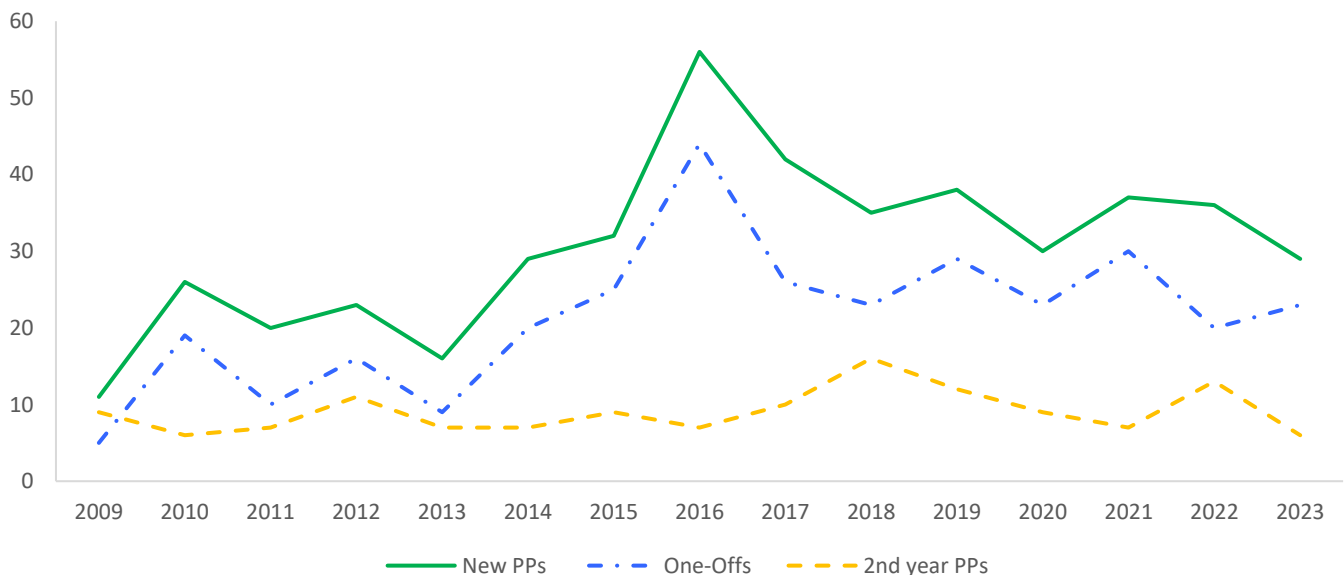


Figure 5 Number of PPs launched per year

From 2009 to 2023, 215 new PAs were introduced by the European Parliament. Of these, 102 actions received commitment appropriations for a second year, while only 66 PAs received appropriations for a third year. Yet a half of the new PAs (114) 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 PA in comparison to PPs, which 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 (27 %) than the percentage of PP/PAs, which are not proposed to be continued into their final year by the Parliament (72%).



Figure 6 Number of One-Offs and Extended PPs/PAs for the period 2009-2023

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 – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	554 516	0,0 %	23,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	554 516	0,0 %	23,2 %

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

Not applicable

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Preparatory acts for vehicle testing
- Deliverables to be submitted: First & second interim reports
- Meetings to take place: Two meetings and Interim status reporting

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

– 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	March 2023 - October 2023
Final payment	May 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, the award decision, commitment L2 and signature of contract have been finalised in 2022, the beneficiary contracted is TNO (NEDERLANDSE

ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST NATUURVETERSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK), for a total amount of 1.386.290,00€.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 15/04/2021, 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.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

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

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 990 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 100 000	p.m.	880 000	0,0 %	-20,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 990 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 100 000	p.m.	880 000	0,0 %	-20,0 %

3. Objectives

Support to the development of the concept of citizen led renovation projects by:

- Providing technical support and advice to pilots on citizen led renovations in order to test the concept and gather experience.
- Monitoring and supporting a strong transposition of Clean Energy package provisions concerning Citizen Energy Communities (CEC) and REC, which should be an opportunity for Member States to strengthen the role of citizens in the energy transition.
- A platform for sharing experience and models, in order to build strong community dynamics to mobilise European citizens around integrated building renovation and renewable deployment by means of CEC and REC.

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

- Activities carried out:
 - Publication of the tender, evaluation and signature of the contract (December 2022)
- Deliverables submitted:
 - N/A
- Meetings held:
 - Informal meeting held to prepare the kick off meeting (to be held in 2023).

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Development of selection criteria for pilot projects
 - Selection of pilot projects
 - Support to selected pilot projects (technical, administrative)
 - Development of communication activities
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Summary of selected pilot projects
 - Summary report of progress for each pilot project
 - Communication material for each pilot project
 - Communication strategy and concept for exchange platform
- Meetings to take place:
 - Kick off meeting
 - 1st Interim meeting

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	29 June 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	First quarter of 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Second quarter of 2022
Award decision	Third quarter of 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	Second quarter of 2023 (interim payment)/ First quarter 2024 (interim payment)
Final payment	Third quarter of 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 May 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	First quarter of 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Second quarter of 2023
Award decision	Third quarter of 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Second quarter of 2024 (interim payment) / First quarter 2025 (2 nd interim payment)
Final payment	Third quarter of 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- 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 Decisions C(2021) 4622, adopted on 29 June 2021, and 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://ec.europa.eu/financing-decisions/)

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

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

No.

Calls for proposals under the LIFE programme cover related topics (e.g. support to Renewable Energy Communities).

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 first pilot project having effectively started in December 2022. It is still too early to identify if a legislative proposal would be relevant.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 070 500,00	0,00	p.m.	428 200	p.m.	642 300	0,0 %	50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 070 500,00	0,00	p.m.	428 200	p.m.	642 300	0,0 %	50,0 %

3. Objectives

The ambition is to promote a European approach to innovation rooted in arts and values world-wide. To this end, meetings with stakeholders in the selected regions, 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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The project will start on June 1st, 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.

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

Please note that the two commitments from financial decisions in 2021 and 2022 were merged into one call in 2022.

– 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	December 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	March 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	December 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2023
Final payment	Q4 2024

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 - TBC pending signature

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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>

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 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 world-wide (chosen case studies are Africa and middle East).

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	890 500,00	0,00	p.m.	120 000	p.m.	391 990	0,0 %	226,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	890 500,00	0,00	p.m.	120 000	p.m.	391 990	0,0 %	226,7 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is to continue with the entrepreneurship e-learning platform designed to help European SME's 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 will end in Nov 2023: the contract has been signed in June 2022, the platform has been built under the first deliverables, the first interim payment has been made in October 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Call for tender to be published, evaluation of applications to be completed, contract to be awarded.
- Activities to be carried out: Selection of contractor, start of project

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 15, 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	November 2021
Award decision	April 2022
Interim payments	October 2022 & April 2023
Final payment	November 2023

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Feb 9, 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2023
Award decision	November 2023
Interim payments	September 2024 & May 2025
Final payment	December 2025*

* The continuation of the pilot cannot start until the current pilot ends – in November 2023; the continuation will be 24 months (double budget allocated), therefore the final payment is foreseen for December 2025. This delay is caused by the current pilot, which started later than initially anticipated.

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Creating the e-learning platform	Consortium led by Aflatoun	
Populating the platform with learning content and promoting the content	Aflatoun	

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Continuing to populate the platform with learning content and promoting the content	Not yet known	

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

Beneficiary is a consortium of NGOs.

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, adopted on 15 April 2021

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022)654 final, adopted on 9 February 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 legislative proposal will follow.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	245 250	p.m.	183 938	0,0 %	-25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	245 250	p.m.	183 938	0,0 %	-25,0 %

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: 1) respiratory tract diseases 2) breast cancer 3) immune-oncology 4) immunogenicity of advanced therapeutic medicinal products 5) neurodegenerative disorders, 6) cardiovascular diseases and 7) 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 corresponds 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 refine 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:

- 1) Combine the results of the existing seven studies from DG JRC EURL ECVAM to create an initial database.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Design further integrations to expand the database to include NAMs for other human diseases.

- 4) Develop a user-friendly web interface to facilitate public searches of content and allow filtering for NAM for specific human diseases.
- 5) Provide recommendations on how to successfully deploy this AI-boosted NAM database to the scientific community.
- 6) 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). Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a tender to contract out the implementation for a duration of a year and a half. DG JRC.F3 will define the contract and follow the contract implementation, providing inputs and ensuring the quality of the delivered solution.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In 2022, DG JRC.F3 worked on reviewing scientific literature on similar approaches and gathered additional knowledge required to prepare the call for tender.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Establishment of a contract in Q3 2023 (18 months duration) for the implementation of the automated database covering:

- the identification of relevant bibliographical metadata sources;
- the training and testing of various AI algorithm;
- the design of the processing pipeline;
- the implementation of the processing pipeline;
- the identification of the database publication solution;
- the implementation of the database publication solution;

In Q3 2023 we expect to organise a meeting with expert in order to share experience on the use of Artificial intelligence in the context of systematic reviews. A state of the art report will be produced as deliverable.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2022
Award decision	April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	May 2023 after design completion December 2023 after implementation completion
Final payment	May 2024 after final delivery

– 2023 commitment appropriations

No commitment appropriations distributed in 2023

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

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Implementation contract	Not known yet	460 000,00
Workshop expenses	Selected experts	30 500,00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 final), 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?*

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	890 500,00	0,00	600 000	506 200	p.m.	267 150	-100,0 %	-47,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	890 500,00	0,00	600 000	506 200	p.m.	267 150	-100,0 %	-47,2 %

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 who is running an open procurement.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- none

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- ToR are ready for publication in Q2 of 2023
- Activities to be carried out:
 - Establishing reliable, economical and sustainable pathways to collect, validate, corroborate and analyse the data sources
 - Set up a public accessible repository. which allows to capture and search past and future data sets on the focus area o Develop proposals to remedy the data gaps
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Option and feasibility paper to assess the options
 - Public data set of high quality combining different data sources
 - Strategy to ensure future data gathering without
 - Meetings to take place: typically hybrid
 - Inception report (2024)

- Progress report (2024)
- 1st Interim report (2024)
- First progress report (2024)
- Second progress report (2024)
- Third progress report (2025)
- 2nd Interim report (2025)
- 3rd Interim report (2025)
- Draft final report (2025)

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

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

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	12/ 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q3 2023
Award decision	Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2024 - 2025
Final payment	2025*

* The financing decision C(2022)9152 for this pilot project (covering 2022 and 2023) has been adopted only in December 2022, then the implementation was delegated to EISMEA to launch public procurement procedure. Therefore, the action will start only in 2023 and the planning of payments has been updated accordingly.

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	To be identified	EUR 1,490,500 - the total estimate price range - the programme for PPPA 2022 is set at 890,500 EUR. The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the PPPA for 2023 is set at 600 000 EUR

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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, was adopted in December 2022, and sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The resulting study will be available at the following address: R&I framework programme website / Gender equality in research and innovation | European Commission (europa.eu)]

Other documentation will be available at a later stage in a place not yet defined.

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) a successful proposal is in preparation.

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 SME's 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 03: Pilot project — EU Innovation Procurement Observatory

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	294 300	p.m.	367 775	0,0 %	25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	294 300	p.m.	367 775	0,0 %	25,0 %

3. Objectives

This action aims set up an observatory that tracks national initiatives and investments on innovation procurement in the digital economy around Europe and that engages public buyers, policy makers and citizens across Europe to share good practices.

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

The call was finalised in October 2022 and a procurement contract signed with start date in December 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Gathering, cleaning and validating information about national policy frameworks and investments on innovation procurement; Processing of the information collected about the national policy frameworks into country reports and the benchmarking across Europe
- Deliverables to be submitted: Inception report with proposed methodology, collected data sets, benchmarking of the national policy frameworks for innovation procurement across Europe
- Meetings to take place: First workshop with external stakeholders (23 March 2023)

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	25 August 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	17 October 2022
Award decision	13 December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	August 2023
Final payment	October 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
EU Innovation Procurement Observatory	PWC EU Services	490.400

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- 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 at the [following address](#). Call documents are 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 envisaged due to the fact that there no need for legislative action identified at this stage.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 01 22 04: Pilot project — Monitoring European Policies via the EU data ecosystem

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	800 000	p.m.	764 200	0,0 %	-4,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	800 000	p.m.	764 200	0,0 %	-4,5 %

3. Objectives

The pilot project aims at developing and implementing an organic system of dashboards and cockpits to allow policy makers and citizens to follow the implementation of the key EU budgetary policies linked to the European Commission priorities and the implementation of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of contracting external consultants and external teams of consultants (under Commission staff supervision), using the procurement instruments made available by DG DIGIT.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- n.a.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Development and implementation of an organic system of dashboards and cockpits to allow policy makers and citizens to follow the implementation of the key EU budgetary policies linked to the European Commission priorities and the implementation of the 2021- 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Easy-to-consult dashboards and cockpits (set of interrelated dashboards) for citizens and policy makers.
 - Thematic policy scoreboards, knowledge repositories and monitoring systems - integrated in the EU budgetary performance framework and complementing and fostering the on-going initiatives of the European Commission, of the European Parliament and of the Council in this area.
- Meetings to take place:
 - Regular meeting with the contractors for the follow-up of the work.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	---
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	---
Award decision	---
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2023
Final payment	March 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Global Commitment	To be determined	1 490 500

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- 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, adopted on 20 May 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 due to the nature of the pilot project and of the expected outcomes.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	245 250	p.m.	490 500	0,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	245 250	p.m.	490 500	0,0 %	100,0 %

3. Objectives

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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of a call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Call for tender will be launched in May 2023.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for tender	May 2023
Closing date of call for tender	June 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2024*

* The call was launched on 4 May 2023 (deadline is end of June). The contract is expected to be signed by Q4 2023.

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 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 envisaged at this stage.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 01 22 06: Pilot project — Monitoring the SDGs in the EU regions - Filling the data gaps

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	990 500,00	20 476,06	p.m.	495 250	p.m.	371 438	0,0 %	-25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	990 500,00	20 476,06	p.m.	495 250	p.m.	371 438	0,0 %	-25,0 %

3. Objectives

The design of a coherent set of indicators that the EU regions can use to monitor the achievement of the SDGs is the aim of the initiative "Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the EU regions - Filling the data gaps". Hereafter "REGIONS2030". The Joint Research Centre will develop this initiative with the support of the European Parliament, benefitting from the expertise of European scientific organisations and partners. This Pilot Project would enable the establishment of a group of pilot regions that will identify, collect and analyse a common set of SDG indicators, which could then be used by all EU regions.

Specific objectives of the pilot project are:

- Engaging EU regions in the monitoring process of the Sustainable Development Goals
- The proposed Pilot Project aims at engaging EU regions in the monitoring process of the Sustainable Development Goals. Taking into consideration the importance of timely, granular, reliable, relevant and up-to-date data for the success of the 2030 Agenda, the pilot project will provide a framework for regional authorities to monitor the SDGs in their territory. It will support and enhance regional statistical capacities in the collection of data, the monitoring and evaluation process. The data collected and consequently their evaluation will be made available to national and EU authorities for the overall evaluation of the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.
- Increase local ownership of the SDGs and openness and transparency in achieved results
- In addition, the project will provide tailored training to regional authorities for the proper collection and analysis of data to ensure the quality. In order to increase local ownership and increase openness and transparency, the project will make all the data available to the public and will create a platform where citizens can contribute to the definition of the priorities as well as to the monitoring and evaluation process. The data at regional level will be crucial in identifying potential gaps and areas in which action needs to be stepped-up as well as the underlying reasons of the lack of progress. Conversely, it will pinpoint which factors facilitate the progress towards specific goals. Finally, the project will initiate a dialogue among EU regions on good practises and actions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of different procurement strategies, such as use of framework contract for event management and technical support, by pools of experts and by launching dedicated calls for tender, and organising meetings of experts.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out

- Drafting and adoption of the Financing Decision
- Launch of the call for expression of interest for regional authorities to participate to the pilot project
- Selection of the ten pilot regions: Βόρειο Αιγαίο (North Aegean), Δυτική Μακεδονία (Western Macedonia), Comunidad Foral de Navarra, Andalucía, Piemonte, Puglia, Pomorskie, Centro (PT), Nord-Vest, and Manisa, Afyonkarahisar, Kütahya, Uşak
- Contracting of the experts that support the regions
- Preliminary coordination with the pilot regions

- Deliverables submitted:

Signature of 12 contracts, out of which 2 specific contracts within the framework contract for technical support and one expert pool with 10 experts. The Kick-off event was organised.

In terms of scientific output, the [Preliminary methodology](#) has been published in November 2022: Vega Rapun, M., Stamos, I., Proietti, P. and Siragusa, A., REGIONS2030 - European regional SDG indicators, EUR 31326 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022, ISBN 978-92-76-59309-6, doi:10.2760/850788, JRC131581.

- Meetings held:

- October/November 2022, 10 Bilateral meetings with the pilot regions, online
- 29 November 2022, Kick-off event in Brussels
- February 2023, 10 Bilateral meetings with the pilot regions, online

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:

- Individual reporting from regional pilots
- Drafting of a final report on the project, including the finalisation of the methodology, an impact assessment and recommendations for follow-up initiatives
- Dissemination of the results

- Deliverables to be submitted:

- 10 regional reports
- Final report

- Meetings to take place:

- 28-29 March 2023 Technical meeting with experts
- 6-7 June 2023 Technical meeting with the experts in Seville, Spain
- Ten regional events with the pilot regions
 - 27 June 2023 in North Aegean (Mytilene, Greece)
 - 06 July 2023 in Western Macedonia (Kozani, Greece)
 - 19 September 2023 in TR33 (Afyonkarahisar, Turkey)
 - 22 September 2023 in Pomorskie (Gdansk, Poland)
 - 25 September 2023 in Centro (Coimbra, Portugal)
 - 27 September 2023 in Andalusia (Seville, Spain)
 - 3 October 2023 in Nord-Vest (Cluj, Romania)
 - 5 October 2023 in Puglia (Bari, Italy)
 - 11 October 2023 in Piemonte (Turin, Italy)
 - 11 October 2023 in Navarra (Pamplona, Spain)
- October 2023, event at the European Week of Regions and Cities (TBC)
- End November/December 2023, Final event (Brussels, Belgium)

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024 – 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2022
Publication of call for tender	June 2022
Closing date of call for tender	August 2022
Award decision	September 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	October 2022 – December 2023
Final payment	2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

No commitment appropriations distributed in 2023

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Catering workshop KO REGIONS2030	Baxterstorey Ireland Ltd	4 727,17
Specific Contract nr. 3594 JRC Ref. 943286.X108 "Data Scientist Level 5"	Octoplus2 (DIGIT framework contract)	100 353,60
Specific Contract nr. 4031 JRC Ref. 943286.X146 "interface designer Level 4"	Octoplus2 (DIGIT framework contract)	91 755,00
Expert Pool	Nikos Koutsomarkos, George Strogilopoulos, Massimo Armenise, Ludovica Lella, Sylwia Mrozowska, Joana Maria da Mota de Abreu, Daniel Pop, Alberto Quintanilla Cabañero, Nuria Oses, Melis Türker	188 080,00
Kick-off meeting REGIONS2030: Monitoring The SDGs In The EU Regions - Filling The Data Gaps	Selected experts	59 060,00
Organisation of the 10 regional events	SCIC framework contract requested	220 000,00
Organisation of the final event	SCIC framework contract to be requested	90 000,00
Translation of the 10 regional reports	Framework contract to be requested	100 000,00
Expert Contract (Brux)	4 contracts for methodological support	55 000,00
JRC conference stream and webinar series	Regional Studies Association	6 734,00

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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, adopted on 12 May 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?

No, no follow up is envisaged due to nature of the pilot project and its expected results. A preparatory action can be envisaged to consolidate the output and follow up with a legislative proposal.

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	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	600 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	600 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %

3. Objectives

Creating an “EU forum for boosting energy efficient behaviour” can help municipalities and regions mobilise and empower their citizens to use energy efficiently. 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. Barriers could refer to individual factors, such as short-sightedness, misperceptions of peers’ behaviour, risk aversion and contextual factors such as available infrastructure, heating equipment, geographic differences (urban vs rural areas) and cultural practices. Levers could refer to individual factors, such as pro-environmental concerns, social influence, moral concerns and core competencies.
- 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. The EU forum service shall also actively animate peer exchanges, monitor and submit information on projects to the platform in order to pool efforts, generate economies of scale and promote convergence towards best practices across Europe.
- Take account of and build on relevant existing EU and national, regional and local initiatives.

As we are facing an increased energy demand and rising energy bills we need to become more energy efficient in our everyday life. In order to do so, it is not enough to invest in energy efficient solutions, we also need to consider behavioural issues and human-related factors of the energy transition. This calls for an active engagement at local levels with new and innovative tools that reach deeper into the behaviour of the citizens.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of a tender.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Define tender specifications – March/April 2023
- Launch call for tender – May 2023

- Deadline mid-September 2023
- Evaluation of submitted offers – September /October 2023
- Award service contract –November 2023
- Contract signature November/December 2023
- Kick-off meeting – January 2024

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Pre-financing or interim payments	January 2024 (1 st payment), January 2025 (interim payment)
Final payment	Q1 2026*

**Although the Financial Decision will be adopted in Q2 2023, this is a project that involves many stakeholders in the private sector, the regions and municipalities because the forum has to reach a broad audience in order to influence their processes and actions. As such, this topic will need much coordination to prepare the call for tenders.*

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public 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, expected on 2Q 2023, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

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

<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, there is no clear indication from European Parliament whether this pilot project will be followed-up by an extension of the project or by a preparatory action. The topic is already covered under existing legislation, no specific legislative proposal is therefore envisaged at this stage.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 01 23 02: Pilot project — EU Public repository of Public Domain and openly licensed works

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		700 000	175 000	p.m.	175 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		700 000	175 000	p.m.	175 000	-100,0 %	0,0 %

3. Objectives

The pilot project seeks to support the availability of legitimate content online, in particular public domain and open licensed works. Article 17 of Directive EU/2019/790 on Copyright in the Digital Single Market provides for a specific regime on the liability of online platforms (Online Content Sharing Service Providers) when making available copyright-protected content uploaded by users of their service. This legal regime also requires that the cooperation between right-holders and content sharing platforms do not result in blocking the availability of works uploaded by users, which do not infringe copyright or are not subject to copyright or related rights.

Developing a registry database of public domain and open licensed works may thus support the objectives of the Directive as it could facilitate the identification of these works in the context of the application of Art.17.

This pilot project would consist in a feasibility study to assess if there is an actual market failure as well as the risk of over-blocking public domain and openly licensed works. The Pilot Project should also determine the technical requirements for the development of databases and ensure the buy-in from stakeholders.

Based on this assessment, the project would also develop a prototype database that could be used, referenced and augmented by relevant stakeholders in order to test and prove the concept.

4. Implementation

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

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

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Drafting of the call for proposals

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	Q3 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	Q3-Q4 2023
Award decision	Q4 2023- Q1 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1-Q2 2024
Final payment	Q3 2025*

* The start of the project will only be Q1 2024 (latest Q2). The start date of the project would be slightly delayed due to the nature of the project (technical database with potentially a lot of stakeholders) which requires time to gather some information prior to drafting the call conditions. Therefore, the final payment for a 12-month project would be Q3 2025 considering again the 2 months to submit a report and 3 months to pay DL.

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public 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/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 legislative follow up is envisaged at this stage. The aim of the project is to support an existing legal basis by a non-legislative action where there is market failure.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 01 23 03: Pilot project — European NFT Platform for the creative sector and IP solutions

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		700 000	175 000	p.m.	350 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		700 000	175 000	p.m.	350 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

3. Objectives

Blockchain technology has become an integral part of industrial value chains. One of the most recent technological advancements is the exponential adoption across sectors of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) – a unique asset or units of data stored on a distributed ledger. NFTs’ main characteristics (authenticity, ownership, and transferability) render each NFT unique and irreplaceable – a one-of-a kind piece of work with a unique digital identifier on the distributed ledger.

NFTs have use-cases across all industries: from digital identity protection (giving individuals full control over which information to share with whom) to the Internet of Things (as a device authenticator) and the creative sectors (providing liquidity in auctions and in the art, music, fashion, and gaming sectors).

Since virtually anything that can be digitised can be turned into an NFT, NFTs can play a key role in the protection of Intellectual Property (IP) rights by providing inventors, researchers, and creators with a unique digital certificate of IP rights referenced in the distributed ledger.

The proposed European NFT Platform would pilot this use-case. It would explore the potential of NFTs and blockchain to function as an immutable record of ownership claims and allow the verification and authentication of ownership and licenses, the management of IP rights. It should explore how it can be applied to digital rights and copyright transfer, the identification of copyright infringement, and the avoidance of erroneous ownership claims. The project would identify the basic infrastructure, standards and protocols required for deploying and upscaling the use of NFTs and blockchain for IP protection in the EU, and their potential for encouraging innovation. The proposed project should be implemented in synergy with the European Blockchain Service Infrastructure (EBSI) initiative, where preparatory activities concerning IP management have already been conducted (for instance, with EUIPO). Piloting the deployment of NFTs for IP protection purposes through the NFT Platform would be done in liaison with the EBSI initiative, particularly with its traceability use case. The use of EBSI capacities will support the development of the pilot in a shorter timeframe.

The proposed project will help to consider other types of IPs, in particular relating to the forthcoming EU Unitary Patent System. The proposal is also relevant as European data spaces start to take shape (including in areas such as cultural heritage and media), which aim to promote data flows and data-driven innovation, where IP rights play a key role. This project could also be a blueprint for piloting other NFT use-cases in the future (e.g. for connected objects against the backdrop of the Data Act, or federated data processing in the framework of the EU Digital Identity Regulation).

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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Drafting of tender specifications and launch of call for tender with aim of award decision being finalised by the end of the year

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of a call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Closing date of a call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Award decision	Q3 – Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2023
Final payment	Q4 2026

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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](#).

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 project not being implemented yet.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 01 23 04: Pilot project — Missing Children Alert/safe mechanism for Ukraine: A platform supporting cross-border cooperation for protecting and resolving cases of Ukrainian children gone missing during the war

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		850 000	212 500	p.m.	340 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		850 000	212 500	p.m.	340 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %

3. Objectives

The objective is to support robust and rapid procedures and tools for cross-border case management of missing Ukrainian children across the EU, in close connection with relevant authorities and national child-protection systems, through a tracker composed of a platform and a mobile app.

Built upon existing tools and cooperation systems, it will ensure synergies with them (notably the EU-wide Child Helpline 116000 for missing children and the renewed Schengen Information System). Full compliance will be ensured with the data-protection framework, while taking due consideration of specific children's vulnerabilities (e.g., children with disabilities, trafficked, etc.) and by applying child-protection by design.

It is to be expected that the number of unaccompanied minors going missing in the EU will continue to grow, notably as the war in Ukraine continues and as more children become orphaned due to the war.

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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: implementation of a secure web platform environment and a mobile app
- Deliverables to be submitted: analysis of state-of-the-art; coordination with child-protection authorities and services within the EU; Secure and GDPR-compliant sharing of information; prototype of the web platform and mobile app
- Meetings to take place: kick-off meeting; coordination meeting with active institutions, NGOs and services; presentation and testing of the prototype.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2 2023
Award decision	Q3 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2023
Final payment	Q1 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- civil society organisations working on children rights
- relevant institutions and IT platforms developers
- 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(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?

None in our knowledge.

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 policies and legislation already exist in the field of minor protection.

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 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

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 (SAR) 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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of procurements.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Kick off meeting

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September-October 2023
Award decision	November 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2023
Interim payment	Mid 2024
Final payment	Mid 2025

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

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

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 to be adopted in May 2023, 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 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		350 000	87 500	p.m.	245 000	-100,0 %	180,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		350 000	87 500	p.m.	245 000	-100,0 %	180,0 %

3. Objectives

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

Next to the awards for the 3 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 with other relevant Commission services (e.g. DG CNECT) and with the European Parliament (e.g. MEPs under 40 group) 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 an existing framework contract.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: identification of the existing framework contract to be used.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2023
Publication of call for tender	Q2 2024 (planned)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q3 2024 (planned)
Award decision	Q3 2024 (planned)
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2024 (planned)
Final payment	Q2 2025 (planned)

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- 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 27/02/2023 sets out the main elements of the implementation.

All the other documents are not yet available as the implementation process has not yet started.

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 for this preparatory action prior to its evaluation

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 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 109 649,00	p.m.	1 134 649	p.m.	420 000	0,0 %	-63,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 109 649,00	p.m.	1 134 649	p.m.	420 000	0,0 %	-63,0 %

3. Objectives

- Identification of municipal level best practices 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

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:
 - Identification of local, municipal and/or regional level best practices to tackle energy poverty, Energy Poverty Hub Atlas of good practices;
 - Set-up and manage a centralised helpdesk to support beneficiaries;
 - Online training courses
- Deliverables submitted:
 - Report on Energy Poverty Mitigation - Local level best practices
 - Knowledge product, study: Bridging the gap between local initiatives and Researchers: Barriers, opportunities and Lessons Learned.
 - Online learning platform
- Meetings held:

The first EPAH conference was held 22-23 November 2021 under the title “EPAH launch event” as a two-day online event. The first day of the conference featured high level EU representatives as well as mayors from across the EU and focussed on EU policy and the role of EPAH as the leading EU initiative to alleviate energy poverty. Three workshops organised.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - The first round of technical assistance is set to be finalised in Q2 2023.

- The second round of Direct Assistance will begin in March 2023 with min 35 municipalities receiving direct support from local experts and EPAH
- A 10 hours e-learning course has been launched in late February 2023 with interviews and academic, practical and political insights on the topic, new modules will be released the coming month on a rolling basis.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - The second Discrete Report will be submitted in the beginning of Q3, which will provide an update and recommendations for the national energy poverty indicators.
 - The Second EPAH Handbook on the topic of local energy poverty planning is set to be launched in late 2023 as number two of three EPAH handbooks
- Meetings to take place:
 - The next EPAH conference is planned to take place at the end of September.
 - The EPAH lunch talks are continuing on a monthly basis
 - National events will take place across the EU primarily hosted by the connected 11 ‘EPAH Antennas’.
 - Upcoming event in collaboration with EESC will take place in July related to the Spanish Presidency. EPAH Antennas will be invited to host national events back to back.
 - 1-2 webinars will be arrange together with the Covenant of Mayors
 - Ongoing presentations and representations of EPAH by the consortium at external events (App 30 a year).

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

- Operation of helpdesk
- Technical assistance for municipalities
- Training and online training platform operation
- Annual conference
- Thematic workshops
- Website maintenance and development
- Communication and Engagement
- Technical and functional specifications report for handover

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	22 May 2019
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	2Q 2021, 2Q 2022, 2Q 2023, 2Q 2024
Final payment	2Q 2025

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	14 May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	2Q+4Q 2021; 2Q+4Q 2022; 2Q+4Q 2023; 2Q+4Q 2024
Final payment	2Q 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Identification of local, municipal and/or regional level best practices to tackle energy poverty	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	1,774,473.50
Provision of technical assistance	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Project promotion, dissemination and impact maximisation	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Energy Poverty Observatory website	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Management & coordination	Contractor (DG ENER)	

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Identification of local, municipal and/or regional level best practices to tackle energy poverty	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	1,109,649.00
Provision of technical assistance	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Project promotion, dissemination and impact maximisation	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Energy Poverty Observatory website	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Management & coordination	Contractor (DG ENER)	

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Identification of local, municipal and/or regional level best practices to tackle energy poverty	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	739,766.00
Provision of technical assistance	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Project promotion, dissemination and impact maximisation	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Energy Poverty Observatory website	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Management & coordination	Contractor (DG ENER)	

– 2024 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Identification of local, municipal and/or regional level best practices to tackle energy poverty	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	184,941.50
Provision of technical assistance	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Project promotion, dissemination and impact maximisation	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Energy Poverty Observatory website	Beneficiary (EU Municipalities)	
Management & coordination	Contractor (DG ENER)	

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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(2020) 3056 adopted on 14/05/2020 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [C_2020_3056](#)

The project website is available at the following address: 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?

The pilot project is not envisaged to follow up with a legislative proposal. The framework and tools developed through the pilot projects will be multiplied by similar projects financed through the existing budgetary instruments. Nevertheless, with the Fit for 55 legislative package of 2021 the Commission has very significantly strengthened the legislative framework for energy poverty at EU level (review of the Energy Efficiency Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, proposal for Social Climate Fund). These proposals are gradually being adopted and will feed into national policy planning.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 02 20 06: Pilot project — Energy communities repository – Monitoring and support for energy communities in the Union

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	442 372,50	p.m.	483 000	p.m.	49 153	0,0 %	-89,8 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	442 372,50	p.m.	483 000	p.m.	49 153	0,0 %	-89,8 %

3. Objectives

The Energy Communities Repository is an initiative to assist local actors (including citizens, local authorities, and businesses) with setting up and advancing clean energy projects driven by energy communities in urban areas across Europe. The initiative contributes to a just transition to climate neutrality that allows citizens to take ownership of energy consumption and production.

The Repository will provide technical support to energy communities whose activities are primarily in urban areas. For rural communities, a second initiative, the Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub, will be providing tailored technical assistance. The two programmes will be working closely together and an internal transfer of energy communities is feasible upon agreement depending on expressed needs.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of an open call.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Repository team coordinated three calls for applications in 2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities carried out: Launch of EU energy communities map

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	March 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2021
Award decision	December 2021
Pre-financing or interim payments	March 2022, July 2022, January 2023, July 2023
Final payment	January 2024

4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*
– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PP - Energy communities repository – Monitoring and support for energy communities in the Union	REScoop.eu asbl	983.050

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*
- 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(2020)3056, adopted on 14 May 2020 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_communities/financing_decisions)

The project website is available at the following address: [Energy Communities Repository](https://energycommunities.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 as the project's main focus is on testing concepts for providing tangible and effective assistance to energy communities. This while using existing legal frameworks from across the EU, both European and local (subject to the advisory services and specific knowledge to be developed during the project).

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 02 20 07: Pilot project — Engaging companies for energy transition

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	344 151,00	p.m.	688 000	p.m.	350 000	0,0 %	-49,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	344 151,00	p.m.	688 000	p.m.	350 000	0,0 %	-49,1 %

3. Objectives

Businesses have a fundamental responsibility and opportunity to drive the energy transition and climate action. The Covenant of Companies aims to help decarbonise the business sector, in particular SMEs, by:

- encouraging energy efficiency, renewable energy and other climate-friendly measures;
- exploring synergies between businesses and local authorities in the area of climate action.

Activities

- The Covenant of Companies is a pilot initiative to encourage and support companies to step up their contribution to a clean energy transition, energy savings and related climate objectives as set out in the European Green Deal.
- The Covenant provides a pledging scheme encouraging businesses, in particular SMEs, to commit to take action to reduce their carbon emissions. Companies can choose three types of commitment which reflect where they are on their journey to decarbonisation. They may commit to take reasonable efforts, to take at least one measure or develop a science-based target to reduce their carbon emissions. This flexible and tiered approach is inclusive and rigorous at the same time.
- Whatever the commitment, companies will receive practical, step-by-step guidance and technical assistance to help them take concrete actions resulting in the decarbonisation of their businesses.
- The Covenant will also recognise the steps taken by companies under the initiative with a ‘Seal of Approval’ awards scheme.
- A partner network is also being developed under this pilot to support the roll out of the initiative, ensure synergies, exchange best practices and learnings as well as allow the initiative to tap into local/regional business ecosystems.

Tools

1) Pledging

- The initiative sets up a pledging scheme following a pyramid approach with three levels. The first level of commitment looks at finding ways to trigger a company’s awareness and understanding of which actions are crucial for business and planetary survival. The second level supports and enables companies moving forward by taking at least one concrete measure reducing their carbon emission. A third level recognises companies that are committed to meeting science-based targets.
- The pledging scheme will be open to European businesses of all sizes and from all EU Members States and launched in April 2023.

2) Advisory Services to companies

- The initiative provides practical advisory services to European companies to help them become more energy-efficient and save on energy bills. It also encourages business investments in clean energy solutions/technologies to help mitigate climate change while also improving business performance.

- The advisory services range from access to guidance materials, peer learning to helpdesk services and individual or group technical assistance on assessing companies’ emissions and identifying right measures to reduce them, including science-based targets.
 - In the course of this pilot, two calls for technical assistance for companies are being organised. The second call for technical assistance will be opened alongside the pledging scheme and will aim to support up to 75 applicants in multiple European languages.
- 3) Reporting
- While adopting one of the three pledges, companies will also commit to report on their progress in line with the timeline set for their pledge as well as feedback on their experience with the scheme.
 - The Secretariat will monitor the achievements and actions of the companies and will support them to “move up” to the next levels of the pledging scheme.
- 4) Recognition
- The Covenant also seeks to recognise companies for taking steps, no matter how big or small, to reduce the fossil energy footprint of their business.
 - This recognition takes the form of a Seal of approval, which illustrates to customers and end-consumers the climate-consciousness of a business, as well as its progress towards a low carbon future.
 - It does this by offering a 4-step award programme of green, bronze, silver or gold, depending on the level of ambition of companies in cutting their emissions, and their ability to hit their targets.
 - While a fully-fledged recognition scheme will not be adopted during this pilot, the proposed recognition model will be tested with the companies that undergo the technical assistance provided by the Secretariat.
- 5) Support to enablers and public authorities
- The initiative will also provide technical assistance to enablers, such as ESCOs, financing bodies, aggregators, energy agencies and alike and public authorities at local, regional and national level in order to improve their capacity to further support the decarbonisation of European SMEs.
- 6) Ambassadors
- The initiative will appoint Ambassadors who will be officially recognised by the European Commission and will be tasked with spreading awareness of the initiative, by informing, inspiring and supporting climate action within their networks.
- 7) Partner network
- The initiative set up a partner network, consisting of associations of companies, municipalities, local governments, and other relevant stakeholders.
 - Partners act as amplifiers and multipliers of the initiative and have a significant impact in boosting the recognition of the Covenant in the eyes of the target audience.
 - Partner network also ensures relevant synergies, exchange best practices and learnings as well as allows the initiative to tap into local/regional business ecosystems.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of service contract ENER/OP/2021/0013/B1/2020-725/SI2.864872/2021-533/SI2.864875. The project has been renamed to “Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy”.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

(Key elements)

- Creation of the Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy (CCCE) website including a helpdesk
- Creation of full technical documentation, including an overview of existing EE and RE support in Member States and at EU level and an overview of Member States and EU financing tools
- Setting up of a steering committee, first two meetings of the latter
- Launch of the first call for technical assistance
- Public session during SME Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic
- Inception report and interim report submitted and approved

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

(Key elements)

- Launch of the second call for technical assistance
- Creation of a pledging system
- Steering committee meetings
- Publication (public guide) including guidance on emission inventories and associated calculations with default sectorial data for SMEs, energy performance baselines and associated calculators for SMEs, guidance on developing comprehensive medium to long-term clean energy action plans, an overview of simple, standardised energy solutions to implement the plans (descriptions, pros & cons, basic suitability criteria), and guidance on developing an accurate monitoring and reporting process
- Handover training to subsequent contractor, if needed

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2021
Award decision	December 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2022, January 2023
Final payment	January 2024

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2021
Award decision	December 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2022, January 2023
Final payment	January 2024

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

– 2020 and 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy	Consortium led by LOW Associates, Brussels	1 720 755

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- media companies
- 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 Decisions C(2020)3056, adopted on 14 May 2020, and C(2021)4622, adopted on 29 June 2021, 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://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Information regarding the public session entitled “No Net Zero without SMEs: launching practical support for energy transition” on 29 November 2022 during the SME Assembly 2022 in Prague, Czech Republic, can be found [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. The contract will not be continued, but the European Commission explores options for continuing the activities of the Covenant of Companies under a different setting, possibly as a pillar under an existing initiative.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 02 20 08: Pilot project — Developing artificial intelligence (AI) for diagnosis and treatment of paediatric cancer

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	650 125,50	p.m.	895 354	p.m.	650 126	0,0 %	-27,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	650 125,50	p.m.	895 354	p.m.	650 126	0,0 %	-27,4 %

3. Objectives

The projects support the development of multi-national approaches to facilitate capturing data on paediatric cancer from multiple sources, and build a multi-stakeholder network. It will have a particular focus on patients, survivors and carers as active contributors and participants in the co-creation and definition of user requirements and overall usability of applications of Artificial Intelligence technologies in paediatric cancer.

The project take into account and further complement the analysis of the challenges, needs and gaps in capturing data on paediatric cancer across EU/EEA countries produced by the pilot project funded under the previous call. It will further advance the framework to find solutions and prioritise opportunities to bridge existing gaps with a multi-national, multi-disciplinary approach, in particular with regard to user and stakeholder engagement.

Mapping and building on existing multi-disciplinary and multi-national platforms/datasets and registries including the European Platform on Rare Disease Registration (EU RD Platform) the project will contribute to paving the road to a European point of access for integrated healthcare and research data platforms that collate clinical data, including, for example, clinical history, relevant diagnostic tests (pathology, genomics, radiological imaging), treatment interventions and clinical outcomes for childhood cancers.

The project will contribute to a multi-stakeholder network to connect and facilitate the exchanges and dissemination of best practices in clinically relevant applications of machine-learning and artificial intelligence among all relevant stakeholders with a specific focus on user empowerment and feedback.

The project should focus on multiple applications, for example radiological imaging, digital pathology, digital twins, integrated genotyping and outcome prediction algorithms and clinical decision-making. The project should consider the specificities of paediatric cancer, across types and stages of tumours.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements these pilot projects by means of grant via an open call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The project demonstrated an efficient and productive management, in line with the obligations of the beneficiaries. Communication and relationship among all the members of the consortium was fluid and good, supporting the adequate development of the project. All the partners have contributed proportionately and were fully committed to their assigned roles and to the project as a whole.

The dissemination and data management plans are good. The dissemination and communication activities have successfully started. The website is well developed. Design specifications are to be made as with regards to fonts and use of logo. Suitable solutions were presented and accepted.

The objectives and milestones for this first period have not completely achieved because there is a delay in the delivery of the Deliverables DI.1, 1)1.3, 1)2.1 and D4.1 and Milestone MS1.1.

The review meeting took place on the 16/01/2023, covering the period between 01/07/2022 — 31/1 2/2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Based on the delays and the necessary adaptations following the delayed input from E:U4C11111.0, the consortium will formally request in writing a 6 months extension of the duration of the project. This will be needed to complete the work that could not be done in the first period and to implement the following recommendations received at the review meeting:

- i. Clearly define, which rules will be used to implement the AI system with data from different sources and how the A) knowledge base developed in EU4Child will be enriched and further shaped towards targeted use and users that is fit for the purpose.
- ii. Develop and extend the exploitation plan by carefully taking into account the need to share the results with other medical domains and areas.
- iii. Develop a strong link with the EU Cancer Imaging Initiative also keeping the Project Officer in charge and the coordinator fully in the loop especially about specific relevant achievements and deliverables.
- iv. Present a comprehensive, updated and complete set of clear and realistic KPIs to measure the success of the project.
- v. Clarify what will be achieved during the lifespan of the project by focusing on all the activities that will facilitate and enhance the building of trust in providing proper information to the various stakeholders.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	20 April 2020
Publication of call for proposals	14 July 2020
Closing date of call for proposals	18 August 2020
Award decision	24 November 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2021
Final payment	April 2023

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	15 June 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	3 August 2021
Award decision	3 December 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	June 2022
Final payment	February 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
EU4CHILD	Universidad Politecnica De Madrid (UPC)	539.292,59

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
UNICA4EU	SIOP EUROPE ASBL (SIOPE)	1.300.251,00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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, set out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#).

Call documents are available: [here](#).

The project website is available at the following address: <https://eu4child.eu/>

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

Call documents are available [here](#)

The project website is available at the following address: <https://unica4.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 with a legislative proposal is envisaged. However, follow up is covered by the following activities: the Work Programme 2021-22 of Digital Europe programme supports the deployment of AI, genomics, cancer imaging, digital twins etc. in synergy with the Cancer Mission and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, through AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities for Health and Coordination and Support Actions for community-building, among others. Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programmes are expected to continue supporting from 2023 onwards research and deployment actions on AI, machine learning and other digital tools addressing cancer, including paediatric cancers.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 02 21 01: Pilot project — Completing the green and digital transitions: a European Green Digital Alliance

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	179 700,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	419 300	0,0 %	-6,8 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	179 700,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	419 300	0,0 %	-6,8 %

3. Objectives

Starting point: Currently there is no standardised method for assessing the positive impact of digitalisation on the environment and climate. It is not clear what is the net environmental impact of digitalisation in a given sector or in a specific scenario. This leads to lack of clarity for private and public investors which digitalisation projects are eligible for sustainable financing.

Therefore the objective of this pilot project (the European Parliament Pilot Project— European Green Digital Coalition — CNECT/2021/OP/0005) is to support the European Green Digital Coalition (EGDC, established in March 2021) in its commitments (see www.european_green_digital_coalition_declaration_-_final_digital_day_2021_E592503B-D1CC-A599-5EF97E6891B038DF_74943.pdf) that aims to harness the enabling emission-reducing potential of digital solutions to all other sectors.

This EP Pilot project will establish the secretariat and functioning of the EGDC, analyse many digital solutions applied to a given scenarios and develop a methodology for assessment of net environmental impact. The guidance documents on green digital transformation will be developed for different sectors and for the ICT sector in cooperation with relevant sectoral stakeholders. A consultation and dissemination workshop will be organised across EU, as well as a high-level event, by the end of 2022.

4. Implementation

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

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

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:

The secretariat established a [website](#) that describe the projects' work and methods. An Advisory board has been set up carefully selecting independent experts to verify the outputs of the EGDC. As indicated also on the website the EP Pilot project has collected over 80 Case studies where digital solutions were used to reduce emissions in the target sectors (energy, transport, construction/buildings, agriculture, manufacturing, smart cities). It established 4 Working groups and analysed already 7 case studies. It also proposed a first draft methodology for calculating the avoided emissions due to digital solution. It also developed the first set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Action 1 (Green ICT). It organized dissemination workshops and participated in major events such as the Mobile World Congress in Feb 2023 with the participation of CEOs and where the first results were presented, including short videos of the solutions, and Digital with Purpose summit in September 2022.

- Deliverables submitted:
 - Inception report containing deliverables D3.1, D2.1,
 - Interim report containing deliverables D5.2 and D6.2

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:

Further case studies will be collected focusing on those with quality data. Further calculations will be performed and the methodology refined and tailored per sector. Implementation guidelines will be developed. Dissemination of the results will take place in dedicated webinars and major events of 2023.

- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Provide at least another 6 case study calculators together with the overall final report of all case study calculators in a format ready for publishing
 - Sector specific guidance in at least 6 sectors and first draft of the ICT sector guidance
 - Final report of task 3 including the ICT sector guidance and on the synergy and results of cooperation with standardisation bodies
 - First deployment guidelines based on the above methodologies

Extension of the project without additional funding will be requested to ensure quality of the methods and guidelines including wide dissemination and uptake

- Meetings to take place: IN addition to periodic dissemination webinars, the most important events include:
 - Digital With Purpose Summit 27-29 September in Lisbon
 - COP28, Dubai

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

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	28 May 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	13 July 2021
Award decision	December 2021
Pre-financing	n.a.
Interim	June 2022, March 2023
Final	By end of 2024

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

2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PP for the European Green Digital Coalition	Global Enabling Sustainability Initiative AISBL	1.198.000

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public 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(2021)3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#): Call documents are available at etendering.ted.europa.eu. The project website is available at: www.greendigitalcoalition.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, it is not envisaged to follow-up with a legislative proposal at this time. However, in line with the recently adopted Communication in the [Digitalisation of the energy system – Action Plan](#), the EC is committed to develop tools and methodologies to measure the net impact of enabling digital technologies in the energy sector, on the environment and climate. 2023-2024, which is a method that we adopt based on the work of this Pilot Project.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	364 000	p.m.	920 000	0,0 %	152,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	364 000	p.m.	920 000	0,0 %	152,7 %

3. Objectives

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.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a study on Enabling Sustainable Management and Development of Inland Ports.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Signature of the contract
- Deliverables submitted: Kick-off meeting
- Meetings held: 15.12.2022 On-line

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Inception report
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Inception report (submitted 23.02.2023)
 - Intermediate report (1 November 2023)
- Meetings to take place:
 - Inception report meeting – 15.03.2023 (Brussels, on-line)
 - Intermediate report 1 meeting – Q4 2023
 - 2 regional workshops Q3/4
 - meetings in the relevant EU fora (Commission, Expert Groups, Regional working groups related to inland ports activities)

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2021)4002 08 June 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	15 February 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	18 April 2022
Award decision	3rd quarter of 2022
Interim payments	1st quarter 2024 / 1st quarter 2025
Final payment	1st quarter of 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	ECORYS EUROPE EEIG - GEIE	1 532 150

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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, adopted on 08 June 2021, 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

The project website is available at the following address: [green-inland-ports.eu](#) (may not be active yet)

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?*

A decision related to follow up this project with a legislative proposal might be taken based on the output of the first interim report (mainly output of Task 1 - Environmental Impacts and Energy Efficiency and Transition).

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	539 980	0,0 %	20,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	539 980	0,0 %	20,0 %

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 tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

Project started 6 December 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be 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 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 EC in order to monitor and foster project implementation.

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 tender	23 May 2022
Closing date of call for tender	29 June 2022
Award decision	21 November 2022
Interim payments	March 2023, March 2024
Final payment	January 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*

- 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 at the [following address](#).

Call documents are 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 envisaged as the project has just started.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 02 21 04: Pilot project — RESTwithEU

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	500 000	p.m.	353 646	0,0 %	-29,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	500 000	p.m.	353 646	0,0 %	-29,3 %

3. Objectives

This pilot project aims at developing the digital infrastructure of SMEs in the restaurant industry around the EU, by:

- Mapping the existing tools and carrying out a gap analysis of the tourism ecosystem overall, looking specifically into the restaurant sector
- The technical challenge is to define and stimulate the development of technical solutions for specific challenges, particularly for the restaurant sector;
- Dissemination of solutions, and stimulation of new solutions, and guidelines to support the restaurant sector and the wider tourism ecosystem with the possibility of using the network of Digital Innovation Hubs.

4. Implementation

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

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

4.2. Previous years' implementation

Project started August 2022.

- Activities carried out: Mapping of existing tools, trends and challenges, GAP analysis, website & social media
- Deliverables submitted: D1 Inception Report, D3 First Progress Report
- Meetings held: Inception Meeting 19/09/22, Co-creation WS 22/11/22, 1st Interim meeting 15/12/22

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Megatrends contextualisation, Stakeholder WS, Best practices identification and selection, Evaluation of the trials, Hackathon, Guidebook
- Deliverables to be submitted: D2 First Interim Report, D4 Post Stakeholder WS Report, D5 Best practices, D6 Best practices evaluation, D7 2nd Interim Report, D8 2nd Progress Report, D9 Post Hackathon report, D10 Guidebook.
- Meetings to take place: Stakeholder WS 19/01/23, Hackathon 16-18/06/23, 2nd Interim Meeting 19/06/23

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 tender	15 February 2022
Closing date of call for tender	27 April 2022
Award decision	10 July 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	February 2023, July 2023
Final payment	April 2024

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

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
RESTWITHEU	INNOVA NEXT	884.112,70

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

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 at the [following address](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](#)

The project website can be found here: <https://restwith.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 nature of the project, which aims to develop direct support services and does not make legal proposals.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	799 968,00	0,00	p.m.	453 000	p.m.	640 006	0,0 %	41,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	799 968,00	0,00	p.m.	453 000	p.m.	640 006	0,0 %	41,3 %

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 in the 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

- Signature of the contract 01/12/2022
- Kick of meeting held on 14/12/2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be 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
- Major deliverables :
 - Inception report March 2023
 - Good practice summary April 2023
 - 1st Training module June 2023
 - 2nd Training module November 2023
 - Guidance for local authorities November 2023
- Meetings to take place
 - Rural mobility network 1st meeting April 2023
 - 2 more meetings in July and September 2023

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

The project is a 2-year project and will be finished in December 2024

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2021) 4002 of 8/6/2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Second quarter of 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Second quarter of 2022
Award decision	Fourth quarter of 2022
Interim payments	First quarter of 2023 and First quarter 2024
Final payment	Fourth quarter of 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2022) 4509 of 04/07/2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Second quarter of 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Second quarter of 2022
Award decision	Fourth quarter of 2022
Interim payments	First quarter of 2023 and first quarter 2024
Final payment	Fourth quarter of 2024

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

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. It is 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

- Two previous SMARTA projects financed as EP pilots
- <https://www.mambaproject.eu/> financed with ERDF

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	790 500,00	0,00	p.m.	316 000	p.m.	350 000	0,0 %	10,8 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	790 500,00	0,00	p.m.	316 000	p.m.	350 000	0,0 %	10,8 %

3. Objectives

The objective of the pilot project is to support generating knowledge and invaluable lessons assisting to accelerate the ongoing completion of the Single European Railway Area on the Rhine Alpine rail corridor, and in particular between the Munich and Verona stretch. Based on obstacles identified in the Commission's Brenner issues list, individual projects shall implement long term solutions designed to ensure seamless rail operations without technical and train operation-induced (border) stops on the entire stretch of almost 500 km crossing two EU internal borders. Moreover, high efficiency and effectiveness of rail operations by way of cross border traffic management cooperation shall be a final goal. The pilot project(s) should identify and address shortcomings within the rail ecosystem paying attention to cross-border operations with the aim to establish solutions for the most efficient use of the rail infrastructure on the Munich-Verona stretch and beyond.

Three Member States and five regions (DE/Bavaria, AT/Tyrol and IT/Trentino-Alto Adige, Veneto) would be involved along the corridor stretch that includes one of the flagships of the TEN-T infrastructure cross-border construction projects: the Brenner Base Tunnel.

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 and by means of a contribution agreement to the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) under the 2022 budget.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Pilot Project is currently working on 4 main priorities in order to implement seamless operations between Munich and Verona. They are 1. Harmonisation of operational rules, 2. Elimination of technical checks at the border, 3. Implementation of a harmonised braking scheme and 4. Elimination of second person in the cabin in Italy
- Deliverables submitted: intermediate report submitted January 2023
- Meetings held: several meetings held so far.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

2021 Budget – grant

- Activities to be carried out: finalisation of the solutions to address the 4 priorities described above
- Deliverables to be submitted: all deliverables are due by end of 2023. They include solutions to the 4 priorities and their practical implementation.

2022 budget – contribution agreement to ERA:

Provide support to the activities of the Agency in the field of digitalisation.

Future developments:

- Continuous enhancement of Register of Infrastructure (RINF) functionalities based on needs and inputs of Infrastructure Managers (IMs),
- Dissemination of the ERA Vocabulary
- Enrichment of the ERA Vocabulary, in particular to cover all regulated reference data for infrastructure description to be further integrated in RINF as single source of infrastructure topology
- Implementation and deployment of RINF future developments
- Deployment of future development to reconcile telematic applications for freight services (TAF)/telematic applications for passenger services (TAP) TSIs and RINF interface:
- Implementation and deployment of TAF/TAP and RINF future developments
- Implementation and enforcement of the Regulation on digitalisation of rail
- Development of route knowledge based on train driver license (Train Drivers Directive - TDD) and route book
- ERA compliance assessment reporting

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations – under the form of grants following modification of financing decision adopted in December 2021

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021
Adoption of amending financing decision	November 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	January 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	March 2023
Award decision	July 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2023
Final payment	Q4 2023

– 2022 commitment appropriations – under the form of a contribution agreement following modification of financing decision adopted in July 2022.

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A
Award decision	N/A
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2023
Final payment	Q2 2023

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*

- 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, and Commission Financing Decision, expected on Q2 2023, set out the main elements of the implementation. Commission Financing Decision C(2021) 8689 is available at the following address: [Financing decisions for policy support and pilot projects and preparatory actions \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents are available at the following address: [Information on the possibility to submit a proposal for a grant 'Pilot project - Single European Railway Area - Prototype Corridor Munich-Verona' \(MOVE/C4/2021-545\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 because legal basis already exists (Technical Support Instruments and Common Safety Methods).

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	796 000	p.m.	668 844	0,0 %	-16,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	796 000	p.m.	668 844	0,0 %	-16,0 %

3. Objectives

With the increasing penetration of electric vehicles, their usage increases the strain on electricity grids and charging infrastructures. 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 tender already evaluated in 2022.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Project started in 2023, nothing to report in 2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Task 1 - Potential Costs, Benefits, and Impacts of Energy Efficiency of EVs on Infrastructure and Fleet Composition (to be finished in 2023).
 - Task 2 - On-Board Solar Generation (starts in 2023, lasts full 2024 and until early 2025).
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Deliverable 1: Inception report with a detailed work programme, planning, methodology, approaches and working assumptions
 - Deliverable 2: First interim report, task 1
- Meetings to take place:
 - Kick-off meeting held on 17th January 2023 in Brussels.
 - Inception report meeting (late March 2023)
 - First interim report meeting (Q4 2023)

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2021) 4002 of 8 June 2021
Publication of call for tender	March 2022
Closing date of call for tender	May 2022
Award decision	October 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	2023 and 2024
Final payment	2025

4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*
– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot project – Effect of energy efficient and solar power generating vehicles on overall energy demand in the EU transport sector	Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (consortium coordinator)	3 344 220

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 8th June 2021 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 similar activities ongoing.

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 immediately, as this pilot project explores the possibilities of solar powered vehicles and 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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	590 500,00	0,00	p.m.	147 625	p.m.	295 250	0,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	590 500,00	0,00	p.m.	147 625	p.m.	295 250	0,0 %	100,0 %

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, i.e. 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.

The Administrative Agreement with Joint Research Centre (JRC) 1) develops a conceptual framework for AI-enabled autonomous contracting that considers technical, legal and economic perspectives, 2) identifies potential EU/national private (incl. consumer) law-related obstacles for the deployment and use of AI in contracting, 3) analyses potential economic impacts of AI-enabled autonomous contracting and 4) supports the procurement and contract management for the other aspects of the pilot project.

The service contract with an external contractor will consist of a further analysis of the market in which AI-based contracting solutions currently operate or can potentially operate in the future, including an analysis of the benefits associated with the use of AI-based contracting. It also consists of an identification of potential technical obstacles to a widespread use of AI-based contracting solutions, as well as safeguards and risks to be managed when deploying AI contracting tools, and an analysis of possible concrete issues faced by companies, in particular SMEs, in deploying these contracting solutions and by users in exercising their contractual rights and obligations concerning contracts using these solutions. It also consists of an assessment of the legal and technical feasibility of AI-based contracting solutions as well as their potential for SMEs, start-ups and consumers. The study will also identify possible national private and consumer law rules in EU Member States that limit, prevent or make more difficult the use or deployment of AI-based contracting solutions, or which are not fit for the use and deployment of these solutions, and in this context carry out a comparative law analysis to determine the extent to which these requirements vary across jurisdictions, thereby possibly causing obstacles to the cross-border use and deployment of AI-based contracting solutions.

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 intends to implement 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

- Adoption of the Commission financing decision on 30 November 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - JRC: The Administrative Agreement with the JRC was signed on 21 February 2023.
 - Service contract: Publication of the call for tenders, award decision and signature of the contract with an external contractor.
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - JRC: Deliverables on work packages 1 and 3, and some policy briefs.
 - Service contract: Inception report.
- Meetings to take place:
 - JRC: Kick-off meeting on 30 March 2023 and progress to be followed on a regular basis right from the start.
 - Service contract: Kick-off meeting and progress to be followed on a regular basis right from the start.

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

The project is implemented via an Administrative Arrangement with JRC and via public procurement (timetable below).

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	30 November 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	April/May 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	2 nd quarter of 2023
Award decision	2 nd quarter of 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	1 st quarter of 2024
Final payment	2 nd quarter of 2024

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 Prefinancing payment	JRC	125.000

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

It is available at the following address: [C\(2022\)8591 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 follow up is envisaged for this project at this stage, due to the fact that the implementation is only about to start. The Commission may follow this project up, depending on the results of the Administrative Agreement and the study, 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		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

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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

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 for tender for the project is planned to launch in Q2 – Q3 2023.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of a call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Closing date of a call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Award decision	Q3 – Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q1 2026

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- 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](#).

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 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		500 000	125 000	p.m.	250 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		500 000	125 000	p.m.	250 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

3. Objectives

Modern smartphone, tablet 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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: publication of call for tenders and selection of contractor
- Deliverables to be submitted: none in 2023
- Meetings to take place: none in 2023

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Award decision	Q3-Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

Still to be contracted.

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 immediate follow up is envisaged at this 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		425 000	106 250	p.m.	212 500	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		425 000	106 250	p.m.	212 500	-100,0 %	100,0 %

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 CO₂ 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 - N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Kick-off meeting (possibly)

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for tender	Q2 2023
Closing date of call for call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Award decision	Q3-Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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(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, 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		400 000	100 000	p.m.	200 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		400 000	100 000	p.m.	200 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: publication of call for tenders and selection of contractor
- Deliverables to be submitted: none in 2023
- Meetings to take place: none in 2023

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q2-Q3 2023
Award decision	Q3-Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

Still to be contracted.

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 immediate follow up is envisaged at this stage.

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	400 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	400 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %

3. Objectives

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

The objective is to identify the required actions such as defining allocation of responsibilities, ownership/title and financial liabilities between the waste generators, waste management organisations (where relevant) and the Member States participating in a shared deep geological repository project.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of tenders, surveys, meetings with regulators and other interest groups.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Deliverables to be submitted: to prepare tender specifications, award decision.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q3 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q4 2023
Award decision	Q4 2023 - Q1 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision, expected on Q2 2023, 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 unless an outcome of the pilot project will show clear need to have a legislative proposal.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 03 20 04: Pilot project — Welfare of dairy cattle, including measures to protect unweaned dairy calves and end-of-career animals

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	383 442,50	p.m.	206 235	p.m.	343 725	0,0 %	66,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	383 442,50	p.m.	206 235	p.m.	343 725	0,0 %	66,7 %

3. Objectives

- 1) to produce a clear set of good and best practice guidelines for the welfare of dairy heifers, cows and calves on the basis of robust animal-based indicators, as well as guidance on the correct treatment of end-of-career dairy cows;
- 2) to carry out a socio-economic impact assessment of shifting from transport of unweaned male dairy calves over long distances to local rearing and fattening;
- 3) to propose economic models to prevent the transport of end-of-career dairy cows;
- 4) to disseminate the outcomes in dairy-producing Member States and in those affected by the intra-EU trade of live unweaned calves.

The outcomes should strongly draw on the scientific and practical expertise available, including from best practices already implemented.

The Commission developed the terms of reference and proceeded to one or more procurement procedures in order to meet the objectives above mentioned.

The contract was signed in November 2021. An amended contract for a three-month extension of the project should be signed within the first quarter 2023.

4. Implementation

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

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

4.2. Previous years' implementation

2021:

➤ Study on transport of unweaned calves

- Activities carried out: -desk and field research, data collection and analysis, surveys, interviews, drafting of reports.
- Deliverables submitted: Inception report, Interim Report
- Meetings held: Kick off meeting 30.04.21, Inception report meeting 08.06.21, Interim report meeting 03.12.21

➤ Study on transport of end of career cows

- Activities carried out: -desk and field research, data collection and analysis, surveys, interviews, drafting of reports.
- Deliverables submitted: Inception report, Interim Report
- Meetings held: Kick off meeting 21.03.21, Inception report meeting 03.06.21, Interim report meeting 16.12.21

➤ Study on best-practices related to the welfare of dairy cows

- Activities carried out: -desk and field research, data collection and analysis, surveys, drafting of reviews.

- Deliverables submitted: inception report on 10 January 2022
- Meetings held: 17 January 2022 kick off meeting including presentation of inception report.

2022

➤ **Study on transport of unweaned calves**

- Activities to be carried out: Task 1 of the ToRs has been finalised and approved,
- Deliverables submitted: Draft final report, final report
- Meetings held: Draft final report meeting 11.03.22

➤ **Study on transport of end of career cows**

- Activities to be carried out: - draft of the final report
- Deliverables to be submitted: Draft final report, final report
- Meetings held: Draft final report meeting 07.04.22

➤ **Study on best-practices related to the welfare of dairy cows**

- Activities to be carried out: desk and field research, meeting with advisory board, data collection and analysis, surveys, interviews, drafting of reports, developing dissemination strategies.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Interim reports No 1-3 (interim report No 1 submitted on 30.09.2022), final draft report.
- Meetings held: first meeting with the advisory board 15.06.2022, presentation of interim report No 1 on 19.10.2022, next meeting after 6 months to present interim report No 2 and after 12 months to present interim report No 3, after 23 months meeting to present the final draft report.

4.3. *Forthcoming implementation in 2023 and in 2024*

2023

➤ **Study on best-practices related to the welfare of dairy cows**

- Deliverables to be submitted: Interim reports No 2-3, final draft report, factsheets on best practices.
- Meetings held and to take place: second meeting with the advisory board 02.02.2023, April 2023 presentation of interim report No 2, next meeting after 6 months to present interim report No 3, after 11 months meeting to present the final draft report.

- 2024

➤ **Study on best-practices related to the welfare of dairy cows**

- Deliverables to be submitted: final draft report, factsheets on best practices.
- Meetings to take place: March 2024 meeting to present the final draft report.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

<i>Step</i>	<i>Date</i>
Adoption of financing decision	13 May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Two calls against FWC and one open call: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-G5-056: 11 November 2020 • 2020-G5-057: 19 November 2020 • 2020-G5-050: 11 February 2021 • 2020-G5-023: 11 May 2021 - relaunch of call
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-G5-056: 19 December 2020 • 2020-G5-057: 19 December 2020 • 2020-G5-050: 26 March 2020 but cancelled • 2020-G5-023: 08 June 2021
Award decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-G5-056: 22 February 2021 • 2020-G5-057: 22 February 2021 • 2020-G5-050: cancelled • 2020-G5-023: 30 September 2021

<i>Step</i>	<i>Date</i>
Prefinancing or interim payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-G5-056: 88.464 EUR - Q1 2022 • 2020-G5-057: 29.553,75 EUR - Q1 2022 • 2020-G5-050: cancelled • 2020-G5-023: 137.490 EUR - Q4 2022 and 206.235 EUR expected in Q4 2023
Final payment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-G5-056: 58.976 EUR - Q2 2022 • 2020-G5-057: 68.958,75 - Q2 2022 • 2020-G5-050: cancelled • 2020-G5-023: 343.725 EUR in Q1 2024 expected.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Study on shifting from transport of unweaned dairy calves over long distance	Ecorys	149.440 EUR
Study on economic models to prevent the transport of unfit end-of-career dairy cows	ICF	98.512,59 EUR
Pilot Project on the welfare of dairy cattle, including measures to protect unweaned dairy calves and end-of-career animals.	Care4dairy	687.450 EUR

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

The project should bring together from the onset relevant stakeholders, including scientists, veterinarians and NGOs. It will help informing the policy choices for the revision of the animal welfare acquis.

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)3035, adopted on 13 May 2020, 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?*

Yes, the Commission intends to use the results and findings of this project to inform the revision of the current animal welfare legislation and propose new ones.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 03 21 01: Pilot project — European Consumer Food Waste Forum

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	250 000,00	62 500,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	250 000	0,0 %	-44,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	250 000,00	62 500,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	250 000	0,0 %	-44,4 %

3. Objectives

The first phase of the PP (ongoing) brings together experts (both researchers and practitioners) to gather information on consumer-targeted interventions and related data and to develop a variety of evidence-based practical solutions to reduce food waste at the consumer level, including household and food services. It is expected that the experts will produce a substantial material of valuable findings, tools, and recommendations on how to reduce consumer food waste in the Member States.

The communication deliverables expected from the first phase include:

- A web page with the deliverables of the project;
- An executive summary of the project's deliverables (tools, best practices and recommendations for consumer food waste prevention) in all official languages of the EU;
- Three leaflets produced with key recommendations for priority target audiences, translated in all EU official languages; and
- A dissemination event organised at the European Parliament.

The aim of the second phase of the PP is to facilitate - through interactive online tools and other communications outputs - the uptake of the findings of the Forum by stakeholders engaged in consumer food waste prevention. This way, the Forum's outcomes can help inform the design of the most effective strategies, initiatives, and tools to reduce consumer food waste, tailored to the needs of target audiences in the 27 Member States.

Based on the deliverables of the European Consumer Food Waste Forum, the expected outcomes of the second phase are:

- Development of interactive online tools and other communications materials (e.g. short videos) to facilitate implementation by stakeholders of the Forum's evidence-based recommendations and best practices towards the reduction of consumer food waste.
- Organisation of a public event to disseminate the outcomes reaching a broader stakeholder community.
- An interactive online tool (including data visualisation) and other communication materials (e.g. videos) will enrich the web page set up in the first phase. The online communications tools will be user-friendly and targeted at the primary user groups engaged in food waste prevention (e.g. public authorities, food business operators, educators, school students, consumers). While focussed on consumer food waste prevention, they may also be linked with other consumer-targeted initiatives (e.g. on nutrition, donations, and community actions, ICT solutions etc...).

Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2021 and 2022 budgets. An administrative arrangement was signed with JRC on 12 July 2021 and the amendment for the extension and increase of the budget was signed with JRC on 17 July 2022.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of an Administrative Arrangement between DG SANTE and JRC.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

2021

- Activities carried out:
 - Setting up a forum of experts on food waste (task 1). The JRC, in collaboration with DG SANTE, created an ad-hoc network of external experts through individual contracts, to contribute to the European Consumer Food Waste Forum.
 - Review of drivers for consumer food waste and levers for behavioural change (task 2). This task aimed at reviewing scientific and grey literature on the drivers and levers of consumer food waste.
 - Starting the work on defining the scope of the study (i.e. type of interventions to be evaluated as well as tools, best practices and recommendations), and a framework for the evaluation of consumer food waste interventions (task 3). The JRC led this task with the support of the Forum of experts.
- Deliverables submitted:
 - List of the experts participating in the European Consumer Food Waste Forum (D1)
 - Technical Report on Literature review on drivers for consumer food waste and levers for behavioural change (D2)
 - The web page of the European Consumer Food Waste Forum (https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/projects-activities/european-consumer-food-waste-forum_en) (D6.1)
- Meetings held:
 - An information meeting (4 November 2021) with the Forum of experts to introduce each member, review the timeframe and tasks of the European Consumer Food Waste Forum, and clarify doubts.
 - Several bilateral meetings – mainly between task leaders and JRC – to prepare the deliverables and meetings' with other experts.

Organisation

2022:

- Activities carried out:
 - Finalisation of task 3, defining the scope of the forum while providing an evaluation framework to evaluate consumer food waste interventions;
 - Starting the data collection and evaluation (task 4): Experts gathered data on interventions addressing food waste prevention at consumer level, in cooperation with the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste, and assessed them according to the evaluation framework. The evaluation was conducted by the experts together with the JRC. This activity will be concluded Q2 2023.
 - Defining the final deliverables of the Forum: a compendium with tools, best practices and recommendations for consumer food waste prevention (task 5). This activity will be concluded Q2 2023.
 - Design and development of the visual identity of the Forum (under task 6).
- Deliverables submitted:

- Report with the scope of the Forum, the framework for the evaluation of consumer food waste interventions and a protocol for the collection of information to be elaborated by JRC with the support of Forum experts (D3)
- ECFWF visual identity, including visual concept and guidelines, PowerPoint and word templates (as addition to D6.1)
- Meetings held:
 - Under task 3, a virtual workshop was organised by JRC (8-9 February 2022) with the participation of the Forum experts, JRC and DG SANTE to identify the scope of the pilot project and further develop the evaluation framework.
 - Under task 3, an intermediate meeting was organised by JRC (11 March 2022) with the participation of the Forum of experts, JRC and DG SANTE to ensure the scope of the pilot project was well captured and further build on the evaluation framework characteristics.
 - Several bilateral meetings – mainly between task leaders and JRC – to prepare the deliverables and meetings with other experts. Meetings with experts, coordinated by task 4 leader, to ensure this task is properly developed and concluded

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Finalisation of task 4, by preparing the technical report (D4) containing the food waste prevention interventions identified and evaluated, including recommendations to different stakeholders. The task leader guides this activity in collaboration with JRC.
 - Finalisation of tools to be included in the compendium (part of D5), such as some guidelines to better segment audience and tailor interventions (task 5). The JRC leads this activity.
 - Finalisation of task 5, by preparing the technical report (D5) containing the compendium of tools, best practices, and recommendations to support consumer food waste prevention. The task leader leads this activity in collaboration with JRC.
 - Dissemination event at the European Parliament (task 6). The JRC leads this activity with cooperation from DG SANTE and MEPs assistants.
 - Translation of the executive summary of the project's deliverable D5 (tools, best practices and recommendations for consumer food waste prevention) in all official languages of the EU (task 6);
 - Production of three leaflets with key recommendations for priority target audiences, translated in all EU official languages (task 6)
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - Data collection and evaluation report (D4) – by April 2023
 - Final deliverable with tools, best practices and recommendations to support consumer food waste prevention (D5) – by May 2023
 - Language versions of the executive summary of Del. 5 (D6.2) – by July 2023
 - Three leaflets produced with key recommendations for priority target audiences, translated in all EU official languages (D6.3) – by July 2023
 - Dissemination event organised at the European Parliament (D6.4)
- Meetings held/to take place:
 - A virtual workshop was organised by JRC (13 January 2023) with the participation of Forum experts to select the interventions and best practices to be included in the compendium (task 5)
 - Joint meeting of the Forum and the Consumer food waste prevention sub-group of the EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste to discuss the results achieved so far and the final deliverable of the Forum: the best practice compendium (16 February 2023)
 - Several bilateral meetings – mainly between task leaders and JRC – to prepare the deliverables and meetings with other experts.
 - Meetings with experts, coordinated by task 4 or task 5 leaders, to ensure these tasks are properly developed and concluded

- Dissemination event at the European Parliament (Q3 2023)]

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

- Development of interactive tools including data visualisations (D6.5)
- Production of communication and dissemination material, including short videos (D.6.6)
- Public event to disseminate the outcomes reaching a broader stakeholder community (D6.7)

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2021
Signature of the Administrative Arrangement (AA n°36041)	July 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2021
Final payment	2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of the Financing Decision	May 2022
Signature of the Administrative Arrangement (amendment of AA n°36041)	July 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q4 2022 - Q3 2023
Final payment	2024

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PILOT PROJECT EUROPEAN CONSUMER FOOD WASTE FORUM	JRC	650.000

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PILOT PROJECT EUROPEAN CONSUMER FOOD WASTE FORUM	JRC	250.000

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

Public service provider – the pilot project is being implemented by the Joint Research Centre.

5. **Documentation and expected results**

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

The Administrative Arrangement (AA n°36041) signed on 12 July 2021, 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. Outputs from the EWCF pilot project, expected in 2023, will help inform the work of the Commission and members of the EU Platform on FLW in this area. Should the Commission consider it beneficial to pursue the work of the Forum – in its current and/or adapted format taking into account learning from the pilot project- such activities and related financial needs could be addressed in future work programmes adopted under the SMP Regulation.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital
PP 03 21 02: Pilot project — Media Ownership Monitor

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	460 882,43	p.m.	599 680	p.m.	149 236	0,0 %	-75,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	460 882,43	p.m.	599 680	p.m.	149 236	0,0 %	-75,1 %

3. Objectives

The Media Ownership Monitor aims at addressing such shortcomings by providing a country-based database containing information on media ownership and by a systematic assessment of relevant legal frameworks as well as risks to media ownership transparency. This mechanism will make potential issues visible and provide valuable information for a better understanding of the market. It will be carried out in collaboration with European, regional and local stakeholders in the field of media freedom and pluralism. This pilot project should build on the results of the first pilot project, which is currently ongoing.

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: creation of a country-based ownership database covering 12 Member States
- Deliverables submitted: none, interim payment to be done in 2023
- Meetings held: none

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: completion of the country-based ownership database covering 12 Member States
- Deliverables to be submitted: still in process, interim report and final report have still to be submitted
- Meetings to take place: none

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	18 October 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	15 December 2021
Award decision	8 July 2022
Pre-financing or interim payments	October 2022/July 2023
Final payment	February 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
EUROMO12	Paris-Lodron University of Salzburg	497.453

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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(2021) 3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [Media Ownership Monitoring System | 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 follow up is envisaged because European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) is adopted. EMFA already includes provisions on Media Ownership.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PP 03 22 02: Pilot project — Supporting European ecotourism in the context of the crisis created by COVID-19

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	975 500,00	0,00	p.m.	292 650	p.m.	682 850	0,0 %	133,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	975 500,00	0,00	p.m.	292 650	p.m.	682 850	0,0 %	133,3 %

3. Objectives

The main objective of the Pilot Project is to complement the actions of the European Travel Commission (ETC) by giving it a specific focus on ecotourism. The previous ‘Destination Europe’ marketing campaigns do not cover it specifically even though ecotourism has an important part to play in the restart and recovery of the European Tourism ecosystem.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of an ad hoc Grant to the European Tourism Commission (ETC), focusing mainly on promotion activities conducted through the Joint Promotion Platform set up by the European Travel Commission with the National Tourism Offices of 33 European countries. This grant combines the resources of the Pilot Project with resources from the Single Market Programme (SMP). The PP resources are entirely allocated to the promotion of ecotourism while the rest of the ad hoc Grant budget is going to other tourism niches.

The ad hoc Grant has been signed in December 2022, the agreement foreseeing that costs are eligible for EU support as of August 2022 (i.e. when ETC submitted its proposal) in order to give enough lead time for the preparation of 2023 Promotion actions.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

In 2022, ETC has done market research and preparatory work for 2023 promotion actions. The result was integrated in the draft inception Report submitted by ETC and to be approved in March 2023.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Subject to the approval of its inception report, ETC would among other things (1) organise ‘Familiarisation trips for tour operators’ from Canada and the USA on the ‘Iter Vitis Cultural Route’; (2) invite international journalists and other global micro-influencers from Japan to discover ‘the Way of Saint James’; (3) include ecotourism in the following co-branding campaigns targeting China and the USA in particular, i.e. ‘Reboot Nordic Tourism’, ‘Essential Balkans’, ‘The Lovely Places’ (Mediterranean regions)

Research activities on the travel sentiment regarding ecotourism will also be continued.

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023

2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Feb. 2022
Invitation to submit a proposal (ad hoc Grant)	Aug. 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	Aug. 2022
Award decision	Dec. 2022
Interim payment	May 2023
Interim payment	Mars 2024
Final payment	Aug. 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Supporting European Ecotourism in the context of the crisis created by COVID-19	European Travel Commission	975.500

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- private & public 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?

Commission Decision of 9.2.2022 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)

5.2. 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 (with a legislative proposal) is envisaged due to the nature of the action (promotion activities)

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	990 500,00	0,00	p.m.	260 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	15,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	990 500,00	0,00	p.m.	260 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	15,4 %

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 modal and multi-modal digital and automated enforcement system of the transport laws in the EU.

Specific objectives:

- 1) Develop 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;
- 2) 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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of open call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The project has not yet started as the call for tender (open procedure) has not yet been launched.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

In 2023, the open call for tenders should be launched and the contract signed. The project kick-off meeting with the contractor will take place swiftly after the signature of the contract. Depending on the date of publishing the open call for tenders the contractor may be able to perform the first task of providing a comprehensive overview of information needs of enforcers responsible for checking compliance with EU road transport rules and submit inception report still by the end of the year.

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

Timetable for implementation depends on the dates of launching the call for tenders and of signing the contract. Given the accumulated delays, the majority of tasks under the contract will be implemented in 2024 and the project will be accomplished by mid-2025.

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	March 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2024
Final payment	Q2 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

In line with the general rules on tendering, all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties, as well as to international organisations. It is also open to all natural and legal persons established in a third country which has a special agreement with the European Union in the field of public procurement on the conditions laid down in that agreement.

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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	690 500,00	0,00	700 000	175 000	p.m.	695 250	-100,0 %	297,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	690 500,00	0,00	700 000	175 000	p.m.	695 250	-100,0 %	297,3 %

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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of two calls for tenders, one under the 2022 commitment appropriations and another one under 2023 commitment appropriations.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A as the 1st call is yet to be launched.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- preparation and launch of the 1st call for tender (2022 commitment appropriation).
- Launch of the contract for the 1st tender (2022 commitment appropriation).

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for tender	July-August 2023
Closing date of call for tender	September 2023
Award decision	October-November 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	November-December 2023
Final payment	December 2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for tender	Q2 2024
Closing date of call for tender	Q2 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2024
Final payment	Q3 2025

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

– 2022 and 2023 commitment appropriations: these details are not yet known as the first call is yet to be launched.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers (framework contract)

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 at the [following address](#):

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 follow up is envisaged at the moment as it is too early to say and the study hasn't been launched yet.

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	300 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 000 000	250 000	p.m.	300 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %

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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of a call for tenders which will be delegated to the Executive Agency EISMEA

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- contract is expected to be signed in Q4 of 2023

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	August 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Interim payment: May-June 2024, possibly another one November-December 2024
Final payment	May-June 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

Expected beneficiaries could be:

- 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, adopted on 27.2.2023 (C (2023) 1258 final), sets out the main elements of the implementation.

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

No similar activities exist.

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 action aims to test new forms of support for female and gender-conscious investors, no legislative proposal could result from these activities.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PP 05 17 01: Pilot project — European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR): generation and preparation of initiatives and projects with genuine added value for the region as a whole

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2017 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	90 000	p.m.	210 000	0,0 %	133,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	90 000	p.m.	210 000	0,0 %	133,3 %

3. Objectives

Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2017 and 2018 budgets. 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 pilot project 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.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission is implementing this pilot project by means of 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.

Procurement: service contracts (specific contracts under framework contracts).

The pilot project has been implemented by the Commission through direct grants.

Direct grants have been provided to the national/regional authorities designated by their respective countries (i.e. de jure or de facto monopoly situation) as 'key implementers' of the strategy.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The pilot project includes the following actions (most have been implemented, one ongoing):

- AI-NURECC initiative (2017). The project was completed in 2019. It delivered a number of results in supporting the implementation of the EUSAIR in some specific fields such as Youth, Creative and Cultural Industries, Tourism and Cultural Heritage and Skills Development & Training.
- Support to candidate countries participating in the EUSAIR (2017). Some actions under this project are still ongoing. They aim at providing support to the EUSAIR Pillar Coordinators from the IPA countries. After some initial delays, particularly for the projects dedicated to Montenegro and Serbia, implementation is now in progress. The projects duration is 5 years.
- Support to candidate countries participating in the EUSAIR (2018). The project has the same objectives as above for Pillar Coordinators from Serbia in the sector of Energy (project currently under implementation). In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina it was impossible to sign a grant of EUR 100 000, due to internal problems with the national administration.

- 4th EUSAIR and 5th Annual EUSAIR Fora: Support to candidate countries holding the EUSAIR Chairmanship 2018-2019 (Montenegro) and 2019-2020 (Serbia) (2018). A direct grant was signed with Montenegro for the organisation of the EUSAIR Annual Forum 2019. The project was implemented and closed. A direct grant was signed with Serbia as well for the organisation of the Annual Forum 2020. Considering the pandemic crisis, the Forum was held online in January 2021. The final report was delivered and the project is now closed.
- Generation and preparation of macro-regional projects (2018). A direct grant was signed with Slovenia as an extension of a previous contract . The project aims at providing support for the development of macro-regional bankable projects and enhancing the capacities of EUSAIR key implementers (including North Macedonia), and other stakeholders to promote and facilitate the implementation of the EUSAIR Action plan. Due to serious delays in the implementation of this project, the direct grant to Slovenia was suspended and is going to be terminated.
- Support the implementation of the EUSAIR (2018). A budget of EUR 9 500 was committed for a study on the options for the inclusion of North Macedonia in the EUSAIR. An AMI expert was engaged for this purpose. The AMI expert delivered the study as requested and the project is now closed.

To be noted that due to the COVID pandemic, some activities have been delayed.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The projects supporting EUSAIR Pillar coordinators in candidate countries (Albania, Serbia and Montenegro) will continue to run throughout this year (2023).

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023

– 2017 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	14 December 2017 C(2017) 8441 final
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A – direct grants / specific contracts under framework contracts
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A – direct grants / specific contracts under framework contracts
Award decision	September 2017
Prefinancing or interim payments	2017/2018/2019/2020
Final payment	2023

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	26 October 2018 C(2018) 6965 final
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A – direct grants / specific contracts under framework contracts
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A – direct grants / specific contracts under framework contracts
Award decision	2018-2019
Prefinancing or interim payments	2018/2019/2020/2021
Final payment	2023

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2017 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Adriatic-Ionian Network of Universities, regions, chambers of commerce and cities (AI NURECC initiative)	AI NURECC Consortium	800 000

Support to candidate/potential candidate countries participating in the EUSAIR	Albania – Ministry of European Integration Montenegro – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Serbia – Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure	450 000
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– 2018 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Support to candidate/potential candidate countries participating in the EUSAIR	Serbia – Ministry of Mining and Energy	150 000
Support to candidate countries holding the EUSAIR Chairmanship 2018-2019 (Montenegro) and 2019-2020 (Serbia)	Montenegro – Ministry of European Affairs Serbia – Ministry of European Integration	400 000
Generation and preparation of macro-regional bankable projects	Slovenia – Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC) – Facility Point Plus	520 000
Support the implementation of the EUSAIR	REGIO / AMI list	9 500

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- Public service providers
- EUSAIR key implementers (National and Pilar coordinators, Thematic Steering Groups) and stakeholders
- Private service providers

5. **Documentation and expected results**

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

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 14/12/2017 and the Commission financial Decision adopted on 26/10/2018 set out the main elements of the implementation (they are available at the following addresses: Ref. C(2017) 8441 final and Ref. C(2018) 6965 final).

The award decision is available at the following address:

Lists of Contractors and beneficiaries – Regional Policy – European Commission (europa.eu)

Information regarding AI-NURECC is available at [AI-NURECC Initiative – CPMR](#)
Information about the EUSAIR Annual Fora 2019 and 2020 is available at [4th EUSAIR Annual Forum - Adriatic-Ionian](#) and [5th Annual EUSAIR Forum - Adriatic-Ionian](#)

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

The Interreg Adrion transnational cooperation programme 2014-2020 provides support to the EUSAIR through a strategic project "Facility Point" aiming at supporting the EUSAIR governance structures and the stakeholders. However, this strategic project is not sufficient to thoroughly address all the main needs of the EUSAIR and notable those of the participating accession countries (partially or not covered at all). This pilot project aims at complementing the support required by the EUSAIR to be successful.

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

In the long term, the follow-up activities shall be taken up by the 2021-2027 Interreg IPA Adrion Programme governance activities financed through its Interreg Specific Objective 1 (A better Interreg governance).

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 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 890 500,00	939 750	p.m.	2 300 000	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	-56,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 890 500,00	939 750	p.m.	2 300 000	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	-56,5 %

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 grant following a call for proposals;
- an agreement under indirect management with OECD as implementing entity;
- simplified experts contracts based on the DG REGIO AMI-lists⁴.

Ongoing and upcoming activities are implemented under the following action areas:

- I. Reporting on the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in border regions;
- II. Platform mapping out cross-border public services, obstacles and solutions to cross-border cooperation;
- III. Action plan to ease and to systematise solidarity and crisis management across neighbouring regions;
- IV. Improving cross-border 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:**

Three expert analyses were completed in 2022:

- (1) The impact of border-related measures taken by MS in the fight against COVID-19 (expert contract with Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT));
- (2) The economic impacts of border-related measures taken by Member States in the fight against COVID (Politecnico di Milano)
- (3) Report of existing building blocks and gaps in crisis management and resilience in EU internal cross-border regions (GreenEdge Consulting)

⁴ 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)

Organisation of a call for expression of interest from cross-border legal entities involved in cross-border issues wishing to improve their multi-level governance and establish (or improve) co-developed, cross-border strategies, the work will be carried out in the framework of a pilot project with the support of OECD.

Signature of the agreement with OECD on multi-level governance and co-developed strategic regional development.

One call for tenders was launched and a contract concluded: Strengthening the resilience of EU border regions: Mapping risks & crisis management tools and identifying gaps (Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium).

- **Deliverables submitted:**

- Inception, interim and final reports of the above-mentioned analyses and contracts, some examples below:

[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](#)

- **Meetings held:**

- meetings with experts and contractors and exploratory meetings with OECD during 2022 to discuss and finalise the content of the proposal

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:

- organisation of events planned under the agreement with OECD (ongoing)
- analysis on the evaluation of the economic consequences of COVID in border regions launch of the call for tenders for a platform mapping out cross-border public services, obstacles and solutions to cross-border cooperation (2nd quarter 2023)
- launch of call for proposals to border regions to build emergency plans and joint spatial planning procedures (3rd quarter 2023)
- organise an event to promote pilot cases (2024)

- Deliverables to be submitted: interim and final reports of the ongoing contracts

- Meetings to take place: meetings with contractors and pilot regions

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

- 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	September 2021
Publication of call for tenders	2 nd quarter of 2022
Closing date of call for tenders	3 rd quarter of 2022
Award decision	3 rd quarter of 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	4 th quarter of 2022
Final payment	2 nd quarter 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2022
Publication of call for tender/call for proposals	2 nd and 3 rd quarters 2023
Closing date of call for tender/call for proposals	3 rd and 4 th quarters 2023
Award decision	3 rd and 4 th quarters 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	4 th quarter 2024
Final payment	4 th quarter 2025

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 the fight against COVID-19: update and follow-up	Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (Mr Jean Peyrony)	EUR 43 250
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)	EUR 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)	EUR 22 500
Contract 2021CE160AT171 Strengthening the resilience of EU border regions: Mapping risks & crisis management tools and identifying gaps	Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium	EUR 414 175
Agreement 2021CE160AT207 Building More Resilient Cross-Border Regions	OECD	EUR 1 020 000
	TOTAL	EUR 1 560 025

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Contract 2022CE160AT259 Pilot on Cross-Border governance – Kick-off event on 25/01/2023	WMH	EUR 29 049
Logistics (travel/accommodation) for pilot regions participating in OECD – remaining budget	To be contracted	EUR 116 167
Valuation of economic consequences of Covid in border regions	To be contracted	EUR 50 000
Platform mapping out cross-border public services, obstacles and solutions to cross-border cooperation. Including its maintenance for one year	To be contracted	EUR 500 000
Support for cb border regions to build their own joint emergency plans (10 @50k) and to build their own joint spatial planning procedures (10 @50k)	To be contracted	EUR 1 000 000
Conference promoting pilot regions	To be contracted	EUR 200 000
	TOTAL	EUR 1 890 500

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / 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/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decisions, C(2021) 6709 adopted on 20/09/2021 and C(2022)4916 adopted on 18/07/2022 set out the main elements of the implementation.

They are available at the following address: [Regional Policy Financing Decisions](#).

[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 immediate follow-up with legislative proposals is envisaged at this stage, since the actual implementation started at the end of 2021 and will last until 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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	790 500	0,00	p.m.	500 000	p.m.	325 000	0,0 %	-35,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	790 500	0,00	p.m.	500 000	p.m.	325 000	0,0 %	-35,0 %

3. Objectives

The PP 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.

4. Implementation

4.1. Method of implementation grants and evaluations

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of 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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- 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.
- 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.

Type of actions to be taken

- Organisation of workshops and on-field visit
- Contacts with Institutions, SMEs, policy makers at transatlantic level
- Development of documents, catalogues, roadmap

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 th quarter of 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N.A –direct grant
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N.A –direct grant
Award decision	3rd quarter 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	3 rd quarter of 2023
Final payment	24 months following the prefinancing (last payments 3 rd quarter 2025)

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

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 13/12/2022, 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 immediate follow-up with legislative proposals is envisaged at this stage. As the implementation of the pilot project will start in 2023, 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		3 500 000	875 000	p.m.	2 625 000	-100,0 %	200,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		3 500 000	875 000	p.m.	2 625 000	-100,0 %	200,0 %

3. Objectives

The general objective of this preparatory action is to organise and develop technologically and conceptually innovative solutions leading to the restoration of the urban water ecosystem of the City of Lodz. 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 characterised 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

Not applicable - the project starts in 2023

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- 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
- 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 2024

Not yet defined

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	1st to 2nd quarter of 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A – Direct grant
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A – Direct grant
Award decision	N/A – Direct grant
Prefinancing or interim payments	3rd to 4th quarter of 2023
Final payment	December 2024

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 is expected to be adopted on 2nd quarter of 2023 and will set out the main elements of the implementation modalities and timetable.

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?*

To be decided later when project implementation is more advanced.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	98 000	p.m.	98 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	98 000	p.m.	98 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

3. Objectives

This action is intended to complement and scale up the work aimed at developing 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 (1) widen the thematic scope; (2) extend the database to additional collections; (3) use more advanced applied technology like image recognition; as well as (4) 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 EU 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 proposal.

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:
- 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.
- Artworks comprising the Schloss Collection.
- Inventories of the collection after its confiscation.

- Relationships pertaining to the collection with events, people, organizations, locations and artworks.
- Essays on the collection.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- People and Organisations examines the art dealers, galleries, perpetrators, Nazi agencies and other entities involved in the movement of paintings over time.
- Events provide an exploration of the myriad events that together tell the story of the fate of the Adolphe Schloss Collection.
- Documents from archives in France, Germany and the U.S. are displayed and linked to events, people, organisations and locations. In some cases the documents are presented along with a transcription and translation.
- Each page in the website includes a search field that can be filtered (by art object, artist, person, organisation, 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. Therefore, the project will end in November 2024 (duration of 24 months).

The kick-off meeting took place on 6 February 2023.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Activities to be carried out:

The activities planned for the duration of the project, presented at the kick-off meeting and agreed with the Commission, are the following:

1. Development and population of a central database and website (content)

Deliverables:

- Populate the central database with digitized archival documents
- Research and document at least two additional individual collections
- Make digitized archival information accessible and cross-searchable

2. Preparation and implementation of educational material and activities

Deliverables:

- Conduct a university education project as an example for a learning scenario / online module
- Create an example of ways in which provenance research on looted cultural objects supports an expanded understanding of the Holocaust

3. Development of the network

Deliverables:

- Maintenance and further development of network of partners (national, regional, and municipal archives; national libraries; public and private museums; etc.)
- Fostering exchange and collaboration among network of partners
- Encourage digitisation of archives

4. Preparation and implementation of communications material and dissemination activities

Deliverables:

- Provide information about the project as well as the topic of Nazi-looted art by means of publications, exhibitions, website and social media
- Help fill the gaps in public awareness of the ways the Nazis and their allies used cultural theft as a tool to eradicate Jewish identity, culture, and history

5. Exploration and development of a proposal for extension and sustainability of the larger project

Deliverables:

- Plan strategy for the extension of project activities, including identification of new archival material, digitization, and integration into the larger database
- Ensure the sustainability of the larger project

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

– 2019 commitment appropriations (PP 2019)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Request to submit a proposal	July 2019
Closing date	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 (PP 2020)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	April 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	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	2023 & 2024

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)
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Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project	Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project Stiftung	490 000
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4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

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?*

No.

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

No.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PP 07 21 02: Pilot project — European Narrative Observatory to fight Disinformation post-COVID19

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 190 500	0,00	p.m.	1 076 200	p.m.	1 194 759	0,0 %	11,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 190 500	0,00	p.m.	1 076 200	p.m.	1 194 759	0,0 %	11,0 %

3. Objectives

The project will create a European Observatory on the Narrative Distribution to monitor and analyse 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 Observatory will coordinate its actions with existing European projects and infrastructures including the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) and SoBigData++, in order to ensure that there is no duplication of effort, and that resources are placed to support the investigative and research work and to make use of the infrastructures and technical support available. The project will support actions at national and multi-national level focussed on detecting and analysing disinformation campaigns linked to COVID-19.

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

The call related to the 2021 commitment was finalised and the award decision signed in November 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Activities to be carried out:

- Case studies and report to be prepared;

Deliverables to be submitted:

- Case studies, report, public policy event;
- Regular project meetings to take place.

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	29 July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	22 September 2022
Award decision	15 November 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	February 2023/February 2024
Final payment	November 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	June 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	August 2023
Award decision	November 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2023
Final payment	April 2024

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
NODES - Narratives Observatory combatting disinformation in Europe systemically	RE-IMAGINE EUROPA	1.199.017,69

– 2022 commitment appropriations

n.a.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / 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(2021) 3006, adopted on 4 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [European Narrative Observatory to fight Disinformation post-COVID 19 | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

The Commission Financing Decision, C(2022) 1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is 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 follow up is envisaged at this stage, outputs will support policy development on the disinformation file.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PP 07 21 03: Pilot project — Temporary citizens’ assemblies: transforming societal consensus into a way of acting and establishing best practices to engage citizens more in EU public life

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 990 000,00	2 025 125,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	264 000	0,0 %	-73,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 990 000,00	2 025 125,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	264 000	0,0 %	-73,6 %

3. Objectives

The project aim is to create a temporary randomly selected EU-wide citizens’ assemblies to discuss one or several important societal questions that are relevant for the EU and at establishing best practices to engage citizens more in EU public life.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of tenders using existing framework contracts (specific contracts were signed) and evaluations.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

- Activities carried out:
 - Launch of the accompanying study on the European Citizens’ Panels
 - Implementation of the European Citizens’ Panels between September 2021 and February 2022
 - Follow-up of the European Citizens’ Panels: Closing event and feedback event of the Conference on the Future of Europe
 - Production of legacy audiovisual products
 - Coordination, moderation and planification of the Conference on the Future of Europe platform, in support to the European Citizens’ Panels, from 1st June to 31st December 2022
- Deliverables submitted:
 - Inception and interim reports on the progress of the accompanying study; surveys among participants
 - Final report of the accompanying study
- Meetings held:
 - European Citizens’ Panels in Strasbourg/online/at the venues of European Institutes in Florence, Natolin, Maastricht and Dublin (part of the funding)
 - Closing event of the Conference on the Future of Europe on 9th May 2022 with all 800 members of the four citizens’ panels invited on site or remotely.
- Feedback event of the Conference on the Future of Europe on 1-2 December 2022 with all 800 members of the four citizens' panels invited (part of the funding)

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Last final payments planned in March-May 2023.

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	January 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (existing framework contracts No COMM/2020/OP/0017 and No COMM/2020/OP/0020)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (existing framework contracts No COMM/2020/OP/0017 and No COMM/2020/OP/0020)
Award decision	N/A (existing framework contracts No COMM/2020/OP/0017 and No COMM/2020/OP/0020)
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2021 May 2022
Final payments	December 2022 January 2023

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (use of existing framework contracts)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (use of existing framework contracts)
Award decision	N/A (use of existing framework contracts)
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2022
Final payments	June 2022 August 2022 October 2022 March-May 2023

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

2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
METHODOLOGY AND FACILITATION OF THE PAN-EUROPEAN CITIZENS' PANELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE - PILOT PROJECT	KANTAR BELGIUM	1 729 900
STUDY ON THE CITIZENS PANELS AS PART OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE	TECHNOPOLIS	270 100

2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
CLOSING EVENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE	VO COMMUNICATION	711 477.90
FEEDBACK EVENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE	VO COMMUNICATION	1 147 838.08
PRODUCTION OF LEGACY VIDEOS	LUMIERE CONSORTIUM	42 707.80
ADJUSTMENTS OF LEGACY VIDEOS	LUMIERE CONSORITUM	29 646.22
COORDINATION, MODERATION AND PLANIFICATION OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE PLATFORM	TEAMWORK	58 330.00

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- Private companies / service providers
- 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 Decisions, adopted on 08/04/2021 (C(2021)2121) and on 23/03/2022 (C(2022)1687) set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available at the following address:

[Communication activities - annual work programmes | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

The study on the European Citizens' Panels will be published as soon as it is finalised on the information website regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe under the following address:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/conference-future-europe_en

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

This pilot project has been assigned category B during evaluation. Hence, there are no similar activities which are already covered by a legal basis.

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

The Conference on the Future of Europe was an unprecedented pan-European exercise in deliberative democracy during which European citizens were given the chance to express their views and expectations regarding EU policies and governance.

With the [Communication “Conference on the Future of Europe, Putting vision into concrete action”](#)⁵ the Commission clearly commits to use more of these participatory practices and to launch a new generation of EU Citizens' Panels with the aim of elaborating Citizens' Reports on a number of key initiatives of the 2023 Commission Work Programme.

In her State of the Union speech held on 14 September 2022, President von der Leyen reiterated this commitment and claimed that **“the Citizens' Panels that were central to the Conference will now become a regular feature of our democratic life.”** She also mentioned a letter of intent with a number of proposals for the year ahead that stem from the Conference conclusion. The new generation of EU Citizens' Panels deliberates on key initiatives of the Commission's annual work programme, including legislative proposals and recommendations.

To honour its commitment, the European Commission has taken immediate action. A first panel on food waste met in December 2022 and continued its deliberation until first half of February 2023. A second panel on virtual worlds started working late February 2023 and will continue its deliberation until end of April 2023. A third panel on learning mobility started working beginning of March 2023 and will continue its deliberation until end of April 2023.

⁵ [COM\(2022\) 404 final](#). “Conference on the Future of Europe, Putting vision into concrete action”.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PP 07 21 06: Pilot project — BELE – Building Europe with Local Entities

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 190 500	0,00	p.m.	600 000	p.m.	1 390 500	0.0 %	131.8 %
Reserve							0.0 %	0.0 %
Total	1 190 500	0,00	p.m.	600 000	p.m.	1 390 500	0.0 %	131.8 %

3. Objectives

This project's aim is to facilitate the identification in local governments and the creation of a European network of locally elected politicians tasked with communicating about the European Union in their respective communities. This refers not only to information on programs and projects financed by the EU in that municipality or region, but also to communication and engagement with citizens about EU political initiatives and measures, the impact on the local communities, and citizens views and recommendations about the future of the EU.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of tenders using existing framework contracts (specific contracts were signed).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In 2021 the European Commission carried out a scoping phase to define the implementation strategy of the project and set up partnerships with a number of relevant stakeholders.

Project presentations to a wide range of stakeholders allowed to refine the implementation strategy. The most important partner for the project was identified in the Committee of the Regions, which since May 2021 started implementing, in close cooperation with the Commission, a "European Network of Regional and Local Councillors", to be considered a test case for the project. Other meetings took place with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and with other associations of local entities as well as a few local administrations from Spain and Austria, to test the implementation strategy and refine the project design on the basis of previous experience of cooperation with local governance bodies.

The interinstitutional governance structure was set up with a first meeting of the Operational Steering Committee taking place on 15 December 2021, with representatives from the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament.

The contract for support services with an external contractor was signed in December 2021 and kicked off in January 2022. It delivered the project website (launched in March 2022) and a number of communication assets with the project's visual identity.

The first public presentation of the project took place at the Summit of Regions and Cities organised by the Committee of the Regions in Marseille in March 2022. The project was later present in additional events such as the European Week of Cities and Regions in October 2022, the Salon de Maires in Paris in November 2022, the Smart Cities Expo in Barcelona in November 2022.

An open call for participation in the project was launched in June 2022. The call was disseminated in cooperation with the Commission Representations in the Member States, national associations of municipalities and regions, and the Committee of the Regions. This resulted by end 2022 in the first 450 applications from municipalities and regions in 20 Member States. As of December 2022, webinars are organised regularly for BELC members by nationality. An online platform with multilingual functionalities,

managed jointly with the Committee of the Regions, was made available to members to allow networking and sharing of best practices, and was populated regularly with information materials.

Meetings of the Operational Steering Committee continued have taken place in 2022 (on 18 May and 6 December).

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

In 2023, activities are being carried out to

- Keep increasing membership in absolute numbers and in its geographical reach (as of end March 2023, 22 Member States out of 27 and 113 NUTS2 regions out of 242 have at least one BELC member)
- Conduct outreach through continued contacts with pan-European, national and regional stakeholders, participation in events, production of communication assets such as a quarterly Bulletin and a video for online dissemination.
- Provide services to members, in the form of welcome webinars by nationality (5 delivered by end March 2023), thematic webinars in different languages on the topics indicated by BELC members as particularly sensitive in their community (2 webinars delivered by end March 2023), visits to Brussels for groups of BELC members by nationality with a targeted program in the national language (2 visits organised by end March 2023).
- Moderate and maintain the online platform publishing content on the topics indicated by BELC members as particularly sensitive in their community and encouraging networking and exchange of best practices by the members.

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

– 2021 appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (existing framework contract EASME/2019/OP/0021)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (existing framework contract EASME/2019/OP/0021)
Award decision	N/A (existing framework contract EASME/2019/OP/0021)
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2022, April 2023
Final payment	July 2023

– 2022, 2023 & 2024 appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (existing framework contract EASME/2019/OP/0021)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A (existing framework contract EASME/2019/OP/0021)
Award decision	N/A (existing framework contract EASME/2019/OP/0021)
Prefinancing or interim payments	October 2023, January 2024
Final payment	July 2024

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

2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PILOT PROJECT “BUILDING EUROPE WITH LOCAL ENTITIES” (BELE)	INTRASOFT INTERNATIONAL S.A.	800 000

2022 was the second year of implementation and no contracts were signed, only a global commitment for EUR 1 190 000.

In 2023 two new contracts will be signed implementing the global commitment made in 2022:

- One to cover support services from July 2023 to July 2024.
- One to conduct a study on the project to support decisions about its possible continuation.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 Decisions for the project, adopted in March 2021 and in March 2022 as part of DG Communication Work Programme, set out the main elements of the implementation. They are available on the web page dedicated to the annual [Work Programmes of DG Communication](#).

Since March 2022, the [project website](#) is available as a part of the interinstitutional EU website (europa.eu).

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

This pilot project has been assigned category B during evaluation. Hence, there are no similar activities which are already covered by a legal basis.

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

At this stage, no follow up is envisaged due to early stage of pilot project implementation. This may be revisited when further results become available. A study to this aim will be conducted in the second half of 2023.

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	490 500,00	300 000,00	p.m.	494 300	p.m.	98 100	0,0 %	-80,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	490 500,00	300 000,00	p.m.	494 300	p.m.	98 100	0,0 %	-80,2 %

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 were 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 were a 'Narrative report', a 'Report and visualisation of media representation dynamics' and a contractual Midterm report.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

A new call for proposals was closed 15th March 2023. The follow-up project is supposed to start in June 2023.

The new project is tasked to continue the ongoing activities with a focus on social media and the use of technologies such as AI.

4.4. 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	10 June 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	10 August 2021
Award decision	29 October 2021
Pre-financing payment	February 2022
Interim payment	N/A
Final payment	September 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	second quarter 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	third quarter /2023 – second quarter 2024
Final payment	first quarter 2025

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)
Received proposals under evaluation		490.500

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 E&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 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 989 412.00	7 830.00	1 000 000	1 406 000	p.m.	1 579 456	-100.0 %	12.3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0.0 %
Total	2 989 412.00	7 830.00	1 000 000	1 406 000	p.m.	1 579 456	-100.0 %	12.3 %

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 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 European 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 will start in 2023.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The key activity for 2023 will be the Heritage Hub Forum , which will take place in Venice in September.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022

Step	Date
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	August 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	October 2022
Award decision	December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	March 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 tender	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A
Award decision	April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2023 and August 2024
Final payment	August 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

The project activities include:

- A knowledge hub
- A networking hub
- A training and competency hub
- A policy labA programme development lab

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

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 will be made 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](#)

Call documents are available [at the Funding and Tender opportunities portal](#).

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	990 500,00	0,00	p.m.	742 876	p.m.	495 250	0,0 %	-33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	990 500,00	0,00	p.m.	742 876	p.m.	495 250	0,0 %	-33,3 %

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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of an open call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

N/A, as the call was only launched end of the year.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: evaluation of proposals to be carried out in March and Grant Agreement to be signed in April;
- Deliverables to be submitted: interim report after the first edition of the Festival in third quarter 2023;
- Meetings to take place: first edition of the Festival in third quarter 2023.

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

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	Q2 2023
Pre-financing	Q2 2023
Interim and Final payment	March 2024/ November 2024 (tbc)

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

These details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 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’s 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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	990 500,00	0,00	1 990 500	947 625	p.m.	800 000	-100,0 %	-15,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	990 500,00	0,00	1 990 500	947 625	p.m.	800 000	-100,0 %	-15,6 %

3. Objectives

The aim of this action is to stimulate a regular data collection on homelessness at the local level. It is continuation of the pilot project `European Homelessness Count` (to be implemented in 2023 - 2024) which focuses on 1) identifying a common operational definition of homelessness and a common data collection methodology, 2) 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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of procurement (open call for tenders covering 2022 and 2023 budgets).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Activities to be carried out starting in the last quarter of 2023 and in 2024:

- identify a common operational definition of homelessness and a common data collection methodology;
- organisation and coordination of one common simultaneous European homelessness count in selected cities;
- produce a database with the data collected and an analysis of the results of the counting, as well as of the implementation of the methodology

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations for the 1st phase of the contract

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 April 2022
Publication of call for tender	21 March 2023
Closing date of call for tender	22 May 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2023
Final payment	November 2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations for the 2nd phase of the contract

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 March 2023
Publication of call for tender	21 March 2023
Closing date of call for tender	22 May 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2024 (after renewal of the contract for a further 12 months)
Final payment	November 2025

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

Since the implementation of this pilot project will start in the last quarter of 2023 (joined call for tenders under 2022 and 2023 budgets), these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

Participation in this call for tenders is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties, as well as to 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 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, set out the main elements of the implementation.

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 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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 490 500,00	0,00	1 500 000	1 383 350	p.m.	994 000	-100,0 %	-28,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 490 500,00	0,00	1 500 000	1 383 350	p.m.	994 000	-100,0 %	-28,1 %

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 will 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.

4.1.1 Grants

The pilot project will be implemented through a call for proposals. The selected projects should be led by organisations active in the sport sector.

4.1.2 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.

4.1.3 Experts

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

A call for proposals was published and the evaluation of applications received commenced in 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

With regard to 2022 appropriations: During the first half of the year, the evaluation has been finalised and 5 projects with the highest scores have been selected in view of supporting activities relevant for this pilot project. The contractualisation process is expected to be finalised in second-third quarter of the year.

With regard to 2023 appropriations: The Call for proposals will be launched and evaluation will commence in the second half of the year.

The expected results include:

- collecting and sharing knowledge on new behavioural approaches needed to make the sport sector more environmentally sustainable;
- develop approaches and 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 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 2024

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	August 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	October 2022
Award decision	March 2022
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 tender	July 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	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 (WWbR)	Fédération Française d'Aviron	271 764.00
Community Climate Captains	STICHTING EUROPEAN FOOTBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT NETWORK	291 040.00
Golf & Biodiversity	Fédération Française de Golf	93 500.00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- Organisations active in the field of sport (such a sport 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:

[Decision: adoption of the 2023 Annual Work Programme for the implementation of pilot projects projects and preparatory actions \(education, youth, sport and culture\) | 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, but to be considered later when project implementation is more advanced and mature.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PP 07 22 05: Pilot project — Supporting local and regional news media in face of emerging ‘news deserts’

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 990 000,00	0,00	p.m.	597 000	p.m.	795 902	0,0 %	33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 990 000,00	0,00	p.m.	597 000	p.m.	795 902	0,0 %	33,3 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this pilot project is to support the mapping of the local and regional media landscape in the Member States, identifying existing or potential ‘news deserts’, and to provide such local, regional or community media with a tailored support in areas where the local or community news offer is strained.

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

The call was finalised and the award decision signed in November 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023:

- Activities to be carried out: roll-out of the mapping/research in 2023, together with the publication of preliminary results in April/May. Publication of the first call of the Media Funding scheme in March 2023 (together with the association selection process) and publication of the second call towards the end of 2023.
- Deliverables to be submitted: it is agreed to slightly delay the publication of the mapping to January 2024 (together with country factsheets and interactive map). The interim technical report is due from December 2023.
- Meetings to take place: monitoring meeting every month to follow the development of the project, as well as additional meetings for important milestones (e.g. ahead of the publication of the media funding scheme on 23 March; to take stop of the mapping task; together with the interim technical report).

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	June 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	September 2022
Award decision	November 2022
Prefinancing payment	February 2023
Interim payment	February 2024
Final payment	November 2024

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
LM4D – Local Media for Democracy	EFJ - EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS	1.989.754,34

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

News media organisations or organisations active in, or with proven expertise in the media domain, including non profit organisations (private or public), CSOs, public authorities, research centres, profit-making entities, international organisations, universities and educational institutions.

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 was adopted on 25 February 2022, setting out the main elements of the implementation of the pilot project. It is available [here](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: [Supporting local and regional news media in face of emerging news deserts | Shaping Europe’s digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

Due to the particular nature of the action (mapping and the financing of innovative practices for local media), the activities cannot be covered by existing legal bases, like that of the Creative Europe and the Horizon Europe programmes.

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

The pilot did not receive further allocations in 2023. The Commission has reflected parts of this pilot under the 2023 Creative Europe Work Programme (‘Pluralism’ topic under the Journalism Partnerships) which covers certain objectives in this same domain (e.g. supporting local and regional media, bringing more pluralism on the market). The related call for proposals has closed in April 2023.

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		2 500 000	625 000	p.m.	1 250 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 500 000	625 000	p.m.	1 250 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The Platform should make use of available resources to provide better access for content aggregation, discovery and search with a recommendation system functioning in line with democratic values, a translation system, and facilitating streaming, thereby providing a pluralistic view of content. All the necessary building blocks for the realisation of this project are available and merely need to be brought together, by yet anticipating future trends towards augmented content presentation and AI-supported operations.

The Pilot Project will consider the need to be eventually organised in the form of a legal person, and a resulting digital aggregation support for the vast diversity of European cultural content, also based on a fair recommender system and standards designed in line with European rights and values. The project will make the rich cultural and democratic mix of public and private television news, documentary, and infotainment production in all Member states accessible to all citizens of the EU.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for tender	Q3 2023
Closing date of call for call for tender	Q3 2023
Award decision	Q3-Q4 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- 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](#).

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?

As the implementation is only in its initial stage it too early to reply to this question.

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 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	1 260 000	-100,0 %	152,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	1 260 000	-100,0 %	152,0 %

3. Objectives

This pilot project will focus on encouraging community integration of children and youth. By improving their mental well-being by attending sport sessions, these individuals will eventually become ready to adjust to their new environment. Sport activities, with their power of bringing people together, will 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 will 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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of grants, procurement and contracting experts.

4.1.1 Grants

The pilot project will be implemented through a call for proposals. The selected projects should be led by grassroots sport organisations organising sport activities at local level.

4.1.2 Procurement

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. This will be developed through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures and will be in line with the Commission's prevailing communication and visibility requirements.

4.1.3 Experts

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals..

4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Activities, games and sports must be designed in order to meet specific social and psychosocial goals. They need to be age appropriate, culturally appropriate and be considered in respect to the gender roles in the community. Building on the existing physical capacities of participants, experienced coaches will help them feel comfortable by encouraging those performing skills that they already know. Therefore, cooperation between grassroots sports clubs and centres that could offer social, psychological or pedagogical support

would be important and required. This project would also involve, mainly as facilitators, sport federations. In addition, the purpose of this proposal is to inspire other sport clubs to set up support programmes by publishing and promoting experiences and good practices.

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 2024*

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	October 2023
Award decision	April 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	July 2024
Final payment	2026

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

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 EU 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>

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 as 2023 is the first year of implementation of the action.

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 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		3 000 000	750 000	p.m.	1 500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		3 000 000	750 000	p.m.	1 500 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

3. Objectives

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine, the following eradication of independent media 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 EU 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 of the countries affected, also whilst journalists and media are working from an exile. The broader aim is to make Europe a safer place by helping the peoples of these 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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Publication of the call – mid-April (until mid-May)
 - Evaluation of the results of the call, preparation of the grant (mid-May - June)
 - Signature of the grant and start of the pilot (July)
- Deliverables to be submitted: none
- Meetings to take place: none

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	second to third quarter 2023
Closing date of call for call for proposals	second to third quarter 2023
Award decision	third to fourth quarter 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	third to fourth quarter 2023
Final payment	fourth quarter 2024 – first quarter 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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(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?

Council conclusions on the protection and safety of journalists and other media professionals (21 June 2022) called to support independent and exiled journalists and media professionals, particularly from countries such as Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation, in light of their individual situations and causes of exile. This support could be, where relevant, professional, financial, social, administrative or legal assistance, including from the private sector, and would be aimed at creating safe working conditions and assisting in the resumption of their professional activity, for example through residencies or initiatives facilitating the identification of employment opportunities.

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

No follow up is envisaged due to the very specific nature of this project.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PP 07 23 05: Pilot project — Feasibility Study for a social reuse of the assets frozen and confiscated as a result of EU sanctions adopted following Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
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

The study will deliver an analysis of the relevant international, European and national legislative frameworks, including customary law as appropriate, and their implementation to explore the extent to which the legislation of the EU and Member States, notably drawing from examples in third countries, allows for asset recovery and the use of frozen assets (or the proceeds stemming from the sale of confiscated assets) for social purposes, notably for the benefit of Ukrainian people. The study could also look into issues connected with certain goods or categories of goods, which are affected by EU sanctions as well. The study should also explore possibilities to manage and invest Russian ‘immobilised’ public assets, in particular Russian Central Bank’s assets, to the benefit of Ukraine.

After estimating, to the extent possible, the realistic amount that could be collected via confiscating assets or otherwise managing immobilised ones, the study could suggest mechanisms for the allocation of resources to potential beneficiaries and envisage possible criteria for distribution.

Where allowed, the recovery and use of the assets owned or controlled by persons or entities initially targeted by EU sanctions and the managed of immobilised assets, in particular Russian Central Bank’s assets, might serve multiple goals and objectives of the EU. The study should analyse the feasibility of the use and management of these assets for social purposes, such as the use of proceeds for compensation claims, for the recovery or reconstruction of Ukraine, or to support the Member States in their efforts to welcome and support people fleeing the war against Ukraine, as well as possible combinations among these options.

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 tender.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Not applicable

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Meeting: kick off meeting and formal meeting to present the results of the interim report.

Deliverables: kick-off (four weeks after the signature of the contract) and interim report meeting (6 months after the signature of the contract).

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

2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 November 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	7 March 2023 (prolongation granted until 10 March 2023)
Award decision	2 nd quarter of 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	1 st quarter of 2024
Final payment	2 nd quarter of 2024

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

The Award decision is planned to be adopted in the 2nd quarter of 2023, therefore, the type of contractors are not yet known.

5. Documentation and expected results

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

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 25 November 2022, set out the main elements of the implementation [C\(2022\)8454 adopted on 25/11/2022](#).

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 follow up is envisaged at this stage.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PP 08 19 01: Pilot project — Developing a farmers’ toolbox for integrated pest management practices from across the Union

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2019 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 662 823,75	p.m.	917 500	p.m.	458 750	0,0 %	-50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 662 823,75	p.m.	917 500	p.m.	458 750	0,0 %	-50,0 %

3. Objectives

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of studies via a procurement procedure (open call for tenders). It was decided to use the commitment voted under the 2019 and 2020 EU budgets in two steps: for the 2019 appropriations, a contract has been awarded and signed in December 2020, and for the 2020 appropriations-, a contract has been awarded and signed in December 2021.

The overall purpose of this pilot project is to assess integrated pest management (IPM) measures taken in each of the Member States, including farmland managed under IPM, collecting evidence of pesticide use reduction and gather information on the practices applied. It will also investigate the obstacles to further uptake of IPM. The project will identify and propose effective approaches to IPM and develop a toolbox to enable farmers to significantly reduce the use of pesticide and to scale up relevant practices throughout Europe, also with the help of the post-2020 CAP instruments.

The specific objectives of the first part of this pilot project are:

- 1) To provide a comprehensive description of the currently available implementing approaches (e.g., policies, agricultural practices, technologies, private sector initiatives such as certifications) to reduce dependency on pesticides use.
- 2) To assess the potential of the approaches identified in objective 1 for reducing the dependency on pesticide use, and to prove their effectiveness as well as barriers (real or perceived) that limit their uptake. In particular, the study should list and assess the barriers and explain their roots and possible ways to overcome them.
- 3) To propose specific strategies on how to scale up good practices throughout the EU. This includes increased research and knowledge transfer between sectors, including experience gained in organic farming, permaculture, and conservation agriculture that does not lead to higher pesticide use. The contractor should also identify a suitable communication strategy to disseminate and promote the use of the database.
- 4) To set up an EU-wide database containing the relevant information and guidance to enable farmers and advisory services to reduce the dependency on pesticide use

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of tenders.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

The project, covering the 2019 commitment appropriations voted under the 2019 budget

- The final report and database were submitted in November 2022 and accepted on 15 December 2022.

The project, covering the 2020 commitment appropriations voted under the 2020 budget

- Activities carried out: The methodology adopted was applied to identify sustainable farming practices that allow to reduce the chemical pesticide use. Barriers for the application of IPM were also identified. The network of national contact point permitted to select technical information. The data collection, including amongst others the farm-level surveys, for feeding the analysis has started and data gaps have been identified. A conference providing the first feedback to stakeholders was held on 22 November 2022
- Deliverables submitted: Three interim reports and two progress reports were prepared and discussed with the steering group. The last steering group meeting was held on 28 October 2022. The contractor processed the feedback received at the conference and continued with the data collection.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The project, covering the 2020 commitment appropriations voted under the 2020 budget

- Activities to be carried out: The data collection will be continued and the analytical work will be finalised. A conference presenting the results will be organised.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Fourth interim report has been submitted on 19 January 2023, the fifth interim report is due by 19 April 2023, the preliminary final for July 2023, the Draft final for October 2022 and the final in November 2023.
- Meetings to take place: Following the submission of the fifth interim report the next interservice Steering Group will be organized.
- The third progress report is due by May 2023.

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

During 2023 a first feedback to stakeholders regarding the second project will be organised (first quarter of 2023) as well as a conference presenting the results (last quarter 2023). Final deliverable due for November 2023.

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	8 August 2019, C(2019)5847
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	14 July 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	3 September 2020, 12:00
Award decision	9 December 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	August 2021, February 2022, August 2022
Final payment	December 2022

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	27 May 2020, C(2020)3293
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	15 July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	21 September 2021
Award decision	December 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	June 2022, December 2022, July 2023
Final payment	December 2023

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project — Developing a Farmers’ Toolbox for Integrated Pest Management Practices from Across the Union	Joint tender submitted by: Arcadia International together with Ecorys Europe EEIG	993,765.00

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Pilot Project — Developing a Farmers’ Toolbox for Integrated Pest Management Practices from Across the Union: Converting Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) into Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN)	Joint tender submitted by: Ecorys Europe EEIG together with Stichting Wageningen Research and Arcadia International	1,835,000.00

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers

5. Documentation and expected results

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

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 8 August 2019 (C(2019)5847) and 27 May 2020 (C(2020)3293), set out the main elements of the implementation. [

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6729>

The award decision is available at the following address:

<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:340908-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

The study concerning the first part of the project is available at the following address: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cmef/sustainability/ipm-toolbox-farmers_en

The Database concerning the first part of the project is available at: <https://datam.jrc.ec.europa.eu/datam/mashup/IPM/index.html>

Information regarding the conference in 2023 is available at the following address: Not available yet

The project website is available at the following address: Not applicable

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

The European Commission (EC) contributes to the enforcement of the sustainable use of pesticides through its Framework Directive (Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides) that promotes the use and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.

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

No, follow up is envisaged via the Communication from the Commission regarding “A Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system” (20 May 2020, COM(2020)381final).

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	558 938	p.m.	745 250	0,0 %	33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 490 500,00	0,00	p.m.	558 938	p.m.	745 250	0,0 %	33,3 %

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 (1) setting up a database of underwater sounds (both biotic and abiotic) including information about their sources, (2) development, testing and assessing artificial intelligence algorithms for attribution of sources of underwater sounds and (3) 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

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

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.

The contract resulting from the award of this call for tenders will be concluded for at most 18 months. The evaluation of tenders is currently ongoing.

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

The deadline to submit tenders expired in February 2023. The duration of the contract is 18 months.

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2022)5010 (20/07/2022)
Publication of call for tender	4th quarter of 2022
Closing date of call for tender	1st quarter of 2023 (06/02/2023)
Award decision	2nd quarter of 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments (50%)	1st quarter of 2024
Final payment	1st quarter of 2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since the evaluation procedure is still ongoing, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

This information is not known yet as the evaluation is still ongoing.

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 (C(2022)5010 (20/07/2022))
- Call for tenders CINEA/2022/OP/0019

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.

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		1 500 000	375 000	p.m.	750 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		1 500 000	375 000	p.m.	750 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

3. Objectives

The overall purpose of this pilot project is to gather data and information about the transformation of practices with regard to the percentage of organic products in collective catering/public canteens. The gathered information would be useful also to exchange good practices between European territorial actors. This would allow not only identifying the current blockages but also the levers, the tools and the possible roads towards a successful food transition.

The specific objectives of the first part of this pilot project can be gathered around a practical tool based on 3 axes:

1) The establishment of a European observatory, as light as possible in order to quickly collect practices and emerging projects in the field of collective catering throughout the European Union. This collection should identify blockages and facilitate the reading of the changes that are taking place in the territories that have chosen to integrate organic products in their canteens.

It should allow:

- to evaluate how the legislation on Green Public Procurement impacts the sector of organic farming and food.
- to study the practices and approaches of local authorities in order to characterize transitions, identify innovations (including educational ones, particularly in schools) and emerging issues.
- to provide valuable information on the financial approach of local communities and authorities in introducing organic food in canteens (notably how they integrate/mitigate costs).
- to improve educational programs on organic food in schools by reinforcing their information and education component on good nutrition
- to evaluate the link between food waste reduction and the introduction of organic food in public canteens
- to follow issues/opportunities regarding the nutritional quality of organic meals/meals with organic ingredients
- to measure the involvement of local actors in the organization of collective catering, including farmers.

2) The creation of a "European club of territories" to offer a space for exchange and sharing to elected officials and local stakeholders on the introduction of organic food in canteens.

3) The creation of a practical guide for elected officials and local stakeholders on how to best organise locally in order to introduce organic food in canteens, to transform the practices in canteens towards more sustainability and to give back to local stakeholders a capacity of action on the food system.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of studies via a procurement procedure (open call for tenders).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- NA

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Preparing and launching the call for tenders

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

The duration of the Pilot Project is extended to 36 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	2 nd quarter of 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	3 rd quarter of 2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	3 rd to 4 th quarter of 2023
Award decision	4 th quarter of 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	June and December 2024
Final payment	June 2026

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

Since the contract has not yet been awarded, 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?

Since the Financing Decision and tender documents are under preparation, these details are not known yet.

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?

Since the contract has not yet been awarded, these details are not yet known.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PP 09 20 01: Pilot project — Making the Iron Gate dams passable for Danube sturgeon

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	799 999,20	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	600 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	799 999,20	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	600 000	0,0 %	

3. Objectives

The objectives of this pilot project is to assess technical solutions for opening a migration route for sturgeon at the Iron Gate hydropower dams on the Danube river on the border between Romania and Serbia. The project will involve many actors in different sectors e.g. biologists, hydrologists, sturgeon experts, fish migration experts etc.

The project will look at the following aspects: fish behaviour i.e. upstream and downstream migrations as well as survival rate at the Iron Gates I and II turbines, hydraulic modelling, integrated analyses of the different upstream and downstream solutions for fish migration, organisation of workshop(s) to discuss and review these technical solutions with sturgeon and fish migration experts etc. The outcome of this project will be a comprehensive feasibility study analysing the options to establish fish migration at the Iron Gates.

Prior to publication of the call for tender, interested Directorates General of the Commission (e.g. DG REGIO, DG NEAR, DG ENER) were consulted and their input was taken into account when finalising the tender specifications. The call for tender was published on 16/09/2020 and the closing date was 19/10/2020 (see 5.2).

The project will have clear EU added value as it will contribute to achieving the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive as well as the Bern Convention. It will also promote cross-border co-operation between the EU and its neighbours.

4. Implementation

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

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

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The contract was signed in March 2021; the (inception) meeting took place between the Commission and the contractor in April 2021. Thereafter, the inception report was finalised taking into account the comments provided during the kick-off meeting.

Progress meetings are organised regularly, approximately every 6 months, to take stock of the progress of the work and address any difficulties that may arise in the implementation of this contract.

In September 2022, the draft interim report was submitted in accordance with the contract. The interim report covered a) the draft specific report on the monitoring of migratory fish at the Iron Gates b) the progress report on hydraulic modelling and c) progress report of all the other deliverables i.e. preliminary design of fish passes and communication activities detailing the planned execution of the activities for the remaining period. Since the submission of the interim report coincided with the 3rd progress meeting, a presentation followed by discussions took place during that meeting. Overall, the project is going according to plan.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

A stakeholder workshop will be organised in May 2023 in which consortium members and other international experts on fish migration facilities and sturgeon behaviour will discuss the priority areas for fish migration at the Iron Gates Dams identified in this pilot project and conclude on the preferred ones.

Based on the outcome of the workshop, the consultant will develop a preliminary design (e.g. cost estimation) for the preferred options for fish migration restoration at the Iron Gates, which will to be translated, in a following stage, into construction plans by engineering companies.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 August 2020
Publication of call for proposals	16 September 2020
Closing date of call for proposals	19 October 2020
Award decision	29 January 2021
Interim payments	2021 and 2022
Final payment	2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Making the Iron Gates Dams Passable for Danube Sturgeon	CDM Smith ConsultGmbH, Germany	1 999 998

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

The beneficiary is a consortium led by a private company.

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 04/08/2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The call documents and the award decision are available at the [following address](#).

The project website⁶ is available at the following address: [WePass2 - CDM Smith](#)

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 in terms of legislative proposal. Once the feasibility study is completed, the necessary funds need to be found for the next steps i.e. work performed by an engineering company for the construction/building of the fish pass.

⁶ “WePass2” was selected to best capture what matters most about this project 1) building on the momentum of the WePass project (<https://www.we-pass.org/>) 2) the “We” at the core of the entire project, referring to the citizens and countries that make up the Danube River Basin, as well as the fish most closely affected, that form a part of our shared ecosystem. 3) the “Pass”: highlighting the key objective - to find a way to pass the Danube dams without disrupting their function.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PP 09 22 01: Pilot project — Biodiversity-climate nexus fund

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	250 000,00	0,00	p.m.	100 000	p.m.	100 000	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	250 000,00	0,00	p.m.	100 000	p.m.	100 000	0,0 %	0,0 %

3. Objectives

Climate change and biodiversity loss are interdependent. Climate change impacts the ecosystems and changes the habitats of species, which impacts their ability to survive. The more the temperatures rise, the fewer species will be able to survive. On the other hand, poor ecosystem health exacerbates the effects of climate change, when healthy ecosystems mitigate the impacts of climate change. Still, climate change gets much more attention in the public debates compared to biodiversity. Through carbon offsets and compensations, it is in principle possible to better link climate to biodiversity. Currently, many voluntary offset schemes exist, but there is no guarantee of their real-life impact and they risk to be greenwashing. This pilot project would explore how the climate offsets and compensations, and maybe Emission Trading System in the future can be linked to directly benefit biodiversity conservation and restoration.

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 proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In 2022, the financing decision was prepared and adopted.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The call for proposals was launched on 15 March 2023. The deadline for submission of proposals is 30 June 2023. The award decision is expected for the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2023 and following that the project implementation will start.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 June 2022
Publication of call for proposals	1 st quarter of 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	2 nd quarter of 2023
Award decision	3 rd /4 th quarter 2023
Prefinancings	2023 and 2024
Final payment	2025

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Biodiversity climate nexus funds	Not yet known	250 000,00 EUR

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

Not known yet. It will be one of the types listed below:

- 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 Commission Financing Decision C(2022)3522 was adopted on 03/06/2022 and sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#).

Call documents are 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 envisaged for now.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PP 09 22 02: Pilot project — Port Electricity Commercial Model

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	350 025,00	0,00	p.m.	97 625	p.m.	245 018	0,0 %	151,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	350 025,00	0,00	p.m.	97 625	p.m.	245 018	0,0 %	151,0 %

3. Objectives

- Develop an economically and technically feasible port electricity commercial model, which involves:
 - Understanding operations and energy management of ports, including impacts in terms of energy use, GHG emissions and other benefits;
 - Understanding the barriers to developing commercial models for electrification of ports and how to overcome them and
 - Identifying alternative commercial models of port electrification and understanding their inherent advantages and disadvantages in terms of cost-benefits, feasibility and replicability.
- Explore the potential and needs of ports in relation to the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy and the implementation of the TEN-E regulation across all the areas of coverage, including hydrogen and smart gas grids

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this pilot project by means of a specific Contract via tender. The Commission launched the Request for services n° ener/c1/2022-475 in the context of the framework contract with re-opening of competition move/ener/srd/2020/op/0008 lot 2 for socio-economic assistance in the field of energy with a deadline of 2nd of September 2022.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Inception of the project following the kick-off meeting
- Deliverables submitted: n/a
- Meetings held: Kick-off meeting on 9 December 2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Inception Report (was submitted in February 2023)
- Deliverables to be submitted: 1st Interim Report by May to cover preliminary findings under Tasks 1 and 2 and approach for Tasks 3 and 4; 2nd Interim Report by September 2023 to cover Tasks 1 and 2 and preliminary findings under Tasks 3 and 4
- Meetings to take place: 1st Interim meeting in June, 2 Interim meeting in November 2023

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2022
Publication of call for tender	July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2022
Award decision	17 October 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2023
Final payment	Q2 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Port Electricity Commercial Model (Pilot Project)	Trinomics B.V.	350 025

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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) 3333, adopted on 25 May 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

The Commission is not aware of such activities – hence the proposal was considered as technically implementable and project was launched.

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 action due to the nature of the project aimed at providing recommendations to relevant market actors to adapt/ develop clean energy commercial model in ports within the context of the existing legislation and policy framework. The objective of this project is to significantly improve the environmental and energy performance of ports transforming them into a greener, technologically advanced pillar of the EU maritime industry.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PP 09 22 03: Pilot project — Study for High-Cadence Monitoring for the EU Green Deal

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 €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	990 500,00	0,00	p.m.	742 875	p.m.	693 350	0,0 %	-6,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	990 500,00	0,00	p.m.	742 875	p.m.	693 350	0,0 %	-6,7 %

3. Objectives

Objective of the study is to identify complementarities between existing and new (space) commercial capabilities (detailed and near-real time observations) and Copernicus and analyse future aspects of pairing Copernicus capabilities with European new space solutions (hybrid constellations) to support governments in their efforts to combat climate change.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission is implementing this pilot project by means of a tender

4.2. Previous years' implementation

Call for tenders was launched in November 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Evaluation of the offers.
- Contract Award
- First part of the project

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	(C(2022)6775 - 27/09/2022)
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	November 2022

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	13 January 2023
Award decision	April 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	2 nd quarter 2023
Final payment	2 nd quarter 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

Since 2023 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?*

COMMISSION DECISION on the financing of the pilot project ‘Study for High-Cadence Monitoring for the EU Green Deal’ relating to 'EU Space Programme' and on the adoption of the work programme for 2022

C(2022)6775 - 27/09/2022

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 at this stage of the project. Depending on the final outcomes discussions with relevant DG may be started in order to integrate Copernicus monitoring capabilities in legislation.

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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		700 000	175 000	p.m.	280 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		700 000	175 000	p.m.	280 000	-100,0 %	60,0 %

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)⁷ 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 intends to implement this pilot project by means of call for tender.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: launching the call for tender and award.
- Meetings to take place: kick – off meeting with the selected contractor (after the contract signature)

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	2 nd quarter 2023
Publication of call for tender	2 nd quarter 2023
Closing date of call for tender	3 rd quarter 2023
Award decision	4 th quarter 2023
Interim payments	2024
Final payment	2025

⁷ 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

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

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 to be adopted in the 2nd quarter of 2022, 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 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 €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		4 500 000	1 125 000	p.m.	1 375 000	-100,0 %	22,2 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		4 500 000	1 125 000	p.m.	1 375 000	-100,0 %	22,2 %

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 EU 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 tender, direct grant and an administrative agreement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

In 2023, the Financing decision will adopted, the calls for tender procedures will be launched, the direct grant, and the administrative agreement with the JRC will be signed.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	2 nd quarter 2023
Publication of calls for tender	2 nd to 3 rd quarter 2023
Closing date of calls for tender	2 nd to 3 rd quarter 2023
Award decision	3 rd to 4 th quarter 2023
Interim payments	2024 and 2025
Final payment	2026
Signature of direct grant	1 th quarter 2024
Prefinancing	2024 and 2025
Final payment	2026
Signature of the administrative agreement with JRC	2 nd to 3 rd quarter 2023
Interim payment	2023
Final payment	2026

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this pilot project, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- non-governmental organisations
- 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, expected to be adopted in the 2nd quarter of 2022, will set out the main elements of the implementation

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.

II. PA: Preparatory actions

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 01 19 01: Preparatory action — Preparing the new EU GOVSATCOM programme

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2019 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 945 899,86	p.m.	1 300 000	p.m.	1 240 000	0,0 %	-4,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 945 899,86	p.m.	1 300 000	p.m.	1 240 000	0,0 %	-4,6 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this Preparatory Action is to provide the basis for the operational implementation of GOVSATCOM from 2021 defined in the Space Programme Regulation. The Preparatory Action is supporting a series of activities, including:

- System architecture and demonstration projects for the GOVSATCOM Hub, the new ground infrastructure needed to connect the users with GOVSATCOM capacity and service providers;
- The analysis of the various GOVSATCOM use-cases in order to derive the operational and security requirements.
- The analysis and foresight of the GOVSATCOM supply and demand, with specific attention to the geographic distribution;
- Risk and threat analysis and other analysis required for the Security Requirements;
- Analysis of GOVSATCOM as a building block towards a secure space connectivity system
- Outreach and communication activities.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement the budget by procurements, by direct management, and partly by indirect management by entrusting €4,5m for specific tasks to GSA.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
GOVSATCOM Communication and outreach activities	Spacetec et al.	457 433
Technical support for the GOVSATCOM Preparatory Action	Rhea System SA	119 111

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Union Governmental Satellite Communications (EU GOVSATCOM) Hubs and other activities	GSA (indirect management)	4 500 000
GOVSATCOM and EuroQCI: Building Blocks Towards a Secure Space Connectivity System	Airbus SA et al.	4 429 630
Technical support for the GOVSATCOM Preparatory Action	Rhea System SA	493 826

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023 - None

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024 - None

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2019) 1646 final amended to include indirect management C(2019) 8724 final (29/11/2019)
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Preliminary Market Analysis for the GOVSATCOM Hub May 2019 Direct management first Call for Tender November 2019 Indirect management, contribution agreement 4.5 M€: Signed 07 April 2020 (amendment N°3 8 of March 2023, Time extension until 30 th of June 2025) Indirect management first Call for Tender September 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Direct management first closing date Call for Tender December 2019. Indirect management first closing date Call for Tender September 2020
Award decision	Direct management first Award decision November 2019 Indirect management first Award decision November 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	Indirect management: 1 ST Pre financing April 2020: 1.2 M€ Part of 4.5 M€ 2 nd Pre financing February 2021: 295K€ and 3 rd Pre financing February 2022: 1.365M€
Final payment	Q2 2023 and last payment in indirect management foreseen in Q2 2024

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	C(2019) 1646 final amended to include indirect management C(2019) 8724 final (29/11/2019)
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Direct management September 2020 Indirect management October 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Direct management November 2020 Indirect management January 2021
Award decision	Direct management December 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	Direct management January 2021
Final payment	Direct management Q1 2023

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes
- 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, adopted on 5 March 2019, and its amended version C(2019)8724 final adopted on 29 November 2019 set out the main elements of this preparatory action.

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

The award decision is 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, the Commission intends to follow up this Preparatory Action with the GOVSATCOM component of the 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 of 28 April 2021.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 719 885	p.m.	1 470 439	0,0 %	-14,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 719 885	p.m.	1 470 439	0,0 %	-14,5 %

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 has finished on 31-12-2022. 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 ant 4 major art centers across Europe: MAXXI (Rome), ZKM (Karlsruhe), MEET (Milano), and BOZAR/500aire (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).

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The second and third year preparatory actions - PA – have been implemented via grants in an open call for proposals in 2022 merging the budgets of 2021 (1.5MEUR) and 2022 (2.5MEUR) into one call for 3.75MEUR to finance three projects with maximum 1.25MEUR.

Three projects were selected that will start April 1st 2023. The three projects will implement STARTS residencies (that is grants to artists willing to work with industry or technology institutions) implemented via an open call for artists. They will organise high levels exhibitions where the results of these residencies will be presented.

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

– 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	21st June 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	28th September 2022
Award decision	November 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2023/May 2024
Final payment	May 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

- 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 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

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 PAs 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 program has resulted in an increased interest for industry in linking to art. This has led to new initiatives across EU (including links to New European Bauhaus). There is a potential idea to link the ideas of art and technology synergies to the structural funds program. But 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 program around New European Bauhaus).

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 01 21 01: Preparatory action — Advancing evidence for policy at EU, regional and local level

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	65 195,63	p.m.	275 000	p.m.	400 000	0,0 %	45,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	65 195,63	p.m.	275 000	p.m.	400 000	0,0 %	45,5 %

3. Objectives

Building on the successful results achieved during the pilot phase, the preparatory action aims at strengthening local science for policy ecosystems through the following objectives:

1. Building awareness and mutual understanding at regional, interregional and national level on policy-relevant questions and the kind of evidence needed to answer them;
2. Supporting regional and local decision-makers and policymakers to develop skills to understand, obtain, assess and utilise targeted, reliable high-quality evidence as well as engaging with stakeholders;
3. Creating a community of practitioners across Europe that share experiences and knowledge in order to enhance the local ecosystem for EIPM;

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of different procurement strategies, such as use of framework contract for event management and by launching dedicated calls for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
 - Drafting and adoption of the Financing Decision
 - Launch of 2 calls for expression of interest for the organisation of events and innovation camps in the course of 2022 and 2023
 - Launch of one call for expression of interest for the organisation of pairing schemes for local and regional policymakers and scientists
 - Launch of a call for tenders for policymaking trainings
 - Launch of a call for tenders on deliberative techniques for citizen engagement
- Deliverables submitted: signature of 22 contracts, out of which nine specific contracts within the framework contract for event management
- Meetings held:
 - Online event on February 11, 2022 to launch the participatory events and innovation camps strand of activities
 - Kick-off meetings (throughout 2022) with all the selected entities for the two calls for expression of interest for the organisation of events and innovation camps
 - Online launch event on 21 November 2022 of pairing schemes
 - Kick-off meetings (in the second half of 2022) with all selected entities that will be organising pairing schemes of researchers and policymakers

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Organisation of and scientific and methodological support to several regional and local participatory events and innovation camps; organisation of local and regional pairing schemes for policymakers and scientists; drafting of a final report on the project, including an impact assessment and recommendations for follow-up initiatives
- Deliverables to be submitted:

- Individual reporting from regional events and innovation camps;
- Final report (planned for autumn 2023)
- Meetings to take place: high level closing event bringing together the participants in all SMR strands of work, 27-28 September 2023

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Month 6 2021

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May-June 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September-October 2022
Award decision	November 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	January-June 2023
Final payment	2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

No commitment appropriations distributed in 2023

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

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Events and innovation camps – single regions and cities	MCI Benelux (SCIC framework contract)	677 134,00
Events and innovation camps – multiregional networks	MCI Benelux (SCIC framework contract)	172 448,07
Trainings for Policymakers	Institute for Future-Fit Economies	280 100,00
Training on deliberative practices	Fonden Teknologiradet *Danish Board	19 000,00
Pairing schemes	Goethe University (DE), University of Ruse (BG), The Young Academy of Belgium (BE), Palacky University (CZ), BETA Technological Center (ES), Ciencia en el Parlamento (ES), University of Granada (ES), Radboud University (NL), Krakow Technology Park (PL)	132 047,62
Overall methodological guidance	Futour	14 980,00
SMR closing event – including subcontracting to experts involved in the final evaluation	MCI Benelux (SCIC framework contract)	135 789,78

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers (for event management services and methodological support)
- research institutes / academia (for the training and pairing scheme activities)

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 June 2021, 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. While there are currently no concrete plans for a legislative proposal, JRC is considering how to consolidate and pursue the benefits of the action working in close collaboration with relevant Commission services.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 01 21 02: Preparatory action — Increasing accessibility to educational tools in areas and communities with low connectivity or access to technologies

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 777 500,00	p.m.	355 500	p.m.	237 000	0,0 %	-33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 777 500,00	p.m.	355 500	p.m.	237 000	0,0 %	-33,3 %

3. Objectives

Objectives of this preparatory action are:

- This action aims at addressing **inequalities** of access to digital education by enhancing **inclusion** and by reducing the **digital gap** suffered by pupils from **remote areas** and **communities** with low **connectivity**, limited or no access to **devices** and **digital educational tools** and **content**.
- This action aims at developing a **strategy** designed to increase access to digital education in the EU remote areas and communities that mostly need such support.
- The action will also run deployment actions in primary, secondary and vocational schools in order to **implement** and **test** some of the most suitable technical solutions to reduce the digital gap suffered by pupils from remote areas and communities. These deployment actions will be accompanied by targeted educational consultation and training services for schools and teachers.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by a grant via a call for proposal.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- The preparatory action started its activities on 1 February 2022 and the kick-off meeting of the project took place on the 1 and 2 of March 2022.
- Learning from the Extremes Open Call for financial support to remote schools was open from 15 May 2022 to 30 September 2022. 290 applications from schools were submitted in the 10 selected countries. 76 pilot projects were selected and 123 schools participate in the pilots. The list of selected schools can be found in the link [Call's Results - Learning from the Extremes](#) or the public deliverable 4.2. The funding is between 10 to 20k Euros and the duration of the selected projects is up to 12 months. The contracts with the pilots were signed end of the year 2022.
- Public deliverables are available here: [Project's Deliverables - Learning from the Extremes](#)

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- First review meeting is scheduled for 28 March 2023
- In 2023 the implementation, assessment and reporting on the school pilots will take place.
- Relevant final deliverables will be the Rural Schools Innovation Roadmap which will include ready-to-use guidelines and standards for technology take-up to facilitate the rural schools' transformation journey.

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
Prefinancing or interim payments	February 2022, November 2022
Final payment	May 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
LfE - Learning from the Extremes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. INSTITOUTO EKPEDEFTIKIS POLITIKIS, Greece 2. ELLINOGERMANIKI AGOGI SCHOLI PANAGEA SAVVA AE, Greece, 3. REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA, MINISTERIO DA EDUCACAO E CIENCIA, Portugal, 4. NUCLIO NUCLEO INTERACTIVO DE ASTRONOMIA ASSOCIACAO, Portugal, 5. REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, PAIDAGOGIKO INSTITOUTO KYPROU, Cyprus, 6. UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS, Cyprus, 7. HRVATSKA AKADEMSKA I ISTRAZIVACKA MREZA CARNET, Croatia, 8. THE PROVOST, FELLOWS, FOUNDATION SCHOLARS & THE OTHER MEMBERS OF BOARD, OF THE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY & UNDIVIDED TRINITY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH NEAR DUBLIN, Ireland, 9. JYVASKYLAN YLIOPISTO (JYU), Finland, 10. NATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK ASSOCIATION NIM NRN, Bulgaria, 11. NETCOMPANY-INTRASOFT SA, Luxembourg, 12. ELLINIKH ENOSH DHMOSIOGRAFON EPISTHMHS, SYGGRAFEON EPISTHMHS KAI EIKOINONIOLOGON EPISTHMHS ASTIKI ETAIREIA, Greece, 13. ATIT BVBA, Belgium, 14. COMMITTEE OF THE DUBLIN WEST EDUCATION CENTRE, Ireland. 	2.370.000

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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 04 May 2021, C(2021)3006 final, set out the main elements of the implementation.

It is available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-decision-financing-pilot-projects-and-preparatory-actions-field-communications-networks>

Call documents are available at the following address:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/pppa-2021-remotedigedu>

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 following: Over the last years, several new Commission initiatives have seen the light which address or will address some of the initial objectives of the preparatory action.

The Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) supports the sustainable and effective adaptation of the education and training systems of EU Member States to the digital age. The Europe's Digital Decade Communication sets digital targets for 2030 and includes among others the target regarding connectivity: Gigabit for everyone, 5G everywhere.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) provides funds to mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. Many Member states included in their national RRF plans reforms and investments in digital transformation of their educational systems. One of the requirements of the RRF, as also of other EU funding options, is to close the development gaps between the regions in individual Member states, for example to ensure that all students including disadvantaged students are involved in the planned action and access to education is guaranteed to all students, including for remote education. The RRF is in the field of digital education complimented with other EU funds like ERDF, ESF, CEF2 Digital.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 000 000,00	0,00	2 500 000	625 000	p.m.	2 300 000	-100,0 %	268,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	0,00	2 500 000	625 000	p.m.	2 300 000	-100,0 %	268,0 %

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, on a societal and on an individual level. Indeed, many of the goals identified in the UN SDG address awareness-raising and to ‘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, DG CNECT 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.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

A call for proposals will be launched in May 2023.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	May 2023
Closing date of call for call for proposals	August 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing payment	December 2023
Interim payment	July 2024
Final payment	July 2025

– 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 or interim payments	November 2024
Final payment	November 2026

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

2023 is the first year of implementation so these details are not known yet.

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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 C(2022)1052, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

It is available at the [following address](#):

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?

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	400 000	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	400 000	0,0 %	

3. Objectives

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.

Develop 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.

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 depending on sanitary conditions) 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 tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

N/A

4.3 Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Finalising tender specifications and call for tender to be launched in May 2023 with estimated contract to be signed before the end of the year

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for tender	May 2023
Closing date of call for call for tender	June 2023
Award decision	October 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q1 2024
Final payment	Q4 2025

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations – these details are not known yet as the call has not been finalised.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 25 February 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is 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 envisaged due to the early stage of the project 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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	750 000	0,0 %	-25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	750 000	0,0 %	-25,0 %

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.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this pilot project by means of procurement actions and pool of experts.

4.2. Previous years' implementation 2022

- Activities carried out:
 - Actions for the selection of experts: Two categories of experts were appointed: Dimension and Lead Area experts. 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).
 - Creation and management of the pool of experts. Contracts were established and signed at the end of 2022 for a total of 12 experts.
 - Selection and contracts signed of one external consultant for the design and development of 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.
 - Deliverables submitted: non applicable. First deliverables are expected to be submitted by the experts on the first quarter of 2023.
 - Meetings held: Weekly work meetings of the PA NEB team.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - The first experts (Dimension and Lead Area experts) are expected to provide a general overview of each dimension and main area and assisting in coordinating the work to be

providers by teams from a second group (tentatively some 24 experts), each one of whom will tackle a more specific working area (sub-areas).

- Creation and management of the pool of expert and contracts for the sub-areas.
- A group of IT developers will receive 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. Contracts will be established and signed.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Experts contracted in 2022 are starting to submit the first deliverables (task 1.1, 1.2. and 1.3. of ToR).
- Meetings to take place: Kick off meeting with the experts on A general workshop is planned at the middle and at the end of the preparatory action (precise dates still to be defined).

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2022
Award decision	October 2022
Interim payments	December 2022 – December 2023
Final payment	2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

No commitment appropriations distributed in 2023

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

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Expert contracts	Pool of experts contracts	540 000,00
IT support services	Fincons SPA	33 999,20
IT support services	European Dynamics Luxembourg SA ED	87 630,00
Expert contracts	To be defined by first semester of 2023	562 500,00
IT support services	To be defined by second semester of 2023	178 370,80
Workshops and meetings	To be defined by first semester of 2023	97 500,00
Service providers	Experts in the field of labelling. To be defined first semester of 2023	500 000,00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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, adopted on 25th May 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?*

No, no follow up is envisaged due to: the preparatory action is at an initial stage and will be develop during the next three years.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 01 22 04: Preparatory action — The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	525 000,00	0,00	p.m.	262 500	p.m.	338 839	0,0 %	29,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	525 000,00	0,00	p.m.	262 500	p.m.	338 839	0,0 %	29,1 %

3. Objectives

Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLTs) as a ‘trust technology’ can provide responses to various challenges identified in the course of integration of different digital services, securing cyber and social security, and improving the efficiency of economy and public services to society, ranging from identity and document exchange management to self-executing contracts, processing information flows and ensuring the maintenance of repositories and registries.

Europe is well placed to lead the development of new trusted public, commercial and industrial services and applications based on blockchain and DLTs. Europe has academics, innovative entrepreneurs, start-ups and large firms eager to use such technologies in their sectors.

While blockchain and DLTs are increasingly adopted in different domains, it has been increasingly highlighted that a sound and healthy scaling up of technology is hampered by fragmented information and knowledge as well as chasm between policy-making and expert knowledge on technology. In order to unlock advantages that the technology brings, a coherent and balanced approach is necessary to scale up blockchain ecosystem across the public and private sector by dissolving the information and knowledge disparity, linking the existing projects in Europe, and mobilising the stakeholders.

The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum has built a community with strong credibility around its events and thematic reports and has become a recognised player in Europe and on the international scene since its launch in February 2018 under the previous EP pilot project.

The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum, will be renewed under the EP preparatory action, aims to mobilise further blockchain stakeholders involving private companies, public bodies, academia, civil society and individuals in technical and policy discussions about the future development of blockchain.

As the European Union develops legislative frameworks for Distributed Ledger Technologies in the EUDI Regulation and for smart contracts in the Data Act, it will become important in 2023 to prepare the Commission Delegated Acts that will further clarify essential requirements for smart contracts and qualified trust services for DLT. The renewed EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum will have a particular task to help prepare these implementing legislative measures by collecting data and information to assess their impact.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of open call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The EU Blockchain Observatory and Forum, launched in February 2018 under the EP pilot project, has helped to achieve its key objectives to mobilise blockchain stakeholders, provide thematic analysis, map developments across the EU and globally and to identify potential issues related to the use of blockchain in Europe. The Observatory also has built a community with strong credibility around its events and thematic papers and has become a recognised player in Europe and on the international scene.

The new preparatory action, which started on 29/11/2022, aims to mobilise blockchain stakeholders involving private companies, public bodies, academia, civil society and individuals in technical and policy discussions about the future development of blockchain under the cooperation with other blockchain initiatives such as INATBA - International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications and the EBP - European Blockchain Partnership.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: The Observatory will monitor, analyse and address the implication of the development of the blockchain technology, applications and market, and also will develop thematic and trend reports, as well as organise workshops and events.
- Deliverables to be submitted: The Observatory will deliver deep-dive thematic and trend reports examining a wide range of topics concerning the development of the blockchain technology, applications and market.
- Meetings to take place: The Observatory will organise online workshops and a hybrid event in collaboration with other blockchain initiatives such as INATBA and EBSI.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for tender	20 April 2022
Closing date of call for call for tender	11 July 2022
Award decision	18 November 2022
Interim payment	July 2023
Final payment	July 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
EU Blockchain and Observatory Forum	Netcompany Intrasoft	521 290

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- 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, 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: [eTendering - Data \(europa.eu\)](#)

The project website can be found here: <https://www.eublockchainforum.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 due to its early stage of implementation.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
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 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 oblige Member States to enable demand response through aggregation or dynamic pricing contracts, create local flexibility markets, as well as adopt enabling frameworks for (jointly acting) self-consumers or active customers and renewable and citizen energy communities. These provisions 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, provided they are enabled in a way that avoids locking in consumers in isolated self-consumption due to lack of a wider set of options, such as implicit (price signalling through time-differentiated grid tariffs and dynamic price contracts) or explicit (bid-based flexibility markets) incentives, that allow them to interact with the local system and implement energy efficiency measures. 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. At the same time, 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 tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

n/a

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

No activities carried out in 2023, Commission expected to launch the new call for proposals in 2024.

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	31/01/2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	29/02/2024
Award decision	21/03/2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	22/03/2024
Final payment	Q4 2024

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- civil society organisations
- farmers
- local authorities / consumers
- energy communities

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 Q2 2023, 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 implementation action existing legal instruments, i.e., clean energy package.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 01 23 03: Preparatory action — Promote worldwide a European way to digital innovation rooted in culture

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %
Reserve						0,0 %	0,0 %
Total		2 000 000	500 000	p.m.	1 000 000	-100,0 %	100,0 %

3. Objectives

The ambition of the preparatory action is to start a process at an international level where art-driven innovation is promoted as an alternative joint pathway to the future for economies across different continents and cultures. It intends to promote a European approach to innovation rooted in arts/culture and values by linking digital innovation and uptake with the arts in local ecosystems in selected regions outside Europe. It is proposed to limit the activities to up to two selected regions – one of which sub-Saharan Africa– with emerging economies where we expect that innovation rooted in culture and the arts will resonate most strongly with local thinking.

A concrete approach to artistic experimentation with digital technologies will be used to promote uptake of digital technologies in the economies of the selected regions and to promote a ‘human compatible’ and ‘ecologically conscious’ use of digital world-wide. The action continues the work in a pilot project.

Given the importance of artificial intelligence, the action will emphasise artificial intelligence (but does not exclude activities in other digitally pertinent technologies relevant in the selected regions). The action will address several sectors pertinent in the selected countries where digital can make a difference, In the age of social media, an art/culture driven approach can also lead to a genuine use of social media where social media help in promoting messages and narratives embedded in the local values and priorities. Notably, artists could help in tackling disinformation, a major challenge that affects all countries world-wide: for example, false narratives regarding climate change infectious diseases, or the causes of food scarcity that directly affect the social cohesion. The action builds among others on the S+T+ARTS programme in DG CONNECT that promotes synergies between the arts and digital technology.

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 call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

This preparatory action is a follow up to pilot project under the same name PP 01 21 03.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

A call will be launched in March 2024

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	March 2024
Closing date of call for proposals	May 2024
Award decision	September 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2024
Final payment	September 2026

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- foundations
- international organisation
- players in the selected regions (one of them Africa) will become 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 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 follow up 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.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn	2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
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

Development of a specific EU Support service for Citizen energy Communities and Renewable Energy Communities to enable them to catalyse citizen engagement in various aspects of the ecological transition, including renovation projects. The service should include:

- Platform for sharing experience and models.
- Providing technical assistance and coaching.
- Support for the development of investment plans
- Providing evidence and indicators to raise awareness
- Monitoring and supporting a strong transposition of Clean Energy package provisions concerning CEC and REC, which should be an opportunity for Member States to strengthen the role of citizens in the energy transition.

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

N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Launch of the procurement procedure
 - Signature of the contract
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - N/A
- Meetings to take place:
 - Kick off meeting

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

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	Q2 2023
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Q1 2024
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Q3 2024
Award decision	Q3 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q3 2024
Final payment	Q3 2026

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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, expected on quarter 2 of 2023, will set out the main elements of the implementation.

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

No, but calls for proposals under the LIFE programme cover related topics (e.g. support to Renewable Energy Communities).

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

No, no legislative initiative is envisaged to follow up. Instead, the Preparatory Action intends to develop a Support Service. This may be adjusted following the experience and lessons learnt in the Pilot Projects.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2018 and 2020 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	3 840 762,50	p.m.	4 000 000	p.m.	1 911 429	0,0 %	-52,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	3 840 762,50	p.m.	4 000 000	p.m.	1 911 429	0,0 %	-52,2 %

3. Objectives

Objectives followed during 2021 and previous years' implementation

Building on the existing support for coal regions, implemented through the service contract establishing the Secretariat for Coal Region in Transition, this action provided targeted support for:

- Coal regions in transition in the European Union, in particular through targeted technical assistance for energy-related plans and projects, peer learning and knowledge sharing between coal regions, including *via* a new exchange programme between coal regions and a dedicated technical assistance tool for most affected coal regions in Poland;
- 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.

Objectives followed in 2022

This preparatory action is under implementation to ensure the effectiveness of these support efforts, their long-term sustainability, and ultimately the success of the transformation of the EU as a whole and of its closest neighbours.

This is done by managing the EU initiative for coal regions in transition and corresponding secretariat and sub-activities, notably the development of an exchange programme for coal regions across the EU, aimed at peer learning and experience sharing. This is also done by developing dedicated technical assistance mechanisms, including a new tool called TARGET (technical assistance for regions undergoing a green energy transition) to help them devise clean energy and energy efficiency projects, implemented together with the European Investment Bank.

Finally, it is also done by managing the initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, to pass on the EU experience with the EU's closest neighbours.

Intentions for the current year 2023

The initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkan and Ukraine enters into its last year in 2023. The secretariat will continue organizing exchanges between EU coal regions and coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. Furthermore, country specific workshops are being held in all target countries, in cooperation with the local authorities, the EU delegation and colleagues from DG NEAR. The close collaboration with the six principles of the initiative continues and country specific meetings have been 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 has been launched and will accompany the efforts of the workshops and exchanges.

The twinning initiative that brings together regions to work on a specific topic “exchangeEU” goes into the second round in the first half of 2023, ending in June 2023. The second round encompasses 9 matches with 17 regions from 11 Member States and covers topics around economic diversification, land recultivation, citizens' engagement and establishing energy communities.

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 (2019 appropriations) and contribution agreement with the European Investment Bank (2020 appropriations).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- **Activities carried out (2021):** set up of EU initiative for coal regions in transition, of exchange programme for EU coal regions, of initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, of World Bank dedicated support to Polish coal regions, initialisation of TARGET Facility – now altogether benefitting a community of nearly 10,000 individuals, engaged via various activities, including communications (newsletters) and exchange programmes (in the EU and in the Western Balkans and Ukraine), with seven regions directly benefitting from technical assistance under the START programme of the secretariat of the EU initiative for coal regions in transition.
- **Deliverables submitted (2021):** four websites (EU initiative for coal regions in transition, exchange programme for EU coal regions, initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, TARGET Facility), five toolkits, 20 case studies, 10 large-scale technical meetings and two large-scale high-level meetings, dedicated reports to Polish coal regions, six out of seven START technical assistance completion report.
- **Activities carried out (2022):** continued the work on the initiative for coal regions in transition for the Western Balkans and Ukraine, held one national workshop on Just Transition in North Macedonia, carried out two exchanges between four coal regions (return visits), organised the annual meeting in November 2022 in Brussels.

Under the exchangeEU programme, 8 exchanges were carried out with 18 coal regions from 12 Member States. A second round of applications was launched in September including the advertising, matchmaking and communication with the applicants. The programme contributed to two sessions at the Just Transition Platform Conference in October.

- **Deliverables submitted (2022):** The CRiT WBUA initiative delivered the annual meeting report, published seven newsletters and delivered the interim report (internal). The exchangeEU programme delivered eight leaflets, one for each exchange.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023:

- **Activities to be carried out:** finalisation of the activities of the secretariat of the EU initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. This involves carrying out five national workshops on Just Transition in the target countries, as well as continuing facilitating the exchanges (five are still to be carried out in 2023). Given the situation in Ukraine, two exchanges are planned outside of Ukraine, with Poland and Germany but are still in the planning phase. A series of six webinars is planned, one has already been carried out at the beginning of March. The annual meeting of the initiative is planned for November 2023, in Brussels.

The second round of exchanges is currently ongoing for the exchangeEU programme, with a total of 9 exchanges being planned. The programme will end with a closing session at the Annual Political Dialogue in June 2023.

- **Deliverables to be submitted:** An interim report will be delivered by mid May 2023, five exchanges and five national workshops will be delivered for the Western Balkans and Ukraine initiative. Nine leaflets, one for each exchange will be produced, with the final version being submitted end of June 2023.

- **Meetings to take place:** one large scale meeting under initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, one closing meeting to take place for the exchangeEU programme.

4.4. *Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023*

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2018
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2018
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2018
Award decision	November 2018
Prefinancing or interim payments	October 2019, March 2020, /February 2021
Final payment	August 2022 // February 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 tender	June 2020	July 2020	n/a
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2020	Sept 2020	n/a
Award decision	November 2020	March 2021	n/a
Prefinancing or interim payments	06/21, 07/22, 04/23	01/22, 06/22	03/22 & 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
	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development TRUST FUND (NO. TF073524)	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
Contribution Agreement “Technical Assistance for Regions Undergoing a Green Energy Transition” financed from the general budget of the European Union Contract No. EN ERIBI 12020-7261SI2.858334	THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK	14 000 000

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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?*

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 3 open calls for tender 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 the exchange programme for EU coal regions will be available at the following link:

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/oil-gas-and-coal/eu-coal-regions/eu-coal-regions-exchange-programme_en

All the documents related to the initiative for coal regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine will be available at the following link:

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 will be available at the following link:

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. Some of the activities developed under this PA will be continued under the new LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme – but do not exist at this stage.

For the exchangeEU programme, so far no follow-up is envisaged. The CRIT WBUA programme is likely to continue in a different format through a just transition initiative run by DG NEAR, the planning is still ongoing at this stage.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 02 20 01: Preparatory action — Teaching island authorities and communities how to tender for renewable energy projects

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	702 382,85	p.m.	460 000	p.m.	268 305	0,0 %	-41,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	702 382,85	p.m.	460 000	p.m.	268 305	0,0 %	-41,7 %

3. Objectives

Building on the already established support provided by previously implemented pilot projects, this project's goal was to provide the targeted technical assistance to islands authorities and communities on how to successfully and efficiently tender for renewables energy projects. The political support of the initiatives was declared by signature of the Memorandum of Understanding of Split to ensure the future of the Clean energy for EU islands initiative. The MoU ensures the establishment of a long-term structure for supporting EU islands in their energy transition. A dedicated website was created to support the project, exchange of good practices, centralise all information about technical assistance and create a marketplace for stakeholders.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of open call for tender resulting to the specific contract. The contract was signed on 04/02/2021.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Set up of dedicated secretariat for Clean energy 4EU islands, techno-economic support to 40 EU islands.
- Deliverables submitted:
 - signature of Memorandum of Understanding in Split (22/06/2020), date collection, organisation of dedicated workshops and site visits
 - Seven studies on the legal and regulatory frameworks, barriers and solutions of at least seven Member States that are relevant to the development of local decarbonised energy systems;
 - Launch of a new website and development of online support materials (webinars, workshops)
- Meetings held: high level Clean energy for EU islands forum in May 2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Project ends in 2023

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	August 2020
Award decision	December 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	May 2021, November 2021, September 2022
Final payment	January 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PA – Teaching island authorities and communities how to tender for renewable energy projects	3E NV/SA	1 795 480

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- 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(2020)3056 adopted on 14 May 2020 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents are available at the following address:

<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6602>

Information regarding the conference Clean energy for EU islands forum 2022 on 17-18/05/2022 is available at the following address: [Clean energy EU islands forum 2022](#)

The project website is available at the following address: [Clean energy for EU islands](#)

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 local and targeted impact of the project.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 02 20 02: Preparatory action — Strengthening cooperation on climate action among villages in the Union and beyond through the creation of a rural identity within the Covenant of Mayors

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	575 710,80	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	767 614	0,0 %	-23,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	575 710,80	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	767 614	0,0 %	-23,2 %

3. Objectives

The specific objective of this project is to set up and operate a European advisory hub, providing technical assistance to rural energy communities, and planning a variety of measures to promote integrated renewable energy deployment in the pursuit of a local, clean and just energy transition. Monitor and collect data on the development of rural energy communities in the EU in line with the legislative framework adopted as part of the Clean Energy Package. The data collected will contribute to the identification and dissemination of best practices and know-how for local authorities, citizens and (citizens’) organisations that wish to set up rural energy communities.

The rural projects that will receive technical assistance under this project will serve as examples of rural energy communities that should inspire widespread, socially inclusive energy transition efforts in the rural areas.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of open call for tender resulting to the specific contract.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

- Activities carried out:
 - Plan indicators and identify EC/stakeholders,
 - Gather info / develop case studies gap analysis
 - Identification of best practices
 - Recommendations for technical assistance and plan assistance
 - Prepare and launch calls
 - Prepare outputs/reports
 - Publish guidance documents
 - Set up website
- Meetings held: High level kick off conference

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Publish guidance documents
 - Publish best practices
 - Organise workshops with DG REGIO
 - Deliver technical assistance
 - Promotional material (videos)
- Meetings to take place: High level closing conference

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2021
Award decision	December 2021
Pre-financing or interim payments	July 2022, January 2023, July 2023
Final payment	January 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
PA — Strengthening cooperation on climate action among villages in the EU and beyond through the creation of a rural identity within the Covenant of Mayors	Ricardo Nederland BV	1.919.036,00

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

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(2020)3056, adopted on 14 May 2020 sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [Financing decisions \(europa.eu\)](https://financing-decisions.europa.eu/)

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=7641>

The project website is available at the following address: [Energy Community Advisory Hub](https://energycommunityadvisoryhub.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 as the project's main focus is on testing concepts for providing tangible and effective assistance to energy communities. This, while using existing legal frameworks from across the EU, both European and local (subject to the advisory services and specific knowledge to be developed during the project).

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 02 20 04: Preparatory action — Smart local administration drawing on the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and machine learning tools to get closer to the citizen

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
			p.m.		p.m.			
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	500 007	p.m.	82 982	0,0 %	-83,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	500 007	p.m.	82 982	0,0 %	-83,4 %

3. Objectives

The objectives of this preparatory action is to set up a network of local ‘laboratories’ to support the development and roll-out of digitally enabled innovative solutions for citizen engagement in policy making and decision making, as well as co-creation and co-delivery of public services at the local level.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of grant via open call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation

Two actions are financed from this call – titled "NLAB4CIT" and "The Public Link" - both actions have been launched on 1 November 2021.

- Activities carried out: most of activities planned for 1st reporting period (12 months) were conducted before the end of the 1st reporting period. Some activities were delayed and in order to compensate for delays both projects were requested 6-months extension, of which extension for “The Public Link” has already been approved.
- Deliverables submitted: deliverables planned for 1st reporting period (12 months) were submitted prior to review meetings and were approved by the reviewers with some recommendations for improvements.
- Meetings held: Interim review meetings – NLAB4CIT - 25/01/2023, The Public Link – 27/01/2023

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: project activities planned for the 2nd reporting period + some delayed activities from the 1st reporting period.
- Deliverables to be submitted: deliverables planned for the 2nd reporting period
- Meetings to take place: “The Public Link” project has already been granted 6-months extension, while NLAB4CIT has recently requested 6-months extension. As therefore both projects will most probably end on 31 October 2023 no further meetings are expected in 2023 but Final review meetings are expected in January 2024.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	20 April 2020
Publication of call for proposals	6 July 2020
Closing date of call for proposals	3 September 2020
Award decision	3 June 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2021
Final payment	September 2023/March 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
NLAB4CIT	UNITO DSP	585.540
THE PUBLIC LINK	ERNACT EEIG	414.460

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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(2020)2259, adopted on 20 April 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. The document can be found at the [following address](#):

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

The project website of the NLAB4CIT preparatory action is available at the following address: <https://nlab4cit.eu>

More information about "The Public Link" preparatory action may be [available here](#).

The Public Link is a preparatory action aiming at citizen empowerment and radical improvement of citizens' access to public services through people centric digital transformation for fair and competitive economy and sustainable society. The project focus on engagement and coordination of efforts between local governments, NGOs, research labs and companies to explore the application of disruptive technologies in public services provision.

The total estimated costs for this preparatory action have been established in the grant agreement at EUR 828.920,00 with maximum amount of the EU grant EUR 414.460,00.

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

PA 02 22 01: Preparatory action — EU Road Safety Exchange +

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	894 350,00	0,00	p.m.	205 000	p.m.	270 000	0,0 %	31,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	894 350,00	0,00	p.m.	205 000	p.m.	270 000	0,0 %	31,7 %

3. Objectives

The European Union is committed to vision zero. Building on the experience acquired in a previous pilot project, this preparatory action will support the exchange of knowledge and experience between road safety professionals in the Member States and raise awareness of the key policies and interventions that could significantly improve road safety across the EU.

It will focus 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 will test 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 MSs within the EU. There is no legal obligation to carry out this activity, but it could be considered for inclusion in future legal instruments.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission is implementing this preparatory action by means of a tender to the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Preparation of the country analyses and report	01/01/2023- 28/02/2023
Preparation and organisation of high-level meetings	01/03/2023 - 31/06/2023
Organisation of a high-level launch event in Brussels	01/09/2023 - 30/09/2023
Preparation, coordination and implementation of twinning activities and study visits for all of the countries selected in the project	01/08/2023 - 31/07/2025
Organisation of a Brussels-based seminar	01/11/2024 - 30/11/2024
Organisation of final event	01/08/2025 – 30/09/2025
Preparation and submission of the final reports and recommendations by countries	01/09/2025 - 20/12/2025

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	04/07/2022
Publication of call for tender	28/07/2022
Closing date of call for tender	22/09/2022
Award decision	14/12/2022
Contract signature	21/12/2022
1st Interim payment	22/02/2024(report) - 22/04/2024(payment)
2 nd Interim payment	22/02/2025(report) – 22/04/2025(payment)
Final payment	20/12/2025(report) – 20/02/2026(payment)

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Preparatory Action – EU Road Safety Exchange +	European Transport Safety Council	894 350

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

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 04 July 2022, set 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents were available from 28/07/2022 to 22/09/2022 at the following address: [\(here\)](#)
The award decision is available at the following address: [\(here\)](#)

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?

Yes, the Commission intends to propose this initiative for inclusion in the CEF Technical Assistance under 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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.
Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	455 000	p.m.	550 000	0,0 %	20,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	455 000	p.m.	550 000	0,0 %	20,9 %

3. Objectives

General objectives:

Support the Commission 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.

Contribute to the NAIADES III objectives for the development, demonstration and deployment of holistic, smart and automated shipping concepts.

Specific objectives:

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. 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 intends to implement this preparatory action by means of call for tenders via an open procedure.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The call for tenders is not yet launched.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Launch call for tenders and award decision.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 July 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	2 May 2023 (tentative date)
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	2 August 2023 (tentative date)
Award decision	2 October 2023 (tentative date)
Prefinancing or interim payments	Q2 2024
Final payment	Q3 2025

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

4.6. *Types of beneficiaries*

The type of beneficiaries 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(2022) 4509, adopted on 04/07/2022 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 highly technical nature of this preparatory action and the dedicated focus on identification of user needs and prototyping of on-board equipment specifically tailored to services for inland navigation offered by EU satellite services.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 03 20 01: Preparatory action — Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Global / Achieve Leadership in Entrepreneurship and Cooperation Opportunities

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	394 825,62	p.m.	797 786	p.m.	598 340	0,0 %	-25,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	394 825,62	p.m.	797 786	p.m.	598 340	0,0 %	-25,0 %

3. Objectives

The overall objective of this action is to support new or aspiring European entrepreneurs in the crucial phase of establishing, running and growing their business by working together with an experienced entrepreneur from a country outside the Europe. It represents a geographical extension of the ‘Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs’ programme. The action will foster exchange of entrepreneurs from EU countries to these countries and territories outside Europe: Canada (Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia), Israel, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and the USA (New York State, California). The action will last 36 months, from March 2021 to March 2024.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of grant agreements that derived from the call for proposal GRO/PPA/20/11850 and through an existing framework contract for the promotional campaign.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The call for proposals was published on 8 July 2020 and closed on 23 September 2020. The Evaluation Committee selected 3 consortia, involving 8 beneficiaries, which recruit host entrepreneurs in the destination countries and manage their successful exchanges with about 300 entrepreneurs from the European Union.

The 1st interim technical progress reports were received and approved in the first half of 2022. The second interim technical reports (after 18 months of implementation and basis for 2nd pre-financing) were received end 2022 of which one pending approval as still some updates in report to be done by the beneficiary. Consequently, the 2nd pre-financing has been done only for 2 out of 3 consortia, one still pending updated 2nd interim technical progress report.

The promotional campaign started on 1 September 2021. Preparatory work was done between September and December 2021. The campaign was running in 2022 and the final report received and approved in October 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Projects are underway. Due to the persisting difficult sanitary situation worldwide in the years 2020-2022, the implementation of the projects has been running slower than planned. However, the situation has evolved positively towards end 2022 and normalised beginning 2023.

The final reports are expected by Q2 of 2024 and payment of balance by mid-2024.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations - Call for proposals for implementing consortia

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	14 April 2020
Publication of call for proposals	8 July 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Month(s) 23 September 2020
Award decision	4 December 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	1 st prefinancing April-July 2021/ 2 nd prefinancing December 2022-April 2023
Final payment	June 2024 (expected)

– 2020 commitment appropriations - Framework contract for promotional campaign

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	14 April 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	15 December 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	12 January 2021
Prefinancing payments	March 2021
Final payment	November 2023

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations – Call for proposals for implementing consortia

Title / Action	Beneficiary	EUR (maximum)
Grant Project: global EYE	1. UNTERNEHMERTUM GMBH 2. FUNDACJA UNIWERSYTETU IM ADAMA MICKIEWICZA W POZNANIU	664.979,47
Grant Project: EYE Global	1. EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE NETWORK AISBL 2. SOCIEDADE PORTUGUESA DE INOVACAO CONSULTADORIA EMPRESARIAL E FOMENTO DA INOVACAO SA 3. AGENZIA ITALIANA PER L'INTERNAZIONALIZZAZIONE - PROMOS ITALIA SCRL	665.000,00
Grant Project: EYE2Global	1. ITALIENISCHE HANDELSKAMMER FUR DEUTSCHLAND 2. UNIONE REGIONALE DELLE CAMERE DI COMMERCIO INDUSTRIA, ARTIGIANATO E AGRICOLTURA DEL VENETO 3. CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE BELGO-ITALIENNE AISBL	664.485,88

– 2020 commitment appropriations- Framework contract for promotional campaign

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Service contract EYE Global online promotional campaign	1. EUROPEAN SERVICE NETWORK SA 2. ECORYS EUROPE EEIG	199.340,00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- 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\(2020\)2083](#), adopted on 14/4/2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

A dedicated website for the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Global can be found [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 follow up is envisaged for this preparatory action prior to its evaluation.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 200 000,00	489 421,98	p.m.	600 000	p.m.	900 000	0,0 %	50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 200 000,00	489 421,98	p.m.	600 000	p.m.	900 000	0,0 %	50,0 %

3. Objectives

The EUTO aims at enhancing the involvement of civil society in the advocacy, design and implementation of EU actions to combat tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning and promoting fair taxation.

The EUTO should:

- Perform and promote original, high-quality research in the area of tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning, with a focus on corporate income taxation;
- Feed, improve and disseminate the public repository of data and analysis on tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning, with a focus on corporate income taxation;
- Participate in the EU and international debate on tax evasion, tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning by providing quality evidence that can inform policy.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of grants and calls for proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Events:
 - Research Workshop – Multinationals: Tax Avoidance and Policy Response (completed on 25/02/2022);
 - Public conference: uncovering hidden wealth – ways to stop offshore secrecy, University of Copenhagen (completed on 10/05/2022);
 - High level conference: tax avoidance and offshore wealth: policies for tomorrow, Brussels (completed on 13/06/2022);
 - Workshop on inheritance taxation in the EU, Sevilla (completed on 01/07/2022);
 - Public conference – inflation, pandemic, climate change: the urgent need for progressive taxation, Paris School of Economics (completed on 15/09/2022);
 - Conference – Transparency and tax avoidance: country-by-country reporting by multinational enterprises, Charles University Prague (completed on 03/11/2022);
 - Conference – How to tax excess profits of energy companies?, Paris School of Economics (completed on 29/11/2022).
- Research papers and reports:
 - Effective sanctions against oligarchs and the role of a European Asset Registry (Chancel et al., 2022);
 - Who owns offshore real estate? Evidence from Dubai (Alstadsaeter et al., 2022);
 - Pennies from haven: wages and profit shifting (Alstadsaeter et al., 2022);
 - Did the tax cuts and jobs act reduce profit shifting by US multinational companies? (Garcia-Bernardo et al., 2022);

- Will we ever be able to track offshore wealth? Evidence from the offshore real estate market in the UK (Bomare and Le Guern Herry 2022);
- A modern excess profit tax (François et al., 2022) ;
- Revealing 21% of GDP in hidden assets: evidence from Argentina’s tax amnesty (Londono-Velez and Tortarolo, 2022);
- Global profit shifting, 1975-2019 (Wier and Zucman, 2022);
- Increasing cross-border ownership of real estate: evidence from Norway (Alstadsaeter and Okland, 2022);
- Tax planning by European Banks (Barake, 2022);
- The long way to tax transparency: lessons from the early publishers of CbCR (Aliprandi et al., 2022);
- Profit shifting frictions and the geography of multinational activity (Ferrari et al., 2022).
- Maintaining and feeding of a public data repository
- Publication of one digital brochure
- Organisation of various meetings with stakeholders and policy makers.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Events:
 - Conference – Tax justice and energy crisis: how to tax windfall profits, Athens (completed on 01/03/2023);
 - Conference – Reforming the tax system to promote democracy, Paris (completed on 14/03/2023);
 - New times, new taxes? Financing state and welfare in a globalised world, Stockholm (planned for 29/03/2023);
 - Workshop on data on tax avoidance, IP and services, ULB (planned for 19/04/2023);
 - High level event, Brussels (planned for 30/05/2023);
 - Workshop on the economics of taxation, Barcelona (planned for 31/05/2023);
- Research papers and reports:
 - Behavioural responses to special tax regimes for the super-rich: insights from Swiss rich lists (Baselgia and Martinez, 2023);
 - Tax transparency by multinationals: trends in CbCR public disclosure (Alprandi and Borders, 2023);
 - Public CbCR: A new dataset (Zedlitz et al., 2023);
 - Does a progressive wealth tax reduce top wealth inequality? Evidence from Switzerland (Martin et al., 2023)
 - A study on crypto assets (TBD);
 - A study on customs gap (TBD);
- Maintaining and feeding of a public data repository
- Publication of one digital brochure
- Organisation of various meetings with stakeholders and policy makers.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	June 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	October 2020
Award decision	November 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2020
Final payment	June 2022

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	October 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	January 2022
Award decision	March 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2022
Final payment	December 2022

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	December 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	December 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	March 2023
Award decision	May 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	March 2024 – September 2024
Final payment	December 2024 – June 2025

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Creation of a website containing the public data repository	TAX IDEAS consortium	1.200.000 (for all actions)
Research papers (3)	TAX IDEAS consortium	
Organisation of interactive public events (3) and one thematic workshop	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One digital brochure	TAX IDEAS consortium	

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Improvement of the website and the public data repository	TAX IDEAS consortium	1.200.000 (for all actions)
Research papers (3 to 5)	TAX IDEAS consortium	
Organisation of interactive public events (3 to 5) and two thematic workshops	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One high-level public event in Brussels	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One digital brochure	TAX IDEAS consortium	

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Improvement of the website and the public data repository	TAX IDEAS consortium	1.200.000 (for all actions)
Research papers (3 to 5)	TAX IDEAS consortium	
Organisation of interactive public events (3 to 5) and two thematic workshops	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One high-level public event in Brussels	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One digital brochure	TAX IDEAS consortium	

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Improvement of the website and the public data repository	TAX IDEAS consortium	1.200.000 (for all actions)
Research papers (3 to 5)	TAX IDEAS consortium	
Organisation of interactive public events (3) and two thematic workshops	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One high-level public event in Brussels	TAX IDEAS consortium	
One digital brochure	TAX IDEAS consortium	

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public 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/preparatory action?

The Commission Financing Decision C(2022) 8750, adopted on 6 December 2022 sets out the main elements of the implementation.

Call documents are available at the following address: [TAXUD/2020/CFP-01: Preparatory action – EU Tax Observatory \(europa.eu\)](#) for the 2020 call, [TAXUD/2021/CFP-01: Preparatory action – EU Tax Observatory \(europa.eu\)](#) for the 2021 call and [Call for proposals to manage and lead the EU Tax Observatory \(europa.eu\)](#) for the 2022 call.

All studies are available at the following address: [Publications - Eutax \(taxobservatory.eu\)](#)

All information regarding past and upcoming events are available at the following address: [Events - Eutax \(taxobservatory.eu\)](#)

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 similar activity exists.

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

At this stage, no follow up based on a new legislative proposal is envisaged. However, the Commission intends to continue financing the activities performed under this preparatory to gather further evidence. This preparatory action is only half-way through and the Commission continues to monitor and evaluate the performance and cost-benefits of the project.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 03 21 01: Preparatory action — Development of non-aversion stunning methods for pigs

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	935 843,49	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	467 922	0,0 %	
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	935 843,49	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	467 922	0,0 %	

3. Objectives

The action will include the collection of information on the relevant socio-economic impacts of the most welfare-friendly alternatives, such as, but not limited to: investment and operating costs and return on investment required to shift to the new system(s); throughput per hour; meat quality and safety; occupational health and safety; sustainability.

The action will be concluded with a comparative analysis of the alternatives investigated both from an animal welfare and socio-economic point of view, in order to highlight the pros and cons of each alternative method under a common methodology.

All the results of this action will have to be made publicly available. The action will include the publication of one or more scientific papers in relevant peer-reviewed journals as well as technical factsheet for market operators. The action will also include the organisation of a final conference presenting the key findings

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of implementation by open call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: The consortium prepared the “consortium agreement” and it is now working on the next deliverable which will be submitted by month 9.
- Deliverables submitted: none (consortium agreement does not need to be submitted to the contracting authority)
- Meetings held: the kick-off meeting took place on 30/01/2023 at HaDEA premises. Representatives from all partners attended the meeting. SANTE and HaDEA staff attended the afternoon session and provided feedback to the consortium for the project implementation

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Work package 1 (descriptive phase) and Work Package 2 (planning phase) will be carried out during 2023.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Deliverables D1 and D2.1 shall be submitted at month 8 and month 12 respectively. The coordinator informed on 28/03/2023 that Deliverable D1 will be submitted at month 9 rather than at month 8.
- Meetings to take place: the consortium shall meet regularly. The contracting authority is normally not involved/informed about these meetings.

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

The consortium is expected to complete the implementing, analytical and dissemination phase by Month 20, 24 and 24 respectively (all during 2024). The consortium was alerted at the kick-off meeting that the timing for the last work package (communication, dissemination, and visibility) is very tight so they should anticipate possible obstacles to make sure the project delivers on time

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	06 June 2021
Publication of call for proposals	01 April 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	31 August 2022
Grant Agreement signature	12 December 2022
Prefinancing or interim payment	13 December 2022
Final payment	May 2025 (project end M24+ 2M submission+3M final assessment)

To support with the figures:

- Commitment amount: 1.559.739,15 EUR
- Pre-financing: 935.843,49 EUR completed in December 2022
- Interim: 467.921,75 EUR in May 2024
- Final payment 155.973,91 EUR in May 2025

Project name: **Development of non-aversive stunning methods for pigs**

Project acronym: **PigStun**

Coordinator entity: **Stichting Wageningen Research (SWR)**, established in Droevendaalsesteeg 4, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands.

List of participants:

Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country
1	COO	SWR	Stichting Wageningen Research	NL
2	BEN	Compaxo	Compaxo Vlees Zevenaar BV	NL
3	BEN	Marel	Marel Meat BV	NL
4	BEN	AU	Aarhus University	DK
5	BEN	DMRI	Danish Meat Research Institute - Danish Technological Institute	DK
6	BEN	DC	Danish Crown	DK
7	BEN	FLI	Friedrich Loeffler Institut - Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit	DE
8	BEN	MRI	Max Rubner Institut Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ernährung und Lebensmittel	DE
9	BEN	IRTA	Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries	ES
10	BEN	Norfrisa	Frigoríficos del Nordeste SA	ES
11	AP	Vion	Vion Perleberg GmbH	DE
12	AP	Univ Gottingen	Georg-August University of Göttingen, Department of Animal Sciences, Divisions Production of animal products and Functional Breeding	DE
13	AP	Air Liquide	Air Liquide Deutschland GmbH	DE
14	AP	Westfort	Westfort Meat products	NL

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

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are to be determined.

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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/expected on 04.06.2021 on the financing of the preparatory action “Development of non-aversive stunning methods for pigs” and the adoption of the work programme for 2021” sets out the main elements of the implementation.

Call documents are available at the following address: ['Pig Stunning' grant for the development of non-aversive stunning methods for pigs \(europa.eu\)](#)

Information on the awarded consortium composition is available at the following address: [HaDEA signs a grant agreement with PigStun consortium for the development of non-aversive stunning methods for pigs \(europa.eu\)](#)

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?*

Yes, the Commission intends to consider the prohibition of aversive methods for stunning pigs and the results of the action will be considered in the context of that intention (especially for fixing/amending the transitional periods needed).

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	1 499 350,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	449 805	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	1 499 350,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	449 805	0,0 %	0,0 %

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 implements this preparatory action by means of tenders (open call).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

Not applicable, the contract was signed in December 2022 just before the Christmas break. The kick-off meeting took place on 26 January 2023.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The work is due to be presented to the High-Level Construction Forum on 20 April. This will be an initial opportunity to inform stakeholders and Member State authorities of the work and to invite their engagement. Some of the work will require their engagement, for example to understand the national context in which to model life cycle emissions reduction scenarios. The work is also scheduled to be presented during 2023 to the Concerted Action on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (a forum of the authorities responsible for implementing that legislation).

Deliverables to be submitted in 2023 are as follows:

- Report describing existing sources of data, gaps or shortcomings in data, and ways to collect or generate new data
- Report on the most promising carbon reduction and removal strategies, taking into account national contexts
- Report with quantitative baseline figures for whole life carbon and carbon removals
- Report describing the methodology to collect or generate new data, taking into account the capacity to do so in each Member State
- Detailed plan for consultation of relevant stakeholders and authorities

New dataset for use in other tasks.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	9 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	27 June 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	2 September 2022
Award decision	2 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

- 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 09/02/2022, 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 \(europa.eu\)](#). A project website is expected during 2023.

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’. A study supporting the preparation and drafting of that roadmap is underway, but this action could be expected to support implementation of the eventual roadmap by providing new and much more detailed information and a methodology for continuously updated data.

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

No dedicated legislative follow-up is envisaged, however the action is relevant to several pieces of legislation: the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and also to a lesser extent, the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). The CPR, EPBD and EED are currently undergoing revisions, the WFD will shortly undergo revision. The results are expected to provide very useful information for all these policies, either during the revision process or as part of the implementation. The PA is also expected to be relevant to non-legislative work relating to buildings and construction such as the Level(s) framework, the proposal for a certification of carbon removals, the Renovation Wave, and the Transition Pathway for the construction ecosystem.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 03 22 03: Preparatory action — Developing tools for the digitalisation of market surveillance authorities

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	900 000,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	314 286	0,0 %	-30,2 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	900 000,00	0,00	p.m.	450 000	p.m.	314 286	0,0 %	-30,2 %

3. Objectives

The study on “Assessing the challenges and opportunities for market surveillance activities in relation to new technologies and digital supply chain” funded through pilot project 03 20 02 identified projects which could digitalise, automate or facilitate product market surveillance, in the context of supporting the leverage of new technologies to improve market surveillance activities, and with the view to overcome the challenges posed by new technologies and e-commerce.

The objective of the preparatory action 03 22 03 is the development of several IT tools in the area of product market surveillance based on the technical elements included in the study.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of specific contract(s) under existing framework contract(s).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: establishment of MoU in 2022 between DG GROW and DIGIT for Market Surveillance IT tools prototypes development.
- Meetings held:
 - weekly working meetings between DG GROW and DG DIGIT
 - semi-monthly meetings with Member States for determining technical requirements for the prototypes

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The specific contracts between DG DIGIT and external service providers were established in the period 11/2022-01/2023. The [project charter](#) was presented to the Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board on 22/03/2023. The key deliverables will be:

- Proactive WebCrawler: the solution would analyse consumers' reviews in order to spot possible dangerous/non-compliant products sold online. GROW.D.3 is cooperating with JUST, as JUST has gained experience with a data mining project on which the pilot could build.
- Unique identifier system: the tool would scan the product identifier (e.g. QR code), which would provide the inspector with digital documentation related the product scanned. GROW.D.3 is cooperating with another unit within the DG, dealing with the product passport, as synergies have been identified.
- Digital document treatment system: the tool would pre-analyse the digital documentation of the product, in order to spot possible anomalies or missing information

In 2023 only interim deliverables and payments are expected.

- Meetings to take place:

- weekly working meetings between DG GROW and DG DIGIT
- semi-monthly meetings with Member States for determining technical requirements for the prototypes

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	September 2022
Request for offers	Q4/2022-Q1/2023
Award decision	November 2022-January 2023
interim payments	Q4 2023- Q1 and 2 2024 (expected)
Final payment	Q4 2024 (expected)

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Developing tools for the digitalisation of market surveillance authorities	INSIGHT DIRECT USA, INC.	92.053,60
Developing tools for the digitalisation of market surveillance authorities	INSIGHT DIRECT USA, INC.	493.660,60
Developing tools for the digitalisation of market surveillance authorities	NTT DATA BELGIQUE	314.285,80

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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)654, adopted on 9/2/2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The preceding preparatory study, including the recommendations on the relevant IT developments to be explored, has been published and is available for consultation on the following dedicated website of the EU Publication Office: [Assessing the challenges and opportunities for market surveillance activities in relation to new technologies and digital supply chain - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/11111111-1111-1111-1111-111111111111)

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

In the frame of the 2021-2027 MFF and more precisely of the Single Market Programme, the budget line 03.02 01 07 has been foreseen to cover Market Surveillance related activities. The budget line is also foreseen to accommodate IT development related activities falling in the scope of the Market Surveillance.

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

No major follow up is envisaged, as non-food harmonised products are covered by the recently adopted Regulation [(EU) 2019/1020] on market surveillance and compliance of products.

However, the projects could possibly necessitate future legislative amendments at sectoral level (harmonised legislation), in order to be deployed on a larger scale. For instance, if the unique identifier (UI) is successful for a specific sector (e.g. Toys), a legislative initiative should be undertaken to make UI mandatory for the economic operators of that product sector, which would translate into an amendment of the sectoral legislation for Toys. The [New Legislative Framework](#) could also be used as an implementing tool.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	4 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	1 500 000	0,0 %	50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	4 000 000,00	0,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	1 500 000	0,0 %	50,0 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this preparatory action is to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions for the creation of a basis for a future tourism common policy.

The preparatory action can build on the work done in the context of the pilot project for quality of tourism accommodation. It may support the development and/or implementation of a European Tourism Agenda, drawing lessons from deficiencies uncovered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The specific objectives should continue to improve the quality of tourism accommodation, while adding further initiatives to prepare a future tourism common policy.

The action shall define measurements/performance indicators feasible on local, regional and national level, which could guide decisions of the destination management organisation to develop their tourism strategies better reflecting the benefits for local communities. It will design and launch collaborative governance models for destination management organisations with improved linkages with stakeholders.

In addition, the action shall support the application of EU Environmental footprint method – the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), with a common reliable, transparent and comparable benchmark, in order to measure and communicate the life cycle environmental performance of tourism accommodations. The aim shall be to develop PEF category rules (“PEFCR”) for tourism accommodations. The support would enable tourism accommodations to better measure and communicate their sustainable actions, using a reliable and standardized method, as well as compare the environmental profile with the average European values.

Finally, the action shall also support the creation of an industrial code of conduct on online reviews and ratings of tourism accommodation offers and contribute to the work of administrations and industry associations in aligning practices in the area of tourist accommodation star rating systems. It may also 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. It may also support the development of an AI powered system to audit online reviews and to identify fake/fraudulent ones.

The action may also define measurements/performance indicators feasible on local, regional and national level which could guide decisions of the destination management organisation to develop their tourism strategies better reflecting the benefits for local communities. It may also map and assess specific requirements that must be observed by individuals and SMEs offering tourism services in the context of the rural tourism.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement 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; one project of two years to support sustainability and resilience of tourism destinations (DMOs) and one project of three years on the development of PEFCRs for tourism accommodations.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- N/A

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: as described in the Objectives, section 3

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023-2026

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	9.2.2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	4.2023
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	6.2023
Award decision	9.2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	10.2023
Interim payments and one final payment	4.2024, 9.2024, 10.2024
Interim payments for 2 projects and final payment for one project	4.25; 10.25
Final payment for one of the projects which will be signed for three years	10.2026

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

Since 2023 is the first year of implementation of this preparatory action, these details are not yet known.

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers / authorities
- 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?

Commission Decision of 9.2.2022 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)

5.2. 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 can in particular provide input for the revision of the Regulation 692/2011 on Tourism Statistics.

1. Heading 1 - Single Market, Innovation and Digital

PA 03 22 06: Preparatory action — Transparency in public procurement

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 000 000,00	234 400,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	765 600	0,0 %	-23,4 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	234 400,00	p.m.	1 000 000	p.m.	765 600	0,0 %	-23,4 %

3. Objectives

Objectives for the current year 2023:

The main objective pursued by this action is the implementation of a European framework for enhancing transparency in public procurement through the Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) website, which already allows access to public procurement notices and could become a valuable tool to analyse and expose procurement data.

To ensure transparency in procurement, namely as regards publication in TED, data should respect several requirements:

- Data must have the appropriate quality (Data quality);
- The public needs to have easy access to the data, and data should be self-explanatory (Data accessibility/readability);
- Data from different sources should be easily compared and combined. For that, data needs to be structured using a common standard (Data interoperability);
- Data needs to be known by (and -available to) those potentially interested in using it (Data availability/awareness).

The objectives for 2023 respond to these requirements:

- Data quality: data sent for publication in TED is not always consistent, accurate or complete (for example, the same company can be referred to as ‘PWC’, ‘Price Waterhouse and Coopers’, ‘Price Waterhouse & Coopers’).

Two projects aim at improving data quality:

- Procurement analytics and data visualisation (TEDDQAIS): the main purpose is to apply the same naming convention to the same entity, to avoid ambiguities (‘entity reduction’). After the ‘conversion’, it should be possible to extract useful information;
 - Artificial Intelligence in TED. This is a multipurpose Proof of Concept: generate a common procurement vocabulary (CPV) code starting from procurement documents or notices, curate the budgetary value, perform ‘entity reduction’ of businesses and reconnect notices (i.e. Contract Notice to the respective Contract Award Notice) with the help of Artificial Intelligence.
- Data readability: data published in TED is perceived as complex and difficult to exploit.

The following project aims at improving readability of TED data, namely through a better visualisation:

- TED data in OP portal: the OP portal will provide for a simplified, more user-friendly view of TED data.
- Data interoperability: the format used to publish data in TED is open but does not allow for easy reuse and combination with data from other sources.

Through the project TED semantic web services, OP will convert TED data in a common format that can be easily reused (using the eProcurement Ontology); the result will be injected into the repository of the Publications Office (CELLAR) and will feed the future Public Procurement Data Space (PPDS). The

PPDS is a platform where data from TED and from EU Member States will be uploaded, combined, cross-checked, and analysed.

- Data availability/awareness: TED data is used by various interested parties, including researchers and academia. This is an audience who could work as multipliers. We would like to identify and promote research on procurement.

Two projects aim at promoting awareness:

- ‘TED Ambassador award’: this is a call for papers published in the domain of EU public procurement. It will allow us to identify interesting existing research; the winners will get a prize and their results will be promoted through TED. Identified experts (see below) will be contest panel members;
- Research projects: following a call for expression of interest, we have access to a list of experts in public procurement. We have identified several needs that we would like to see addressed (e.g.: Repository of existing projects on transparency in public procurement; Gender-responsive procurement; Compliance with publishing obligations under EU procurement directives; etc.). We expect to get papers on procurement subjects that may also have a practical application.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this preparatory action by means of framework contracts that are already in place as well as through the organisation of contests.

4.2. Previous years’ implementation (2022)

- Activities carried out:
 - EU Datathon 2022: evaluation of proposals up until October 2022;
 - Cleaning of TED data and TED data visualisation;
 - TED semantic web services.
- Deliverables submitted:
 - EU Datathon 2022: Apps/projects submitted by EU Datathon winners;
 - Cleaning of TED data and TED data visualisation: Data quality result dashboard and documentation of the service TED data quality auditing and improvement solution (TEDDQAIS);
 - TED semantic web services: TED data in RDF format.
- Meetings held:
 - meetings with associated DGs, Institutions and units at OP;
 - periodical meetings with:
 - Director-General;
 - Services responsible for each project and other interested parties (including associated services) – every 2/3 months.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Cleaning of TED data and TED data visualisation (TEDDQAIS): set-up of Qlik environment for TED data dashboard;
 - TED semantic web services;
 - Artificial Intelligence and TED: application of AI techniques to pursue the 4 objectives indicated above;
 - TED data in OP portal: adaptation of the OP portal;
 - Launch of the “TED Ambassador award”, evaluation of submissions, award;
 - Research in public procurement: evaluate requests of offer from experts, evaluation of submissions;
 - Contest related to the use of TED data.
- Deliverables to be submitted:

- Data quality result dashboard and documentation of the service TED data quality auditing and improvement solution (TEDDQAIS);
 - TED data in RDF format;
 - TED Ambassador award: promotion of winners through TED website;
 - Research in public procurement: papers on public procurement from experts;
 - Results of contest related to the use of TED data.
- Meetings to take place:
 - periodical meetings with:
 - Director-General;
 - Services responsible for each project and other interested parties (including associated services) – every 2/3 months.

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

The timeline for this preparatory action is extended to 24 months, leading to a somewhat longer preparatory phase to allow for the necessary discussions with all stakeholders.

The commitments and payments appropriations have been calculated based on the rollout of the action (starting early 2022 and ending early 2024) with the most relevant part of the payment flow in 2023, and the closing payment early 2024, after the final assessment of the deliverables.

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 March 2022
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A
Award decision	N/A
Prefinancing or interim payments	Second semester 2022
Final payment	First semester 2024

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Assistance for TED data quality, improvement and visualisation	Anoop Kumar (expert selected from a list following a call for expression of interest)	138 600,00
Artificial intelligence based on TED data to enhance transparency in public procurement	Europa Supernova consortium	216 879,80
Artificial intelligence based on TED data to enhance transparency in public procurement	Ahmet Soylu (expert selected from a list following a call for expression of interest)	5 400,00
Artificial intelligence based on TED data to enhance transparency in public procurement	Brian Elvesater (expert selected from a list following a call for expression of interest)	9 000,00
Artificial intelligence based on TED data to enhance transparency in public procurement	Oscar Corcho (expert selected from a list following a call for expression of interest)	22 500,00
Artificial intelligence based on TED data to enhance transparency in public procurement	Infrastructure provided by DIGIT (servers, storage, and services in Amazon AWS)	146 220,20
Development of TED semantic web services for Public Procurement Data Space	Infeurope	288 750,00

Implementation of a new collection in OP Portal	Simavi	312 778,00
EU Datathon 2022	Prizes (various natural and legal persons)	100 000,00
Implementation of several actions	Commitment level 1	759 872,00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- private individuals (academic researchers, public procurement experts, authors of essays)

5. **Documentation and expected results**

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

Commission interim report on the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions 2022.

The Commission Financing Decision, adopted on 4 March 2022, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: [C\(2022\)1257](#)

The project website is available at the following address: [SIMAP - Preparatory Action on Transparency in Public Procurement](#)

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 so far. A reassessment will be done after knowing the results of the actions to be implemented in 2023.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PA 05 20 01: Preparatory action — The Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities spin-off

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	193 190,88	p.m.	550 000	p.m.	360 000	0,0 %	-34,5 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	193 190,88	p.m.	550 000	p.m.	360 000	0,0 %	-34,5 %

3. Objectives

Objectives followed during 2022 and previous years' implementation:

The implementation started in 2021. The objective of the action in 2022 was to capitalise on and expand the results on the Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce (AI-NURECC) initiative (2017-2019) and increase the awareness of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) among a wide range of stakeholders as well as to open a discussion on how to contribute (bottom-up) to the implementation of the EUSAIR.

Intentions for the current year 2023:

In 2023, the following events are being organized:

- Two conferences, respectively on sustainable tourism in mountain areas and youth involvement, in Skopje in January 2023
- Two events ("Circular economy and aquatic resources: how to manage inland and coastal waters in a smart and circular way" & "EUSAIR towards the Green and Circular Economy - Territorial Challenges and Regional Development") at the EUSAIR Annual Forum in Sarajevo in May 2023
- One event in Corfu in June 2023
- Another event in Montenegro in October 2023
- One event on youth foreseen in Autumn 2023
- Final event of AI-NURECC PLUS project in Brussels in November 2023

Furthermore, the following activities will be implemented:

- Study on territorial challenges and development
- New capitalization website on AI-NURECC projects
- Internship for youth

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of grant.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The AI-NURECC PLUS supports the **EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Region (EUSAIR) implementation, ensuring deep and broad territorial coverage** while enhancing Regional and Local Authorities' ownership of the EUSAIR main objectives and opportunities in the **EUSAIR cross-pillar topics: "Research and Innovation", "SMEs Development", and "Skills Development"**. AI-NURECC PLUS supports entrepreneurship, transnational clusters, and digital innovation hubs activities for the EUSAIR. Special attention is given to Youth, also through initiatives addressed to social inclusion and tools that are expected to encourage community sustainable development, cohesion and solidarity in the area.

Activities:

- Organisation of the event on “Creative and Cultural Industries in the Adriatic-Ionian region” and side-event on cinema and films in Mostar in April 2022
- High-level conference on Circular in Slovenia in April 2022
- Submission of the report “AI-NURECC PLUS suggestions for Creative and Cultural Industries sector in the EUSAIR” the Commission in September 2022
- Organisation of the event "The Blue Economy in the Adriatic-Ionian Region: The Value and Development of Nautical Tourism" in Brindisi in September 2022
- AI-NURECC PLUS Summer school on Sustainable Tourism, Fair and closing Conference in September 2022 and following, related reports by students in TSG4 meeting in October 2022
- Organisation of the high-level fair and conference on “Sustainable Tourism in the Adriatic-Ionian Region” in Skopje in November 2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Activities

- Conferences on sustainable tourism in mountain areas and youth involvement, in Skopje in January 2023
- Events about circular economy and aquatic resources and EUSAIR towards the Green and Circular Economy in Sarajevo in May 2023
- Youth event in Autumn 2023

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	8.7.2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A - direct grants
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	N/A - direct grants contracts
Award decision	1 st quarter 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	May 2021
Final payment	2023

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
"The Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities (AI-NURECC) spin-off"	AI NURECC Consortium	1,170,326.70

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- public service providers
- research institutes / academia

5. Documentation and expected results

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

The Commission Financing Decision C(2020)4515 final, adopted on 08 July 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/financing-decisions/

The project website is available at the following address: [AI-NURECC PLUS – CPMR](#)

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 results of this action will feed the process of the revision of the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region”. This includes the revision of the Communication COM(2014) 357 final and SWD(2014) 190 final

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 pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	194 904,00	p.m.	170 000	p.m.	140 000	0,0 %	-17,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	194 904,00	p.m.	170 000	p.m.	140 000	0,0 %	-17,6 %

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 pre- requisite 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 (some were implemented, other are 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 on 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” an 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 finalized and the report published.

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	Art.195 (c) financial regulation – no call for proposal
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Art.195 (c) 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 tender	24 March 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	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 tender	Art.195 (c) financial regulation – no call for proposal
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	Art.195 (c) financial regulation – no call for proposal
Award decision	24 November 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2021
Final payment	2024

Step	Date
------	------

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	July 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	13 August 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	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*
– 2020 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 EUR
EUSAIR bringing the Green Deal to the region	Forum of the Adriatic Ionian Chamber of Commerce	74.800 EUR
EU support to implementation of the EUSAIR in North Macedonia	Secretariat of European Affairs, North Macedonia	347.750,00 EUR
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 EUR

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 08 July 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/funding-opportunities/financing-decisions/

Information regarding the 6th EUSAIR Annual Forum on 11-12 May 2021 are available at the following address: [6th EUSAIR Annual Forum](#)

The study “EUSAIR bringing the Green Deal to the region” was approved in at the end of last year and should be published soon.

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 18 04: Preparatory action — Music Moves Europe: Boosting European music diversity and talent

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2018, 2019 and 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 440 984,99	p.m.	758 999	p.m.	253 850	0,0 %	-66,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 440 984,99	p.m.	758 999	p.m.	253 850	0,0 %	-66,6 %

3. Objectives

The Preparatory action aims at testing suitable actions with a view to future EU support for music, especially under Creative Europe. In general terms, support is directed towards European diversity and talent, the competitiveness of the sector as well as increased access of citizens to music in all its diversity.

Following discussion at EU level with the representatives of the music ecosystem, this Preparatory action responds to the identified need for more targeted support to Europe's music sector to address major challenges and topical issues by means of selected activities. It complements and builds on the existing, but too limited support options for music under Creative Europe. Very importantly, it adds value to the formulated political priorities in the field of culture as stipulated in the Treaties.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of calls for proposals and call for tenders.

The new circumstances, due to the crisis, led to the re-orientation of the 2020 Preparatory action (amendment of the Annual Work Programme) with the focus of channelling support towards the recovery of the music sector. The selected project is currently being implemented and supposed to be finalised by the end of 2023. All other actions launched under this Preparatory action have been finalised (some 60 projects implemented, all 5 EU studies delivered their final reports).

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out:
 - Call for proposal: Selection of a consortium to implement an “Innovative support scheme for a sustainable music ecosystem”; implementation of the project MusicAIRE.
- Deliverables submitted:
 - Final project reports from ongoing calls for proposals:
 - EAC/S17/2019 - Co-operation of small music venues
 - Mezzanine in consortium with Promotion de Associations Namuroises Actives en Musiques Actuelles (PANAMA)/Promotion Stichting Asteriks/Ośrodek Działań Artystycznych "Firlej"
 - Music Estonia in consortium with LiveFIN/Bar Loose/Kultuuriklubi Tempel
 - A Macho Alfa in consortium with Maus Hábitos/La Melona
 - Live Kommbinat in consortium with Landesverband der Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft Sachsen e.V/Noch Besser Leben
 - WORM in consortium with Kvaka 22/DABADABA/VAARTKAPOEN

- ROCKNROLLA PRODUCCIONES Y EVENTOS CULTURALES in consortium with 4AD/La Passerelle-Le grand Mix/MKC Skopje/Udruženje za razvoj culture “URK”
- Bergen Kommune in consortium with Bergens Kunstforening-Bergen Kunsthall-Landmark/Kulturhuset Østre AS
- Overground Musicin consortium with Valhalla Invest SRL/POT Music NGO/PUB CULTURE SRL
- Szubjektív Értékek Alapítvány in consortium with Király-Nappali Kft./Kvaka 22/Tamaš Horvat PR Ugostiteljska radnja Zentropia Senta/Channel Zero, kulturno umetniško društvo/S.C. Gulas Exotic Srl.
- EAC/S18/2019 – Co-Creation
 - ROCKNROLLA PRODUCCIONES Y EVENTOS CULTURALES S.L. in consortium with W Music Sweden/ESTRAGON
 - LLC, HOUSE OF CULTURE MASTERSKAYA
 - Institute of Sound in consortium with Konstmusiksyrtrar/Kajetan Lukomski
 - A38 Cultural Nonprofit Ltd in consortium with Tendencias 21 Kft./Overground Music SLR./INK Music Ltd./LALA Slovak Music Export
 - Louvana Diskoi LTD
 - Saraiva Canejo Leitão Unipessoal in consortium with Nord Universitet(NORD)
 - Associazione Culturale “So what” in consortium with MINNAMURRA MUSIC MANAGEMENT & AGENCY
 - IHM - Interessengemeinschaft Hamburger Musikwirtschaft e.V (new name: Hamburg Music Business e.V.)
 - Music Export Poland Foundation in consortium with Le Bureau Export/Associação Empresarial WHY Portugal
- Report of study on Implementing steps to develop and promote European Music Export (to be published in the early spring 2023): ‘Analysis of the key aspects of the impact of COVID-19 on European music export’
- Report of study on Health creators’ risk published on 12/01/2023 [Commission publishes report on health and wellbeing of musicians | Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Final project reports from ongoing calls for proposals will be provided in 2023
 - EAC/S17/2019 - Co-operation of small music venues
 - Reykjavík Music City (RMC) in consortium with HLUTMENGI ehf/Gamli Gaukurinn ehf/Hannesarholt Ses/Dillon ehf
 - RESEAU Le Périscope in consortium with BMC Budapest Music center Kft./Le petit Fauchaux
 - Campus in consortium with SIA “FP IZKLAIDE”/ASSOCIAZIONE TEATRALE ORFEO/UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN
 - EAC/S21/2019 - Professionalisation and Training
 - Tremolino
 - LAG Rock Pop
 - Festival d’Aix
 - Hogeschool Ghent
 - Future Female Sounds
 - PROMUS
 - IHM
 - IMMF

- IMPALA
- Music Innovation Hub
- EAC/S53/2019 - Music Education and Learning
 - Asociacion cultural en lugar de Creacion
 - NAZARENO SOCIETA' COOPERATIVA SOCIALE
 - Sistema Cyprus
 - JAZZDANMARK
 - Yehudi Menuhin Foundation
 - ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL ORQUESTA CLASICA BELA BARTOK
 - Asociatia Trib'Art
 - Musethica
 - Artesis Plantijn Hogeschool Antwerpen
 - Asociación Aventuras Domésticas
- Meetings held:
 - MME training scheme workshop, gathering all projects funded under the training call (7/11/2022)

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Final report of study on Implementing steps to develop and promote European Music Export (see above)
- EAC/S21/2019 IMMF
- EAC/S53/2019 Artesis Plantijn Hogeschool
- Meetings to take place:
 - Final conference of the project “MusicAIRE” (November 2023 – tbc)

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

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2018
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2018
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2018
Award decision	2018-2019
Prefinancing payments	2018
Interim payments	2019
Final payment	2019/2020

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	August 2019 – April 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	December 2019 - August 2020
Award decision	May 2020 – October 2020
Prefinancing payments	November, December 2020
Interim payments	NA
Final payment	2022/2023

- 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020

Step	Date
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	November 2020
Award decision	April 2021
Pre-financing or interim payments	2021, 2022 & 2023
Final payment	Third quarter 2024

4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*
– 2018 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Feasibility study “European Music Observatory”	Lot 1 – Observatory study – Panteia (KEA)	174 661.5
	Lot 2 – Gap 'analysis' – Panteia (KEA)	174 113
Online and Offline distribution	Eastaste Group Bt.(Eastaste)	30 000
	World Airplay Radio Monitor (WARM)	30 000
	EVEARA Limited	30 000
	Zavod Radio Študent (Zavod RŠ)	30 000
	GET a GIG Laser GmbH	30 000
	Digital Music Solutions	30 000
	Berlin 3 Services GmbH (Berlin3)	30 000
	Sonosuite	30 000
Idol (Independent Distribution online)	30 000	
European Music Leaders training programme	Mono-beneficiary: Interessengemeinschaft Hamburger Musikwirtschaft e.V. (DE)	54 959.28
	Fórum a Népművészetért (HU)	55 000
	Trempolino (FR)	55 000
	AMAEI - Associação de Músicos Artistas e Editoras Independentes (PT)	54 998
	Musikkutstysordningen (NO)	55 000
	Music Estonia MTÜ	55 000
	Multi-beneficiary: Fédération Nationale des Labels Indépendants (FELIN) (FR)/ Verband Unabhängiger Musikunternehmen e.V. (DE)/ Le LABA (FR): for Women Entrepreneurs in Music industry	55 000
	mdw – University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (AT)/ mica – music information center Austria (AT)	55 000
	Associazione culturale Scuola per giovani musicisti (IT)/ Università degli Studi di Camerino (IT): TEME	52 362.89
	Cyprus Music Information Centre (CyMIC) (CY)/Institute for Research on Music and Acoustic – Greek Music documentation Center (IEMA) (GR)	54 994,55
		53 000
	European Music Export Strategy	Le Bureau Export (MICA)

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Professionalization and training	Trepolino – 90.000,00 A38 – 48.500,00 LAG Rock Pop + L’Autre Canal – 90.000,00 Festival Aix - 89.115,00 EUR Hogeschool Ghent – 90.000,00 Future Female Sounds - 47.604,00 Aarhus – 86.000,00 IHM – 78.848,71 IMMF - 88.629,60 Impala - 71.835,52 Music Innovation Hub - 88.000,00	879 233.33
Export of European Music	Musik information Centrum - Austria in consortium with KEA/Performing Rights Society foundation/Music Export Poland/Music Finland Ry/EMEE/UMENI	397 575.00
Co-operation of small music venues	Music Estonia in consortium with LiveFIN/Bar Loose/Kultuuriklubi Tempel - 50,000.00 A Macho Alfa in consortium with Maus Hábitos/La Melona - 50,000.00 Reykjavík Music City (RMC) in consortium with HLUTMENGI ehf/Gamli Gaukurinn ehf/Hannesarholt Ses/Dillon ehf - 30,000.00 Live Kommbinat in consortium with Landesverband der Kultur- und Kreativwirtschaft Sachsen e.V/Noch Besser Leben - 27,000.00 RESEAU Le Périscope in consortium with BMC Budapest Music center Kft./Le petit Fauchoux - 50,000.00 WORM in consortium with Kvaka 22/DABADABA/VAARTKAPOEN - 67,270.50 ROCKNROLLA PRODUCCIONES Y EVENTOS CULTURALES in consortium with 4AD/La Passerelle-Le grand Mix/MKC Skopje/Udruženje za razvoj culture “URK” - 62,672.00 Bergen Kommune in consortium with Bergens Kunstforening-Bergen Kunsthall-Landmark/Kulturhuset Østre AS - 30,000.00 Overground Musicin consortium with Valhalla Invest SRL/POT Music NGO/PUB CULTURE SRL - 50,000.00 Mezzanine in consortium with Promotion de Associations Namuroises Actives en Musiques	604 227.50

	<p>Actuelles (PANAMA)/Promotion Stichting Asteriks/Ośrodek Działań Artystycznych "Firlej" - 47,285.00</p> <p>Szubjektív Értékek Alapítvány in consortium with Király-Nappali Kft./Kvaka 22/Tamaš Horvat PR Ugostiteljska radnja Zentropia Senta/Channel Zero, kulturno umetniško društvo/S.C. Gulas Exotic Srl. - 70,000.00</p> <p>Campus in consortium with SIA "FP IZKLAIDE"/ASSOCIAZIONE TEATRALE ORFEO/UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN - 70,000.00</p>	
Co-creation	<p>Louvana Diskoi LTD – 50,000.00</p> <p>Saraiva Canejo Leitão Unipessoal in consortium with Nord Universitet(NORD) - 50,000.00</p> <p>ROCKNROLLA PRODUCCIONES Y EVENTOS CULTURALES S.L. in consortium with W Music Sweden/ESTRAGON - 49,050.00</p> <p>Associazione Culturale "So what" in consortium with MINNAMURRA MUSIC MANAGEMENT & AGENCY – 38,700.00</p> <p>IHM - Interessengemeinschaft Hamburger Musikwirtschaft e.V - 44,296.00</p> <p>LLC, HOUSE OF CULTURE MASTERSKAYA – 42,000.00</p> <p>Institute of Sound in consortium with Konstmusiksystrar/Kajetan Lukomski – 49,945.00</p> <p>Music Export Poland Foundation in consortium with Le Bureau Export/Associação Empresarial WHY Portugal – 50,000.00</p> <p>A38 Cultural Nonprofit Ltd in consortium with Tendencies 21 Kft./Overground Music SLR./INK Music Ltd./LALA Slovak Music Export – 50,000.00</p>	423 991.00
Health and wellbeing of music creators	<p>KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN in consortium with IDEWE VZW, EXTERNE DIENST VOOR PREVIE EN BESCHERMING OP HET WERK, LUCA SCHOOL OF ARTS</p>	149 195.00
Music education and learning	<p>Asociación cultural en lugar de Creacion – 30.000,00</p> <p>NAZARENO SOCIETA' COOPERATIVA SOCIALE – 29.947</p> <p>Sistema Cyprus – 30.000,00</p> <p>Jazz Danmark – 29.800</p> <p>International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation – 30.000</p> <p>ASOCIACIÓN CULTURAL ORQUESTA CLASICA BELA BARTOK – 30.000</p> <p>Asociația Trib'Art and Asociația Română de Muzicoterapie and The Moving Academy gUG</p>	279 947.00

	and SOS Children Village Bucharest - 30.000 Musethica e.V – 30.000 Artesis Plantijn Hogeschool Antwerpen – 30.000 Asociación Aventuras Domésticas – 30.000	
External experts	Danny Keir (Sound Diplomacy) - 14,800.00 Gergely Salamon (Estate Music) - 13,880.00 Expert contract - CHOLYST - assessment of proposals EAC-S18-2019 – 21,375.00 Expert contract - GRAFULLA - assessment of tenders EAC/2020/OP/0006 - 2,700.00 Expert contract - GRAFULLA - assessment of proposals EAC-S18-2019 – 21,375.00 Expert contract – GRAFULLA assessment of proposals EAC/S15/2020 - 7,650.00 Expert contract – KIMENAI assessment of proposals EAC/S15/2020 - 6,300.00	88 080.00

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Music Moves Europe Preparatory action 2020: Innovative support scheme for a sustainable music ecosystem	INOVA+ (coordinator) Member: European Music Council e.V	2 499 997.52

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

Service contractors for tender procedures and Public or private organisations active in the music sector for the calls for proposals.

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 and the 2018 annual work programme for the implementation of the first year of the preparatory action, C(2018)1602 of 21 March 2018. It is available at the following address: https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-06/c-2018-1602_en.pdf

The Commission Financing Decision C(2019) 1819 adopted on 12 March 2019 sets out the main elements of the implementation of the preparatory action 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 04 March 2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the following address: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-07/2020-awp-ce-c-2019-1194.pdf>

Call documents for 2018 are available at the following addresses: [Calls | Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](#)

[EAC/13/2018 Music Moves Europe - Study on a European Music Export Strategy](#)

[EAC/14/2018 Music Moves Europe - The feasibility study for the establishment of a European Music Observatory, and a gap analysis of funding needs for the music sector](#)

[EAC/S18/2018 Music moves Europe – Training scheme for young music professionals](#)

[EAC/S19/2018 Music Moves Europe - Online and Offline Distribution](#)

Call documents for 2019 are available at the following addresses: [Calls | Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](#)

[EAC/S21/2019 Music moves Europe - Boosting European Music Diversity and Talent Call on Professionalisation and Training](#)

[EAC/S17/2019 Call for proposals – Co-operation of Small Music Venues](#)

[EAC/S19/2019 Co-Creation and Co-Production scheme for the music sector](#)

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CoCreationAndCoProduction>

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/SmallMusicVenues/management/overview>

Call documents for 2020 are available at the following addresses: [Calls | Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](#)

[EAC/S53/2019 Music education and learning](#)

[EAC/2020/OP/0006 Implementing steps to develop and promote European music export](#)

[EAC/S15/2020 Music Moves Europe Preparatory action 2020: Innovative support scheme for a sustainable music ecosystem](#)

The project website is available at the following address: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/actions/music-moves-europe_en

The study "A European music export strategy" and its executive summaries are available at the following address: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/893b761b-68c6-11ea-b735-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Report of study on Health creators' risk published on 12/01/2023: [Commission publishes report on health and wellbeing of musicians | Culture and Creativity \(europa.eu\)](#)

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 legislative follow-up is envisaged. The results of the Preparatory Action will, primarily, be built in the future Creative Europe programme as sectorial measures supporting music.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PA 07 18 07: Preparatory action — European Houses of Culture

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2018, 2019 and 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
			p.m.		p.m.			
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	375 000	p.m.	187 500	0,0 %	-50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	375 000	p.m.	187 500	0,0 %	-50,0 %

3. Objectives

The concept of European Houses/ Spaces of Culture is one of the tools for enhanced EU cooperation in the area of external cultural relations. Such Spaces should provide opportunities for new forms of collaboration between EU institutions, national cultural institutes and other stakeholders, which can pool their resources together.

This project aims to outline how such institutions could best contribute to the implementation of the EU strategy on international cultural relations, through better cooperation between national institutes (achieving economies of scale among EU Member States), EU Delegations and the third countries in question. It should look at how such Houses could best promote EU visibility in third countries, increase people-to-people contacts, and reach more widely local stakeholders.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission intends to implement this third phase of the preparatory action through a joint project with EUNIC. The grant was awarded to EUNIC on the basis of Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation due to its unique technical competence concerning the network of the EU national cultural institutes present in over 100 countries worldwide.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: further identifying and testing of collaborative models in external cultural relations (phase 1, 2 and 3):
 - Final conference for phase 1: Taking EU cultural relations to the next level, 1 June 2021
 - Phase 2:
 - The jury selected fourteen project ideas for the second phase of European Spaces of Culture to be developed into concrete projects for 2022 (12 June 2021).
 - The 14 projects participated in the Creative Lab on 27-28 September 2021.
 - 11 projects selected for final implementation 29 November 2021 were implemented in 2022.
 - Phase 3:
 - On 16 March 2022, a new call for ideas was launched with the deadline on 19 June 2022.
 - On 11 July 2022, a jury of six experts shortlisted eleven project ideas for European Spaces of Culture to be developed into concrete projects for 2023.
 - On 26 and 27 September 2022, the European Spaces of Culture Lab took place online, bringing together representatives from the 11 ideas shortlisted under most recent call, together with external actors in the field of international cultural relations.

- On 14 December 2022, the international jury of six independent experts selected eight new European Spaces of Culture pilot projects to be implemented in 2023.

- All phases (to different degrees): monitoring, evaluation, communication, advocacy, project management and reporting

- Deliverables submitted: activity and financial report for phase 1 and for phase 2
- Meetings held: regular meetings with EUNIC Global to assess the implementation progress

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Phase 3: implementation of the 8 projects; monitoring, evaluation, communication, advocacy, project management and reporting
- Deliverables to be submitted:
 - activity and financial report for phase 3
 - Proposal for the special action
- Meetings to take place: regular meetings with EUNIC Global to assess the implementation progress

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

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2018
Award decision	October 2018
Prefinancing or interim payments	2018 & 2019
Final payment	2020

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Request to submit a proposal	August 2019
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	September 2019
Award decision	November 2019
Prefinancing or interim payments	2022
Final payment	March-April 2023

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Request to submit a proposal	April 2020
Deadline for submission	July 2020
Award decision	September 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	June 2023
Final payment	March-April 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Houses of Culture	EUNIC	750 000

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Houses of Culture	EUNIC	750 000

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
European Houses of Culture	EUNIC	750 000

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

Public Body

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(2018) 1602 adopted on 21 March 2018 sets out the main elements of this preparatory action for 2019. It is available at the following address: https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-06/c-2018-1602_en.pdf

The Commission Financing Decision C(2019) 1819 adopted on 12 March 2019 sets out the main elements of this preparatory action for 2019. It is available at the following address: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-annual-work-programme.pdf>

The Commission Financing Decision C(2020) 1194 adopted on 04 March 2020 sets out the main elements of this preparatory action for 2019. It is available at the following address: <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2021-07/2020-awp-ce-c-2019-1194.pdf>

Amendment of the Implementing Decision C(2021) 3563 on the adoption of the work programme for the implementation of the Creative Europe programme for 2021 and 2022 (AWP 2023). It is available at the following address: https://culture.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2022-08/creative-europe-work-programme-amendment-2122_C2022_6138.pdf

The project website is available at the following address: <https://www.eunicglobal.eu/european-houses-of-culture>

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. However, the Commission will explore if an action on this theme could be integrated into the Creative Europe work programme.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PA 07 19 03: Preparatory action — Monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalisation

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2019 and 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	430 013,64	p.m.	654 000	p.m.	159 888	0,0 %	-75,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	430 013,64	p.m.	654 000	p.m.	159 888	0,0 %	-75,6 %

3. Objectives

This action aims at supporting sport-related projects organised by sport organisations and federations cooperating with public authorities (including municipalities), local actors and civil society. This action will focus on the prevention of radicalisation, in particular in helping youngsters at risk of exclusion and of radicalisation to better integrate in the society in which they are living. It will focus on the practise of sport and physical activity as a tool to promote a better inclusion to a group or in the society as a whole.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission is implementing this preparatory action by means of grants, procurement and contracting experts.

4.1.1 Grants

The preparatory action is implemented through grants awarded following a call for proposals. The selected projects allow supporting local projects focused on the monitoring and prevention of radicalisation processes through sport. These projects involve local sport organisations and develop cooperation with local authorities active in the field. These projects would support “umbrella” sport organisations, which want to develop initiatives of social inclusion through sport, in order to avoid radicalisations.

4.1.2 Procurement

The Commission is supporting the promotion, dissemination and valorisation of the projects through the current preparatory action. This takes the form of communication activities, seminars and conferences. These activities are developed through existing framework contracts or new procurement procedures.

The Commission will ensure the selection and evaluation process through appropriate IT tools. The conception of this IT tool is financed within the current preparatory action. This is ensured through an existing framework contract or a new procurement procedure.

4.1.3 Experts

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The objectives for 2019 were supporting sport-related projects focusing on the prevention of radicalisation, in particular in helping youngsters at risk of exclusion and of radicalisation to better integrate in the society in which they are living. It focused on the practice of sport and physical activity as a tool to promote a better inclusion to a group or in the society as a whole. The gender equality dimension was taken into account. Following the call for proposals, seven projects were selected. Projects activities have started in 2020. Five of the seven funded projects have finished their activities in 2022 and have submitted their final reports, which have all been accepted. The remaining two projects have presented their final reports, which are currently being assessed.

Following the action implemented in 2019, the 2020 action supported organisations active in the field of sport. The total budget for this action was EUR 1 000 000. Thus, in 2020, 5 projects were selected. Applicants proposed actions that focus on the prevention of radicalisation, in particular in helping youngsters at risk of exclusion and of radicalisation to better integrate in the society in which they are living.

Project activities have been overall slowed by the Covid-19 impact; nevertheless, projects have been able to find alternative ways to keep a reasonable implementation speed.

A non-exhaustive list of the main activities are:

- Development of sport and physical activities for people at risk of radicalisation;
- Design and development of networks at EU level amongst organisations engaged into the prevention, through sports, of marginalisation and radicalisation;
- Organisation of workshops, seminars and conferences aimed at spreading the information, expertise and cooperation opportunities relating to the prevention of marginalisation and radicalisation through sport;
- Development, identification, promotion and sharing of activities and good practices, at EU level, about monitoring and coaching, through sports, of people at risk of radicalisation.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Following the closing of five of the seven funded projects, the remaining 2 open projects selected in 2019 are currently being assessed.
- The projects selected in 2020, are in their third year of implementation. Many are accelerating their activities following the sometimes-slower progress caused in previous years by COVID-19 pandemic, so to be back on track with the planning. Physical meetings better allow to implement foreseen activities and, overall, support projects to reach the expected impact.

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

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2019
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2019
Award decision	October 2019
Prefinancing or interim payments	January 2019
Final payment	June 2022 to May 2023

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2020
Final payment	June 2023 to May 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Youth Anti Radicalisation through Sport in Europe	Fare Network Stichting	245 813.60
Sport and Training Against	CUS TORINO	256 056.00

Radicalization		
ToGetTher(E)	LArco Società Cooperativa Sociale arl	211 872.00
Football For A Better Chance	Federatia Romana De Fotbal	305 504.00
Geographic Platform for Amateur Runners for Deradicalization	Federazione Italiana Di Atletica Leggera	321 920.00
Sport for Prevention of Extremism in Youth	Unio De Federacions Esportives De Catalunya	259 299.68
Move IN	EDUVIC SCCL	350 000.00

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Radical (Ex)Change	International Olympic Truce Centre, (EL)	157 352.56
Belgian Red Courts Programme	Union Royale Belge des Sociétés de Football association, (BE)	200 000.00
GeoLAB	Federazione Italiana di Atletica Leggera, (IT)	193 545.00
Start on the Street: Acting Against Radicalization Through Sport In Cities	Ufolep IDF, (FR)	170 300.00
Football For A Better Chance 2.0	Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio, (IT)	199 720.00

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- Sport federations
- Non-governmental 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 (2019) 1819 adopted on 12 March 2019 sets out the main elements of the implementation of the preparatory action 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 04 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents for 2019 are available at the following address: [Call for proposals: Monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalisation | Sport \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents for 2020 are available at the following address: [CALL FOR PROPOSALS – Monitoring and coaching, through sports, of youngsters at risk of radicalisation \(2020\) | Sport \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

PA 07 19 06: Preparatory action — Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2019, 2020 and 2021 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 317 421,80	p.m.	1 313 000	p.m.	880 435	0,0 %	-32,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 317 421,80	p.m.	1 313 000	p.m.	880 435	0,0 %	-32,9 %

3. Objectives

This preparatory action focuses on the integration of refugees in communities across the EU through local sport projects. The action supports the identification of good practices in Europe and the development of methods to assess their impact in a systematic and replicable manner. Information on actions relating to the integration of refugees through sport should be made available on a networking platform.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission is implementing this preparatory action by means of grants, procurement and contracting experts.

4.1.1 Grants

The preparatory action will be implemented through a call for proposals. The selected projects should involve local sport organisations.

4.1.2 Procurement

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 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.

4.1.3 Experts

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In total, 28 projects have been funded: 11 in 2019, 7 in 2020 and 10 in 2021. Each project, according to its own planning, has implemented several activities. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in several cases planned meeting were organised online and in some cases sport activities for which virtual activities were not a valid alternative have been postponed.

Through concrete actions aiming at integrating refugees through sport and additional actions aiming at building networks and disseminating good practices in the EU, the expected outcomes of this preparatory action include:

- Promoting the direct engagement of refugees and host communities;
- Promoting a Europe-wide approach, increasing the potential for host communities to successfully engage and integrate refugees through sport;
- Developing the links between organisations promoting the integration of refugees through sport at EU level;

- Creating a platform of projects aiming at promoting sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees;
- Collecting and disseminating good practices, through IT tools, workshops, seminars and conferences, relating to available results of projects and initiatives aimed at the integration of refugees through sport.

The funded projects have continued to implement their activities, though many projects have experienced a slower implementation given the COVID-19 pandemic. Several online meetings have substituted the physical meetings foreseen, although whenever possible the main events have been postponed with a view of holding the meetings online.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The Commission will continue to assist and monitor the funded projects. Starting from 2021, EACEA carries out the implementation of projects funded under the 2021 call for proposals. The action will continue to support the identification of good practices in Europe and the development of methods to assess their impact in a systematic and replicable manner. Information on actions relating to the integration of refugees through sport should be made available on a networking platform

Project selected in 2019 have finished in 2022 and will be assessed in the beginning of 2023.

The projects selected in 2020 and 2021, are being implemented. Many are accelerating their activities following the sometimes slower progress caused in previous years by COVID-19 pandemic, so to be back on track with the planning. Physical meetings better allow to implement foreseen activities and, overall, support projects to reach the expected impact.

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

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2019
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2019
Award decision	October 2019
Prefinancing or interim payments	January 2020
Final payment	February to May 2023

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	April 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2020
Final payment	June 2023 to May 2024

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2021
Award decision	January 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	May to September 2022
Final payment	2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
SMILE - digital teaching and learning for integration in sports	Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund (DOSB)	240 000.00
THROW-In. Trainers as Healthy Roadmap Of Welcoming Inclusion	Virtusvecomp Verona SRL	200 740.00
Sports education for a new life	Taekwondo Klub Jastreb	268 140.00
Score for respect	Oltalom Sportegyesulet	200 000.00
Play Football Together: football as an inclusion tool for refugees.	Club de accionariado popular ciudad	238 000.00
Play Football, Live Football	Malta Football Association	200 920.00
RUN FREE	Vlaamse Atletiekliga	220 000.00
Sport Inclusion of Refugees across Europe (SPIN Refugees)	Fonds Wiener Institut Fur Internationalen Dialog Und Zusammenarbeit	295 000.00
We Welcome Young Refugees	Royal Europa '90 Kraainem Football Club	200 000.00
Fostering social inclusion through sport for refugees and asylum seekers in Europe	Play International	295 396.57
IRTS Networking Platform	International Sport And Culture Association	600 000.00

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Community	Universitat de Barcelona, (ES)	239 850.00
Football Integrating Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Federatia Romana de Fotbal, (RO)	200 000.00
Kids Love Sports	Hellenic Olympic Committee, (EL)	248 080.00
INtegration through SPort and Inclusion for Refugees in Europe for Sustainability - INSPIRES	FARE, (NL)	270 288.00
SPorts-based intervention for Refugees INclusion with a Gender perspective - SPRING	Fundacio Privada Futbol Club Barcelona, (ES)	296 280.00
Engageyou4sport: Engage All into Sports Organisations	Associazione Italiana Cultura Sport, (IT)	243 000.00
Pass - Actioning Social Sports (PASS)	Malta Football Association, (MT)	204 144.00

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
WWYR	Royal Europa '90 Kraainem Football Club	200 000.00
Milan Sport United	PLAYMORE! SOCIETA' SPORTIVA DILETTANTISTICA SRL	194 475.00
TESRP	Asociacija "Aktyvus jaunimas"	193 661.00
CrosSport	International Centre for Sport Security Europe Associação	191 145.00
SG	HAWAR HELP EV	172 428.00
Integration League	Lega Italiana Calcio Professionistico	205 098.00
PlayingForRefuge	COMUNIDAD FORAL DE NAVARRA - GOBIERNO DE NAVARRA	189 950.00

Rewins 2.0	FARE NETWORK STICHTING	205 640.30
FIT FOR ALL II	ANAPTIXI ATHLITISMOU IRAKLIOY AE OTA	199 786.00
WELLcome	Finlands Svenska Idrott r.f.	211 000.00

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- International or European Sport federations
- Non-profit organisations (private or public);
- Public authorities (national, regional, local);
- International or European organisations;
- Sport clubs;
- Universities;
- Educational institutions;
- Research centres;
- 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 (2019) 1819 adopted on 12 March 2019 sets out the main elements of the implementation of the preparatory action 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 04 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents for 2019 are available at the following address: [Call for proposals: Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees | Sport \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents for 2020 are available at the following address: [Call for proposals: Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees - 2020 call | Sport \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call documents for 2021 are available at the following addresses:

[Call for proposals: Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees - 2020 call | Sport \(europa.eu\)](#)

[call-fiche_pppa-sport-2021-inclusion-refugees_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 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

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 pilot project were voted under the 2020, 2021 and 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 000 000,00	1 390 180,60	p.m.	1 719 000	p.m.	944 180	0,0 %	-45,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	1 390 180,60	p.m.	1 719 000	p.m.	944 180	0,0 %	-45,1 %

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.

4.1.1 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.

4.1.2 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.

4.1.3 Experts

External experts will assist the evaluation committee by contributing to the evaluation of the proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In total, 11 projects have been selected: 5 in 2020, 6 in 2021 and 8 in 2022. Each of the project funded in 2020 has implemented its activities according to the grant agreements. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in some cases planned meeting were organised online and in some cases some activities for which virtual activities were not a valid alternative have been postponed.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The Commission will continue to assist and monitor the funded projects. Starting from 2021, EACEA carries out the implementation of projects funded under the 2021 call for proposals. The action will continue to support sport organisations in developing and promoting new forms of practicing sport and physical activities, the communication about these activities and their benefit and the development of light sport facilities.

Regarding 2022 appropriations, during the first half of 2023, the evaluation has been finalised and 8 projects with the highest scores have been selected in view of supporting activities relevant for this preparatory action. The process for conclusion of contracts is expected to be finalised in second to third quarter 2023.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	May 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	July 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	December 2020
Final payment	Expected in 2022 and 2023

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2021
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	April 2021
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	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 tender	August 2022
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	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

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
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	Espoon Kaupunki	381 000.00

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Transforming our cities into smart playgrounds for Urban Sports	CityLegends	332 010.00 €
New recreational offer of rowing & canoeing at Lake Banyoles, by adapting light infrastructures & 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 €
Transforming our cities into smart playgrounds for Urban Sports	CityLegends	332 010.00 €

Since the selection procedure is currently ongoing, these details are not yet known.

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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 04 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 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 03: Preparatory action — Finance, Learning, Innovation and Patenting for Cultural and Creative Industries (FLIP for CCIs)

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	297 327,00	p.m.	445 991	p.m.	445 991	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	297 327,00	p.m.	445 991	p.m.	445 991	0,0 %	0,0 %

3. Objectives

The present action (FLIP for CCIs 3) builds on the achievements of the previous two pilot projects (FLIP for CCIs 1 and 2), complements them and intends to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions/basic acts for sustaining and developing CCIs and aiming at generating cross-sectoral benefits and spill-overs in the different areas and sectors CCIs interface with.

The Preparatory Action “FLIP for CCIs-3” will take stock of the achievements of the previous phases concerning the ESCO skills classification and complement it. It builds on the previous activities developing a model for recognising skills, testing the model with a larger number of CCIs and in particular strengthen the dimension of releasing the model for codifying skills and associating them with professional figures in the light of the European framework on skills. Phase 3 looks at how to best use ESCO to match CCI skills classifications with actual labour market requirement, seeking synergies with the ESCO network of experts and communities of practice in the field of CCIs.

Based on the guidelines and good practice for training programmes aimed at developing CCI skills developed by FLIP-1, the action uses existing structures and networks in order to prototype and test some solutions in practice and take policy learning to the next level. Phase 3 complements the previous phases, seeks synergies and intends to issue recommendations with a view to the adoption of future actions.

FLIP-3 continue with previous actions and will identify, prototype and test some innovative approaches via a participatory peer learning approach, involving regions, municipalities, local authorities, local cultural and creative actors in an inclusive way. Good practice examples will be collected and shared in practical and appealing visual material.

A peer-to-peer exchange programme among creative hubs as well as going beyond mobility by deeper forms of cooperation and co-creation will be tested in an innovative way. In addition, this third phase also intends to strengthen international cooperation.

FLIP-3 will use stock-taking and recommendations in particular of the Open Method of Cooperation reports "Innovative instruments to facilitate access to finance for the cultural and creative sectors" and "Access to Finance" as well as other relevant EU policy documents to further help to advance policy-making. The project will link up policy-makers of different levels (EU, national, regional, local) and cultural and creative sectors in co-creative policy making and build on previous peer learning experiences (such as previous FLIP phases and other projects funded under Creative Europe and pilots).

The action aimed to achieve the following results:

- Enhanced skills concerning access to finance for CCIs;
- Recommendations on enhanced value recognition and defending intellectual property of CCIs;
- Enhanced cultural and creative education, skills and readiness for the job market;
- Strengthened trans-national and cross-sectoral cooperation within the cultural and creative sectors and other stakeholders;
- Policy learnings, enhanced learning, skills development, exchanges of experience and cooperation opportunities;

- Stronger connections between policy makers at EU/national/regional/local levels and creative industries and "third places" such as creative hubs, maker spaces, fablabs, cultural centres, community centres or other;
- Enhanced exchanges of experience, learning, skills development and practical testing and cooperation opportunities;
- Facilitation of peer learning and exchange of good practice;
- Improved statistics and data on CCIs, as well as qualitative data;
- Recommendations for further policy making at EU, national, regional and local level.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of a call for proposal.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

Activities carried out:

- Advancing development of a support framework for resilient CCS (Transformation policies) - Development of a conceptual frame and preparation of final policy recommendations
- So You Need Money? Tool - development of a conceptual frame and online tool
- IPR Desk Research - desk research on available IP information for CCIs
- IPR Tool – development of the conceptual framework and online Tool
- TWIN HUBS peer2peer program – open call and selection of participants
- CCI4YOUTH Discovery Workshops (Learning Labs programme) - open call and selection of participants, implementation of the programme

Deliverables submitted:

- Creatives Unite – new version of the platform
- So You Need Money? – online finance tool, part of Creatives Unite
- IPR Tool – online advice tool for IP, part of Creatives Unite
- Technical report on progress
- Interim technical report

Meetings held:

- Community of Practice workshop, 19-20 January 2022
- Opening conference – FLIPPING PERSPECTIVES, MAXIMIZING EXCHANGE, 16 March 2022
- Innovation work, Community of Practice, IPR Focus groups (part of Opening conference, 16-17 March 2022) and ESCO Focus groups (3 May 2022)
- Kick-off meeting for CCI4Youth workshops (Learning Labs) (30 June 2022)
- Mid-term conference « BauTopia 2 », Porto (10-12 October 2022)
- CCI4Youth/ LLabs network meeting and IP training, Porto (10 October 2022)
- Kick-off meeting of Twin hubs programme: Twinning ceremony (10 October 2022)
- Focus groups: CoP/Transformation policies and Innovation work, Brussels (10 June 2022)
- ESCO workshop, jointly organized with INCREAS (FLIP 2) project, Vienna (22 November)

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Activities to be carried out:

- Continuous upgrade and update of Creatives Unite platform, SYNM and IP tools
- Development of the Creatives Unite android app

- Working conditions - development of a conceptual frame and non-public prototype version of the online platform
- Implementation of Twin hubs program
- Implementation of Learning Labs program
- Preparation, launch and promotion of the CoP final Policy recommendations (Transformation policies)
- Identification and clustering of ESCO occupations into CCI sub-sectors and Revision of a limited set of ESCO skills profiles

Deliverables to be submitted:

- “From Reaction to Action - Collaborative Transformation policies in Culture and Beyond for Future-Oriented Policy-making and Action”, publication (final policy recommendations)
- Creatives Unite android app
- Learning Labs summary of programme results (publication/report)
- ESCO Skills classification: Short report on implementation of system support actions and Revision of a limited set of ESCO skills profiles
- Interactive map of good practice examples for regional/city/CCI cooperation, as part of Creatives Unite
- Online platform for working conditions (as part of Creatives Unite) - non-public prototype version (based on OMC report) (pending amendment approval)

Meetings to take place:

- Transformation policies publication launch, Brussels (1 February 2023) – held
- CCI4Youth/ Learning Labs – online networking meetings (4 meetings, February-March 2023)
- CCI4Youth/ Learning Labs – final meeting, Madrid (22 March 2023)
- ESCO workshop, jointly with Cyanotypes and CHARTER projects, Helsingborg, Sweden (May 2023)
- Final conference (October 2023 – pending amendment approval)

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

The project is scheduled to end in September 2023, an extension until January 2024 is under preparation.

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	June 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	August 2020
Award decision	October 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	2021 & 2022
Final payment	Planned for March 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
FLIP for CCIs-3	Goethe-Institut e.V (coordinator), and the European Creative Hubs Network (ECHN), IDEA Consult, 3s Unternehmensberatung and Institut de la propriété intellectuelle Luxembourg (IPIL)	1 486 635.03

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

Public or private organisations with a legal personality

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 04 March 2020 sets out the main elements of this preparatory action for 2019. 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 project website is available at the following address: <https://creativeflip.creativehubs.net/>

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, due to the success of the pilot project, a pluri-annual follow-up of this action has been foreseen under the Creative Europe Programme (Work Programme 2022 and following).

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 pilot project were voted under the 2021, 2022 and 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	6 000 000,00	2 989 211,50	6 000 000	7 496 000	p.m.	6 000 000	-100,0 %	-20,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	6 000 000,00	2 989 211,50	6 000 000	7 496 000	p.m.	6 000 000	-100,0 %	-20,0 %

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 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 second quarter 2022 – ending in the second quarter 2023.

2022

- Activities carried out: A new call for proposals was launched and finalised in October 2022. The call builds on the previous one – as the text remains largely similar. It will thus support the setup of European media platforms aiming at increasing citizens' access to high quality information and content in multiple languages. Projects should represent different geographic regions and contribute to creating the underlying conditions to develop a cross-border media public sphere, by improving the circulation and consumption of European news content. Three projects were awarded. Contracts are about to be signed.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

A new call will be launched using funds allocated under the 2023 budget.

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	May 2021
Publication of call for proposals	July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	October 2021
Award decision	March 2022
Prefinancing or interim payments	April 2022
Final payment	November 2023

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	October 2022
Award decision	February 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	May-June 2023
Final payment	November 2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	July 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	October 2023
Award decision	March 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	May-June 2024
Final payment	November 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 in public service values	EBU	2.198.423,94

– 2022 commitment appropriations: Three projects have been awarded – contracts are about to be signed.

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	2 130 052,6

– 2023 commitment appropriations: These details are not yet known

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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 at the [following address](#).

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/european-media-platforms>

The 2022 Commission Financing Decision (C(2022)1052, 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 media platforms | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

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](#).

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

An action under the Multimedia Actions budgetary line covers the curation and provision of European content using European media platforms 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 Commission is considering if some elements of the action might be accommodated under the Multimedia prerogative budget line activities.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PA 07 21 02: Preparatory action — A Europe-wide rapid response mechanism for violations of press and media freedom

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	779 983,70	p.m.	390 000	p.m.	389 992	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	779 983,70	p.m.	390 000	p.m.	389 992	0,0 %	0,0 %

3. Objectives

The Pan-European rapid response mechanism for violations of press and media freedom is meant to mitigate the consequences of the deterioration of press and media freedom in certain member states and candidate countries. It will also provide a systematic monitoring of violations of press and media freedom across the European Union. This mechanism will make violations visible and provide legal and practical support to journalists under threat. It will be carried out in collaboration with European, regional and local stakeholders in the field of media freedom.

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 proposal.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Monitoring the state of media freedom in the EU Member States and Candidate Countries
- Legal and practical support to journalists and other media practitioners in need
- Advocacy and awareness-raising in the field of media freedom and safety of journalists
- Awareness-raising campaigns
- Ensure communication and dissemination activities
- Deliverables submitted: none
- Meetings held: none

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: systematic monitoring of violations of press and media freedom across the European Union. This mechanism will make violations visible and provide legal and practical support to journalists under threat.
- Design and manage a Europe-wide rapid response mechanism to support media freedom and journalists' safety, covering all EU Member States. Coverage of Candidate Countries will be considered an advantage.
- Provide legal and practical support to journalists and other media practitioners in need.
- Organise advocacy missions to locations where journalists are under threat.
- Monitor the state of media freedom in the EU Member States and Candidate Countries.
- Organise awareness raising campaigns in the field of media freedom and safety of journalists.
- Ensure communication and dissemination activities.
- Monitor and evaluate the action
- Deliverables to be submitted: Interim report was received in April 2023 and is currently under analysis. Final report will be submitted at the beginning of 2024 as the project ends 31/10/2023.

- Meetings to take place: none

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	16 September 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	29 October 2021
Award decision	March 2022
Prefinancing payment	May 2022
Interim payment	June 2023
Final payment	March 2024

4.5. *Type of activities financed, number and amounts*
– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
MFRR - MEDIA FREEDOM RAPID RESPONSE -	European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF)	1.949.959,24

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

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

Call documents are available at the following address: [Media freedom and investigative journalism | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

A two-year's pilot project preceded this action under financing decision C(2020) 2259 of 20.4.2020 and C(2019) 2233 of 1.4.2019.

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

No, the Commission adopted a [recommendation on the safety of Journalists](#) in September 2021.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2021, 2022 and 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	3 000 000,00	1 022 750,59	3 000 000	3 440 000	p.m.	2 440 917	-100,0 %	-29,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	3 000 000,00	1 022 750,59	3 000 000	3 440 000	p.m.	2 440 917	-100,0 %	-29,0 %

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 intends implements this preparatory action by means of a grant via an open call for proposals.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

2021 commitment:

- Activities:
 - Grant “EWC” signed with start date 15/05/2022 – 2 camps (of 1 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
 - Grant “Creative Connection” signed with start date 15/06/2022. Preparation of workshops planned in 2023 with the objective of forming a hybrid and innovative writer’s room
- Deliverables: None
- Meetings: None

2022 commitment:

- Activities:

The project was delegated to EACEA. The call was published in August and the deadline closed on 8 November 2022. Within this call applicants were invited to present proposals fostering the setup of creative hubs that can achieve, among others, the following priorities:

- Increase the competence, knowledge and capacity of creative talents in the creation of fiction series and foster the emergence of strong and diverse excellent teams / hubs of creative talents (e.g.

scriptwriters, editors, showrunners, executive producers,) coming from diverse backgrounds and nationalities;

- Facilitate multiple concrete collaborations that follow a learning-by-doing approach, focusing essentially on the creative and writing activities, enabling creative talents to work on a set of different projects in parallel and providing creators with optimised working methods and modalities for co-working, from the early stage of conceptualisation, to collaborative writing and to matchmaking with potential buyers.
- Promote collaborative models across linguistic borders in line with European principles and values, such as equal treatment, diversity and gender balance, fair remuneration of creators, taking into account market conditions and prices;
- Provide regular contacts with industry leaders, producers or commissioners of audiovisual works (e.g. distributors, buyers, platforms, broadcasters) to enhance the talents' understanding of the market trends and dynamics;
- Scout and select talents, for instance through open calls or prizes;
- Equip the creators with:
 - the necessary digital skills and familiarity with state-of-the-art developments and/or market intelligence that can affect the creative process (e.g. for example cognitive neuroscience, artificial intelligence)
 - the skills needed to manage intellectual property (IP) as it determines funding of creation and remuneration of creators and it ensures creative autonomy and cultural diversity;
- Contribute to the green transition.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

2021 commitments :

- Activities:
 - Grant “EWC” 2 additional camps (of 1 week duration) with different sessions for” boosting ideas”, “boosting concepts” and “boosting broadcasters”
 - Grant “Creative Connections” – 3 sessions (Q1-Q3) and festival event (Q4)
- Deliverables:
 - “EWC” Interim report and Final report
 - “Creative Connection” Interim report
- Meetings: None

2022 commitment:

Activities: Projects selected under the 2022 Call are currently in Grant Agreement Preparation. Contracts are due to be signed in May 2023.

The 2023 call will be launched in June 2023 and the call will target EU talents as directly as possible, a part of the audio-visual value chain that is not part of the beneficiaries of the European current support programmes^[1]. The objective of the action being enhancing and enabling creativity, talents across the EU should be empowered to intensify their cooperation. Authors should be working within ad hoc creative labs or writing rooms that have as primary goal the improvement of the creative process at the stage of co-writing. At the same time, through exchanges with audiovisual professionals, authors should become more aware of the potential of their creative input, in artistic as well as in exploitation and dissemination terms.

^[1] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0818&qid=1674472231657>,

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 July 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	20 September 2021
Award decision	March 2022
Prefinancing payment	May/June 2022
Interim payment	May/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 or interim payments	May 2023
Final payment	Depending on the project, between June 2024 and November 2025

2023 commitment appropriations (delegated to EACEA)

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	June 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	October/November 2023 (TBC)
Award decision	February 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	May 2024
Final payment	Depending on the project, between June 2025 and July 2027

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2021 commitment appropriations

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: pending contract signature

– 2023 commitment appropriations: these details are not yet known

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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 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/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](#)

Call documents are available at the following address: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/preparatory-action-writing-european-0>

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?*

These details are not yet known.

Some elements of the action could be accommodated under the Creative Europe MEDIA Programme business or content clusters.

1. Heading 2 - Cohesion, Resilience and Values

PA 07 21 04: Preparatory action — Emergency support fund for investigative journalists and media organisations to ensure media freedom in the EU

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

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

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	719 689,60	p.m.	360 000	p.m.	359 845	0,0 %	0,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	719 689,60	p.m.	360 000	p.m.	359 845	0,0 %	0,0 %

3. Objectives

The aim of this preparatory action is to create an emergency support fund for investigative journalists and media organisations to improve press and media freedom and to prevent violations thereof by supporting the production of quality independent journalistic content in the public interest, including through cross-border cooperation.

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

- Activities carried out:
 - Design and implement a cross-border investigative funding scheme, including
 - the establishment of an independent jury, which shall evaluate and select
 - journalistic projects.
 - Provide legal and practical support to help to resolve issues related to a past or ongoing investigation.
 - Provide trainings to the journalists/media organisations involved, contributing in particular to the development of investigative capabilities.
 - Provide access to tools, such as subscription to software programmes, correlating data and databases, contributing to the development of investigative capabilities.
 - Provide other relevant practical and/or financial support to help the journalists / media organisations involved to acquire and master innovative tools/methods/techniques in the area of investigative and collaborative journalism.
 - Ensure communication and dissemination activities.
 - Monitor and evaluate the action.
- The first call for applications went out in November 2022.
- Deliverables submitted: none
- Meetings held: none

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out:
 - Continue with the same list of activities as listed above;
 - The second call for applications under IJ4EU 2022/23 closed in February 2023. 186 requests for funding were received (119 for the investigative support scheme and 67 for the freelancer's support scheme). In the forthcoming weeks the jury meeting will be hosted and will announce the selected projects for funding soon after.

- Deliverables to be submitted: interim report to be submitted 15 May.
- Meetings to take place: none

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	16 September 2021
Closing date of call for proposals	29 October 2021
Award decision	May 2022
Prefinancing payment	June 2022
Interim payment	July 2023
Final payment	April 2024

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

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
IJ4EU: Supporting cross-border investigative reporting in Europe as a public good	International Press Institute (IPI)	1.799.224 EUR

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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(2021)3006, adopted on 04 May 2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available [here](#) .

Call documents are available at the following address:

[Media freedom and investigative journalism | 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 follow up is envisaged because European Media Freedom Act is adopted. EMFA already includes provisions on Protection of Journalists and Journalists' Sources.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 and 2023 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	9 000 000,00	0,00	9 000 000	6 750 000	p.m.	8 100 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	9 000 000,00	0,00	9 000 000	6 750 000	p.m.	8 100 000	-100,0 %	20,0 %

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 budget.

- 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/year-of-youth/news/looking-news-platform-and-young-europeans-stop-searching-and-keep-reading>
- Deliverables submitted: Mid-term reports have been approved. Final reports are expected in April 2023/
- Meetings held: Regular follow-up with coordinators.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Daily production of content around current affairs for youth. Four projects have been selected, involving media from across the EU.
- Deliverables to be submitted: All projects will submit one interim report and a final report.
- Meetings to take place: Kick-off meetings took place in April 2023

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	25 February 2022
Publication of call for proposals	July 2022
Closing date of call for proposals	October 2022
Award decision	February 2023
Prefinancing or interim payments	March 2023
Final payment	November 2024

– 2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	17 March 2023
Publication of call for proposals	September 2023
Closing date of call for proposals	November 2023
Award decision	March 2024
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2024
Final payment	May 2026 (tbc)

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

These details are not known yet.

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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 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 dedicated legislative proposal is foreseen, but the Commission is exploring possibilities to support this type and similar actions under existing instruments.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PA 08 18 01: Preparatory action — Smart rural areas in the 21st century

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2018 and 2019 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	2 088 477,55	p.m.	1 388 884	p.m.	699 595	0,0 %	-49,6 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	2 088 477,55	p.m.	1 388 884	p.m.	699 595	0,0 %	-49,6 %

3. Objectives

Objectives followed during 2022 and previous years' implementation:

The preparatory action, covering the 2018 commitment appropriations voted under the 2018 budget, takes the form of a study, for which the contract with an external Contractor was signed in December 2019. The general aim of this preparatory action is to use local level experiences to inspire policymakers to consider the concept of smart villages in the preparation and targeting of CAP interventions in view of using the available financial resources to maximise the corresponding economic, social and environmental potential. The Preparatory action must take into account the conclusions of the previous Smart Eco Social Villages pilot project (2016). The work started in January 2020 and has continued for a period of 2.5 years. The final report was scheduled for June 2022, yet, due to COVID the final report had been rescheduled for November 2022 and its publication in the 1st quarter of 2023.

The preparatory action, covering the 2019 commitment appropriations voted under the 2019 budget, takes the form of a study, for which the contract with an external Contractor was signed in December 2020.

The overall objective of the second part of this Preparatory Action is to prepare the implementation of Smart Villages initiatives through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020. Taking stock of the already ongoing contract 'Smart rural areas in the 21st century', this second part of this preparatory action will provide knowledge, know-how and a framework methodology for developing support schemes for Smart Villages in a wider range of socio-economic contexts with a view to long-term sustainability ambitions thus in line with the European Green Deal ambitions. It will provide a geo-mapping tool of Smart Village initiatives across Europe, assess the possible contribution to the Farm to Fork Strategy and economic recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. The goal of this second preparatory action is to foster the successful implementation of Smart Village strategies in a number of Member States across the Union. It also sets up a network or a group of sample villages that will be used during roadshows to demonstrate concretely how the transformation of rural villages has taken place. It could also help inform about the implementation of other ESI funds, in particular under the objective to foster local initiatives through the setting-up of an EU Smart Village observatory.

The work started in December 2020 and continues for a period of 3 years. The final report is scheduled for December 2023 and its publication in the 1st quarter of 2024.

4. Implementation

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

The preparatory actions have been implemented by means of two open calls for tenders.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The preparatory action, covering the 2018 commitment appropriations voted under the 2018 budget:

The final report was submitted in December 2022. Following some updates the final version was received in March and accepted on 22 March 2023.

The preparatory action, covering the 2019 commitment appropriations voted under the 2019 budget:

Activities implemented: The methodology and the tools relevant for the project are prepared, including the approach for the selection of the lighthouse examples, the strategy to select them and establishing the promotion strategy. The awareness-raising about available financial assistance for Smart Villages in Member States, the mockup of the Geo-mapping tool and communication campaigns are also implemented.

Deliverables submitted: The most recent deliverable received is the fifth one, which was submitted on 25 October 2022.

Meetings held: The latest meeting of the Inter-service Steering Group discussing the progress of the work was held on 9 September 2022

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

For the appropriations voted under the 2018 budget:

- The final report was accepted on 22 March 2023. The dissemination procedure, including the publication of the final report, will be initiated and completed.

The preparatory action, covering the 2019 commitment appropriations voted under the 2019 budget:

- Activities to be carried out: Implementation of the promotion strategy, including the organisation of a conference
- Deliverables to be submitted: a fourth progress report is expected in April 2023 and the sixth deliverable is due for August 2023.
- Meetings to take place: Following the fourth progress report a meeting of the Inter-service Steering Group will be planned to discuss the next steps of the project, including the difficulties encountered and the solutions being proposed.

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

[NB: average implementation for the appropriations of one budget year should be 18 months – i.e. if the financing decision is adopted in e.g. March 2023 then the final payment should tentatively be made in September 2024]

The final report regarding the preparatory action, covering the 2019 commitment appropriations is scheduled for December 2023.

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 July 2018, C(2018)4100
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	30 July 2019
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	23 September 2019
Award decision	18 December 2019
Prefinancing or interim payments	November 2020, June 2021, February 2022
Final payment	April 2023

– 2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	8 August 2019, C(2019)5847
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	20 August 2020
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	12 October 2020
Award decision	8 December 2020
Prefinancing or interim payments	September 2021, May 2022, October 2022, June 2023
Final payment	March 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
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Study- Preparatory action — Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century	Joint tender submitted by: E40 Group European Economic Interest Grouping Hungary, Empirica Gesellschaft für Kommunikations und Technologieforschung Germany, Agricultural University of Athens Greece, Boerenbondvereniging voor innovatieve projecten vzw (Innovatiesteunpunt) Leuven Belgium, eConcept web solutions Limites, Liffey Trust Centre, Dublin Ireland and Institut für Ländliche Strukturforschung (ifls) Frankfurt Germany.	2,757,155.00
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– 2019 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Preparatory Action — Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century — BIS	Joint tenderer Smart Rural 21 composed by: E40 Europe KFT, Empirica Gesellschaft Für Kommunikations Und Technologieforschung Mbh, Geoponiko Panepistimion Athinon, Highclere Consulting Srl, Réseau Européen Pour Des Initiatives Communautaires Sur Les Changements Climatiques Et Le Développement Durable.	3,497,972.00

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- 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, adopted on 4 July 2018 (C(2018)4100) and 8 August 2019 (C(2019)5847), set out the main elements of the implementation.

Call documents are available at the following addresses:

1. <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=5148>
2. <https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=6940>

The award decisions are available at the following addresses:

1. <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:22872-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>
2. <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:634472-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

The study is available at the following address: not applicable

The projects website is available at the following address: <https://www.smartrural21.eu/> and <https://www.smartrural27.eu>.

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

This preparatory action is carried out complementarily to the pilot project Smart Eco-Social Villages (started in December 2017, running until April 2019)⁸ as well as actions and initiatives under the EU Action for Smart Villages⁹. Regulation 1305/2013 on EAFRD support can also be used for supporting investments in basic services in rural areas, thus helping the concept of Smart Villages to materialize in the Member States.

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

There is no follow up scheduled as the Preparatory Action will provide policy recommendations on how to better provide support (possibly but not necessarily with recommendations regarding changes of the EU legal framework).

⁸ Call for tenders documents: <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:22872-2020:TEXT:EN:HTML>

⁹ EU Action for Smart Villages: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/eu-action-smart-villages_en

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PA 09 20 01: Preparatory action — EU pollinator monitoring and indicators

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	1 500 000,00	p.m.	1 500 000	p.m.	2 000 000	0,0 %	33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	1 500 000,00	p.m.	1 500 000	p.m.	2 000 000	0,0 %	33,3 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this preparatory action is to support the deployment of an EU-wide monitoring scheme for wild insect pollinators in Member States. As stipulated in the EU Pollinators Initiative (COM/2018/395 final), the collection of generation of robust data and information through systematic monitoring is critical for building a robust evidence base – a key prerequisite for effective development, implementation and evaluation of pollinator conservation actions. This will enable construction of a number of indicators through which impacts of various environmental, agricultural and other policies on pollinators could be tracked.

The Preparatory Action will support the Member States in the implementation of a common EU methodology for monitoring pollinators. The latter is set to ensure comprehensive and harmonized data collection across the EU, using standardised monitoring techniques.

Specifically, this preparatory action will support testing and piloting of the [EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme](#) and indicators as proposed by the pollinator expert group that the Commission mandated in the context of Action 1 of the EU Pollinators Initiative. It will also raise capacity in EU Member States for the full implementation of the scheme in 2023.

Activities under this preparatory action will:

- Expand the European butterfly Monitoring Scheme to 27 EU Member States;
- Build up citizen science networks on pollinators;
- Build monitoring capacity across the EU through basic and advanced taxonomic trainings;
- Pilot the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme in all EU Member States;
- Support fine-tuning of the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme methodology;
- Test complementary modules of the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme for moths and wider insect biodiversity.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The contract was awarded in April 2021.

Activities carried out in 2021:

- execution of established butterfly monitoring schemes;
- establishment of new butterfly monitoring schemes in Denmark, Lithuania and Romania;
- development of manuals and protocols for field monitoring and training platform;
- engagement of stakeholders and national authorities;
- expert workshops;
- development of data infrastructure; testing of the moth module: test sites selected in five countries (NL, DE, ES, HU and SE);

- testing of the wider insect module: test sites selected in five countries (DE, EL, HU, NL and SE);
- Communication: press release, visual design, website.

While the focus in 2021 was on the preparation of tools and processes, in 2022 the project focussed on training of surveyors and execution of sampling protocols in the field.

The following activities took place in 2022:

- citizen science capacity on butterflies was strengthened through the expansion of the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme to all 27 MS. Based on this, the citizen science networks for other pollinator groups (bees, hoverflies and moths) were started or reinforced across Member States;
- expert capacity for pollinator monitoring was built up through basic and advanced taxonomic training courses;
- key modules of the experts' proposal for a European Monitoring Scheme¹⁰ (Minimum Viable Scheme module, moth module, wider insect biodiversity module) have been piloted and tested in the field, supporting further refinement of the proposal. This included field activities in all Member States (with the direct involvement of national authorities in the majority of them).

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Progress across all tasks is expected, with the continuation of the 2022 activities. All project activities will be finalised by December 2023. A conference to present the final results is tentatively planned for Q1 2024.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	04/08/2020
Publication of call for tender	11/12/2020
Closing date of call for tender	01/02/2021
Award decision	15/04/2021
Pre-financing or interim payments	2022 and 2023
Final payment	2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
ENV/2020/OP/0040. Preparatory Action for EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme and Indicators	A consortium of contractors led by Helmholtz UFZ (Zentrum für Umweltforschung GmbH)	5 000 000

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- non-governmental organisations

¹⁰ <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=23462107>

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 04/08/2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The Call documents ENV/2020/OP/0040 and the award decision are available at the [following address](#).

The project website is available at the [following address](#).

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

Yes, but insufficiently. In the context of the Habitats Directive, Member States should monitor and report the conservation status of protected pollinator species. However, only a few dozen pollinator species, out of thousands, are listed in the directive's annexes.

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

In June 2022, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation on nature restoration¹¹. Article 8 of the proposed regulation stipulates that Member States shall reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030. In order to assess the progress towards the achievement of this target, the Commission shall adopt implementing acts to establish a method for monitoring pollinator populations. The method shall provide a standardised approach for collecting annual data on the abundance and diversity of pollinator species and for assessing pollinator population trends. If the proposal is adopted, the knowledge and experience generated through this preparatory action will support the methodological discussion on the monitoring method referred to under the Article 8. Moreover, the capacity built through this preparatory action would facilitate the deployment of the monitoring method on the ground.

¹¹ COM(2022) 304.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PA 09 20 02: Preparatory action — Environmental monitoring through honey bees

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 and 2021 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	499 867,61	p.m.	2 401 248	p.m.	1 999 471	0,0 %	-16,7 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	499 867,61	p.m.	2 401 248	p.m.	1 999 471	0,0 %	-16,7 %

3. Objectives

This preparatory action aims to contribute towards a more robust collection of environmental data, in regards to pollutants and plant diversity across landscapes. Better data and information on pollution exposure and diffusion in the environment, including at landscape level, will enable generation of valuable evidence for effective development, implementation and evaluation of EU policies across various areas: environmental protection (nature, air, water, soil), agriculture, public health and food safety, plant and animal health.

The objective of this Preparatory Action is to develop, test and deploy a tool for collecting such environmental data with the help of honeybees and bee products. This monitoring approach utilizes citizen scientists, in particular from the beekeeping community. Honeybees are known as good bio-indicators, and are already used to measure the quality of the environment.

The preparatory action will build on the ongoing pilot project “Insignia: a citizen science protocol for honeybee colony as bio-sampler for pesticides”, and will in particular support the following activities:

- Expansion of the monitoring protocol - currently developed by the Insignia project - to environmental pollutants beyond pesticides, in particular heavy metals and air pollutants, and test it;
- Analysis of correlations between presence of pollutants in beehives and in the surrounding environment;
- Analysis of correlations between pollen composition in beehives and plant diversity in the surrounding environment;
- Adjustment of the monitoring protocol based on further insights;
- Preparation of the deployment of the protocol (survey) by exploring cost-effective and statistically robust sampling approaches across different land uses. Explore avenues to minimize costs of transporting and analysing samples;
- Setting up necessary IT infrastructure;
- Setting up a robust sampling network (colonies) and training courses for citizens/beekeepers;
- Execution of the monitoring protocol;
- Analysis of the samples.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In 2021 the tender procedure took place, the contract was awarded on 15 December 2021. The implementation started in 2022.

In 2022, the activities under the preparatory action piloted and tested the expanded monitoring protocol developed in the Insignia pilot project. The latter focused on pesticides, while the new modules under the

Preparatory Action add heavy metals, air pollutants and microplastics into the monitoring framework. The piloting and testing took place in three Member States.

Furthermore, the activities also made the necessary preparations for the execution of the full monitoring survey in 2023, in particular setting up coordination networks at national level, engaging beekeepers and preparing the necessary logistics (sampling material, lab protocols for analysis).

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

In, 2023, the full survey will take place using the expanded monitoring protocol. Samples will be taken every two weeks, from April to August, in more than 300 apiaries distributed across 27 Member States.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of the financing decision	4 August 2020 - C(2020)5200
Publication of call for tender	28 September 2021
Closing date of call for tender	10 November 2021
Award decision	15 December 2021
Interim payments	2022 and 2023
Final payment	2024

– 2021 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of the financing decision	24 March 2021 - C(2021)1856
Publication of call for tender	28 September 2021
Closing date of call for tender	10 November 2021
Award decision	15 December 2021
Interim payments	2022 and 2023
Final payment	2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 and 2021 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
ENV/2021/OP/0014 Preparatory action for monitoring of environmental pollution using honey bees	Alveus AB Consultancy Universität Graz Ellinikos Georgikos Oranismos – DIMITRA Carreck Consultancy Ltd University of Strathclyde Instituto Politecnico de Braganca Stichting Wageningen Research Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale Delle Regioni Lazio e Toscana Benaki Phytopathological Institute Universidad de Almeria HKH Kwaliteit en Certificering Danmarks Biavlerforening Latvian Beekeepers Association Universiteit Gent	4 002 077 Amendment in June 2022 to a total of EUR 4 998 676,14

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers

- research institutes / academia
- non-governmental organisation]

5. Documentation and expected results

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

For the 2020 appropriations, the Commission Financing Decision, C(2020)5200 adopted on 04/08/2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

For the 2021 appropriations, the Commission Financing Decision, C(2021)1856 adopted on 24/03/2021, sets out the main elements of the implementation.

The call documents ENV/2021/OP/0014 and the award decision are available at the [following address](#).

The project website is available at the following address: [Insignia project](#)

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.

1. Heading 3 - Natural Resources and Environment

PA 09 20 03: Preparatory action — Measuring the pulse of European biodiversity using the Red List Index

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	685 794,30	p.m.	685 795	p.m.	914 393	0,0 %	33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	685 794,30	p.m.	685 795	p.m.	914 393	0,0 %	33,3 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this preparatory action is to evaluate the changes in biodiversity status in Europe, at the EU and Pan-European scale, by updating existing European Red Lists. This will provide valuable evidence to the evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, and the development of its post-2020 follow-up. The conservation status of animal and plant species is one of the most important indicators for assessing the condition of ecosystems and their biodiversity.

The Preparatory action reassesses the conservation status of taxa covered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species, notably vertebrates (mammals, amphibians, reptiles, freshwater fishes), invertebrates (non-marine molluscs, butterflies, saproxylic beetles, dragonflies and bees), plants (vascular and medicinal). This will provide evidence on genuine changes in extinction risk of those species. IUCN Red List Index is a widely accepted metric for measuring changes in extinction risk. The preparatory action uses this metric to estimate the aggregate extinction risk for the covered taxa at the EU and Pan-European scales.

Activities supported by the preparatory action will:

- Mobilize knowledge networks and build expert capacity (organization of workshops);
- Collect the necessary information for the reassessment;
- Reassess the conservation status of species;
- Synthesize the species reassessments per taxa and update the European Red List (ERL) assessments;
- Compile conservation successes and failures, and apply the ‘Assess to Act’ Framework (multispecies conservation approaches);
- Update the EEA Biodiversity Data Centre;
- Prepare publications (European Red List Publication, brochures).

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

A call for tender was launched in the third quarter of 2020. The project started on 30 December 2020, date of the signature of the contract.

- Activities carried out:
 - TASK 1: European Red List species reassessments
 - Formalise work to be done with all external experts: Making links with relevant Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Global Species Programme to identify and contract relevant experts from SSC specialist groups and wider IUCN network groups for assessment.
 - IUCN Red List training provided by IUCN Secretariat: training completed for:
 - Amphibians/Reptiles
 - Butterflies

- Beetles
- Dragonflies
- Freshwater plants
- Freshwater fish
- Started for mammals
- Review of species (taxonomy, occurrence, and origin within the Pan Europe region) to be reassessed and new species to be assessed led by species Assessors Species: Finalisation of species list and creation of working set completed for:
 - Amphibians/Reptiles
 - Butterflies
 - Bees
 - Saproxyllic Beetles
 - Dragonflies
 - Freshwater plants
 - Part of freshwater fish
 - Part of mammals
- Deliverables submitted: Inception report
- Meetings held:
 - Inception meeting on 20 April 2021
 - Steering committee on 12 May 2021
 - Liaison call with the European Environment Agency to integrate ERL data into the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE)
 - Meeting with SAFEGUARD team on 19 January 2022: discussion to determine the best way to work together on mutual Bees assessment without overlapping on both projects
 - Meeting with Conservation Planning Specialist Group (CPSG) on 17 March 2022: discussion on Action to Plan application in the project

In 2022, there has been smooth transition due to the changes in the management of the project with minimal delays. The scope of the project remains the same, but the assessment includes many additional species (due to taxonomic changes and descriptions of new species), and there has been a change to the marine assessment boundary to cover the area included under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The structure of the project remains divided into three main tasks: assessments, calculation of the Red List Index, and dissemination of results and integration of results into EC databases.

For certain species groups for which conservation plans are not in place “Assess to Plan Report (A2P)” are being developed, primarily for people actively working on conservation on the ground (e.g. freshwater bivalves).

Activities carried out in 2022:

- The assessments of 11 taxonomic groups (Butterflies, Dragonflies, Amphibians, Reptiles, Freshwater fishes, Mammals, Saproxyllic beetles, Bees, Non-marine mollusks, Vascular plants, Medicinal plants) are ongoing. The number of species has increased since the start of the project, with vascular plants, non-marine mollusks and bees being the groups to which most species were added.
- Integration of reassessment results into BISE
Discussions have focused on the optimisation of work between IUCN and EEA to prevent duplication when publishing European data. Provision of geospatial data using open standards (Inspire format) has been discussed and technical agreements on data processing have been reached. A feature will be added to the RL website to enable users to find more easily the European regional assessments and to be able to download the data of the EU subregion for EU 27.
- Various factors have influenced the delivery of tasks: the increasing number of species to be assessed have increased the workload, the initial starting date was delayed, and many assessors have been very busy undertaking an extensive period of field work post-COVID (this new data may be very important for the assessments). The revised workplan which has been proposed does not affect the delivery of assessments, but simply requests extra time to wrap up the project and finalize reports. A no-cost extension of 12 months has been formally requested and accepted by the European Commission.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

The work will be continued in 2023 and 2024. Published Red Lists (RL) will be available in June 2023 (Butterflies, Dragonflies, Amphibians, Reptiles, Freshwater fishes) and June 2024 (Mammals, Saproxyllic beetles, Bees, Non-marine molluscs, Vascular plants, Medicinal plants) and the assessments made available on the Red List website in the July 2023 and July 2024 updates respectively. Technical reports including RL index will be published as they are ready, but the final RL analysis and combined RL Index will only be published in 2024.

4.4. Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2024 – 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	04/08/2020
Publication of call for tender	07/09/2020
Closing date of call for tender	15/10/2020
Award decision	30/12/2020
Pre-financing or interim payments	2022 and 2023
Final payment	2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts – 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Providing Technical and Scientific Support in Measuring the Pulse of European Biodiversity Using the Red List Index	UICN, Bureau de Représentation auprès de l'Union Européenne	2 285 981,00

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers
- research institutes / academia
- non-governmental 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(2020)5200 adopted on 04/08/2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. The call documents ENV/2020/OP/0034 and the award decision are available at the [following address](#). All outcomes will be made available on the [biodiversity website](#).

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

Yes, but only partially. Under the Habitats Directives, Member States have the obligation to provide every six years the conservation status assessment of the species and habitats of Community interest listed in the annexes. However, these do not cover all species and habitats groups, and thus a comprehensive assessment is needed periodically (every 10 years). The outcome of this assessment is directly contributing to the Red List Index, which is one of the key biodiversity indicators for EU policy (cf. SEBI 02). It is also one of the global biodiversity indicators adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

The European Commission is proposing restoration targets for some species groups and habitats under its Nature Restoration Law proposal, which is currently under negotiation with the Council and the European Parliament.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	190 839,00	p.m.	450 839	p.m.	514 452	0,0 %	14,1 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	190 839,00	p.m.	450 839	p.m.	514 452	0,0 %	14,1 %

3. Objectives

The preparatory action builds from the results of 2016 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's¹² into the curricula of current and future researchers.

Four objectives are defined for this preparatory action:

1. To develop further open access (on-line) 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 Directive¹³ and its first implementation report¹⁴ 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 modules¹⁵ 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 EP 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 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 bioscience¹⁶. The study will explore optimal configurations that could underpin an impactful, scalable and sustainable means for sharing knowledge on non-animal models and methods used in science. The European

¹² Replace, Reduce and Refine the use of animals for scientific purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU - OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 33–79)

¹³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1510219889073&uri=COM:2017:631:FIN>

¹⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1581689520921&uri=CELEX:52020DC0015>

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/guidance/education_training/en.pdf

¹⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/bridging-silos-biosciences>

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 a call for tender, a grant without call for proposal, 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 6 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).
- Under Activity 4, the 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 MSs.
- Regarding the improvement of ETPLAS functional web-site under Activity 6, after the closure of the EP 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 MOOC¹⁷ 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 FRESCI, 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 different communities, highlighting the importance of defining 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;

¹⁷ Massive Open Online Course

- Survey of Knowledge Sharing Analysis as well as the Q&A webinars between March and October 2022;

The final results presentation was done in December 2022.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Under **Objective 1**, the contractor is working towards the following deliverables during 2023:

- Finalisation of task 2.1 - for all 13 e-Modules, an outline how the Learning Outcomes shall be delivered and how information shall be presented / which didactic approach is to be taken in the training modules;
- Task 3 Production of the 13 e-Modules based on the learnings from building the prototype Module #7 “Recognition of pain, suffering and distress - species specific (mouse) in 2022. This will include:
 - Building of each module’s content in power point
 - An educative creative process
 - Multimedia content products for the learning outcomes where experts recommended this
 - Configuration of the e-Learning platform called “Articulate”
 - Review of the e-Modules by the Review group and EC
- Task 3.2 Development of accompanying module notes for the trainee and trainer per each module. These notes will give relevant background information and/or references as well as advice on how to best use the modules.

Concerning **Objective 2**

- Under Action 1 the work for all function B and C modules will be finalised by Q2. The deliverables will be published in a peer reviewed scientific article.
- The question database expansion under Action 2 will continue until the end of the grant as outlined above.
- Under Activity 3, user requirement specifications are being finalised. These are aimed at ensuring quality output and balancing consistency between types of exams and sufficient flexibility in assembling exams to meet course organiser demands, ensuring independence, amongst others. The functional specifications are being prepared. A suggestion has been made to investigate the applicability of existing examination software (e.g., Remindo). This will be followed up under Action 6.
- Under Activity 4, the revised template for DOPS is being quality controlled with the provided examples. During the next phase, DOPS that have been finalised and quality controlled will be trialled with stakeholders.
- Based on the survey outcome under Activity 5, the different CPD systems were compared and a draft version of a framework for functions A and B is being finalised for presentation to stakeholders for initial review. The framework for function C will be drafted.
- Within Activity 6, the transfer of the ETPLAS IT-environment will be executed. The stakeholder groups represented in ETPLAS (course organisers, accrediting bodies and representatives of competent authorities) have been involved and will continue to be involved in the development of the website. Under Activity 3, for the inclusion of the ETPLAS exam module, group 6 will investigate the applicability of existing examination softwares as well as the development of a purpose-built module.

Concerning **Objective 3** on **secondary education**:

- Establish 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 scheduled for March 2024.
- Establish 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. The completion of the manual is planned for November 2023.

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.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 August 2020
Publication of call for tender	12 July 2021
Closing date of call for tender	16 September 2021
Award decision	2 December 2021
Interim payments	2022 and 2023
Final payment	2024
Signature of the grant agreement (ETPLAS)	15 December 2021
Pre-financings	2021 and 2023
Final payment	2024
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
Development of interactive e-learning modules on specific areas of the Education and Training framework facilitating implementation of DIR 2010/63/EU	- One Source, Consultaria Informática, Lda - Instituto de Biologia Molecular Celular (IBMC) - Universiteit Utrecht	636 130

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- private companies / service providers
- public 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/preparatory action?*

The Commission Financing Decision, C(2020)5200 adopted on 04/08/2020, sets out the main elements of the implementation. The Call documents ENV/2021/OP/0011 and the award decision are available at the [following address](#).

The first six e-Modules developed under the pilot project can be accessed [here](#). DOPS and assessment criteria are freely available at [ETPLAS](#) web-site. 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?*

No. At this stage, no follow up is envisaged due to the early stage of this preparatory action. For example, Objective 3 is to increase dissemination of the Three Rs as a secondary school subject and reach out to education decision makers with the results of the work. Decisions on fixing the Three Rs into curricula and education programmes lie with the Member States.

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 000 000,00	1 000 000,00	p.m.	525 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-42,9 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 000 000,00	1 000 000,00	p.m.	525 000	p.m.	300 000	0,0 %	-42,9 %

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.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: Signature of Contribution Agreement in September 2022, first pre-financing, initiated procurement activities, became a member and started participating in Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Industrial Alliance.
- Deliverables submitted: no deliverables at the moment.
- Meetings held: Kick-off meeting in December 2022, additional kick-off meeting with wider audience in February 2023. Regular progress meetings and status updates between DG MOVE and EASA.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: Launch of procurement for support/operational management of Clearing House, signature of contract, Setting up structure of Clearing House, developing progress report, continue participation in Renewable and Low-Carbon Fuels Value Chain Industrial Alliance now with dedicated Clearing House working group.
- Deliverables to be submitted: Progress report due in October 2023
- Meetings to take place: Regular update meetings, more TBD

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	4 July 2022
Signature of Contribution Agreement	19 September 2022
1st Prefinancing	2 November 2022
2 nd Prefinancing (planned)	Q4 2023/Q1 2024
3rd and final Payment (planned)	Q4 2024/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)	EUR 1 000 000

4.6. Types of beneficiaries

EU Agency

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 04 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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

No promotional outreach campaign under the form of a dedicated place in EASA website yet in place.

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 it is satisfied 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;

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 pilot project were voted under the 2022 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	2 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	750 000	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	33,3 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	2 500 000,00	0,00	p.m.	750 000	p.m.	1 000 000	0,0 %	33,3 %

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 directive¹⁸ 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, they 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 intends to implement this preparatory action by means of call for tender.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

In 2022, the Financing decision was prepared and adopted, and the call for tender procedure was prepared and launched. The project will run for 3 years.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

A call for tender was published from 7/11/2022 to 10/01/2023. After evaluation, it was decided to award the offer presented by the consortium led by “Space4Environment”. The offer award decision will be presented to the ENVAC committee of March 23rd.

If the ENVAC is successful, it is expected to sign the contract in April, and start the project in May 2023, giving about 7 months of work for 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. All activities will be initiated in 2023.

Timetable for 2023.

The figure below shows the project planning. The (estimated) 7 months of execution dedicated to the project in 2023 allow to cover a large fraction of the concept/preparation phase (first part highlighted in blue below).

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)

¹⁸ 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>

- 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 is planned for 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.

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

– 2022 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	3 June 2022
Publication of call for tender	7 November 2022
Closing date of call for tender	10 January 2023
Award decision	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*

- 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 03/06/2022, and sets out the main elements of the implementation. It is available at the [following address](#).

Call documents and the award decision are available at the [following address](#).

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 6 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 is a specific webtools to explore the data;
- all data are public;
- this project will engage with stakeholder, 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, the delivered systems are not meant to be followed up by a new legislative proposal, but 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, and the new Nature Restoration Law (identification of areas to restore).

1. Heading 5 - Security and Defence

PA 12 20 01: Preparatory action — EU-coordinated Darknet monitoring to counter criminal activities

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2020 budget. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

Line	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
			p.m.		p.m.			
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	800 000	p.m.	1 200 000	0,0 %	50,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	800 000	p.m.	1 200 000	0,0 %	50,0 %

3. Objectives

The objective of this PA is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union through crime prevention, combating cross-border, serious and organised crime and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States, including with Europol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) or other relevant Union bodies.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements this preparatory action by means of an Administrative Agreement.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

The objective of this PA is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union through crime prevention, combating cross-border, serious and organised crime and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States, including with Europol, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) or other relevant Union bodies.

Through an Administrative Agreement, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides support in the development of EU-coordinated Darknet monitoring to counter criminal activities. The preparatory action aims to develop software and potentially hardware for efficient Darknet monitoring at EU level, which would be made available to the EU's and the Member States' law enforcement and judicial authorities, together with training and assistance in coordination and capacity building for joint European Darknet monitoring.

The Administrative Agreement with JRC was signed in April 2021. Several coordination meetings were held with the JRC and the relevant EU Agencies. The transfer of EUR 800 000 in payment appropriations has been processed in April 2021.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

Due to delays in the hardware supply, the implementation of the Administrative Agreement is delayed, and the AA has therefore, at the request of JRC, been extended by 6 months to October 2023. This entails the final payment is expected to be made after the acceptance of the final report in 2024.

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

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	27 November 2020
Publication of call for proposals / call for tender	not applicable as Administrative Agreement with JRC
Closing date of call for proposals / call for tender	not applicable as Administrative Agreement with JRC
Award decision	21 April 2021
Prefinancing or interim payments	29 May 2021
Final payment	expected in 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

– 2020 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Administrative Agreement 2021 – Administrative Agreement between DG HOME & JRC – “Development of an EU-coordinated Darknet monitoring to counter criminal activities”	Joint Research Centre	2 000 000

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

Research institutes / 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 Implementing Decision on the financing of the Preparatory action on the EU-coordinated Darknet monitoring to counter criminal activities for 2020 was adopted on 19 November 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?

The Administrative Agreement between DG HOME and JRC is envisaged to be completed by October 2023.

1. Heading 5 - Security and Defence

PA 13 17 01: Preparatory action on Defence research

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Preparatory action. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2017, 2018 and 2019 budgets. Type of expenditure – DA.

Voted Appropriations in €

	2022 Outturn		2023 Budget		2024 DB		Var(2024/2023)	
Line	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1 375 000	p.m.	481 000	0,0 %	-65,0 %
Reserve							0,0 %	0,0 %
Total	0,00	0,00	p.m.	1 375 000	p.m.	481 000	0,0 %	-65,0 %

3. Objectives

Objectives during 2022 and previous years' implementation:

The main objective of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research is to test mechanisms to prepare, organise and deliver a variety of EU-funded cooperative defence R&T activities to improve the competitiveness and innovation of the European defence industry and to stimulate cooperation amongst R&T actors in all Member States. This objective is tested by setting up a research programme, small in scale and scope, with calls for proposals in each of the three years of the preparatory action.

The Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) was launched with the adoption of the Commission Decision C(2017)2262 on 11 April 2017. The action is implemented in indirect management by the European Defence Agency (EDA), and started in June 2017 with the launch of the first three calls. Following evaluation, five proposals were retained for funding. The first grant, an important demonstrator project, was signed in December 2017. The other grants were signed in the first quarter of 2018.

In addition, three small background reports were procured to provide input for the design of the future research and development programme in the defence sector, by identifying and evaluating the different options available to ensure its successful implementation.

On 9 March 2018, Commission Decision C(2018)1383 was adopted. On 15 March 2018, EDA launched the three 2018 calls that had a closing date on 29 June 2018. Two proposals in the area of critical defence technologies and one on criticalities in the defence supply chains were selected for funding and started in the first quarter of 2019. In addition, part of the 2018 budget had been allocated to the second phase of a large demonstrator project resulting from the 2017 call for proposals.

On 19 March 2019, Commission Decision C(2019)1873 was adopted. On the same day of 19 March 2019, EDA launched the three 2019 calls that had a closing date on 28 August 2019. This package contained one call on critical defence technologies, one call on emerging technologies with a number of predefined topics, and one call on standardisation and interoperability. One other call of the PADR was on future disruptive technologies on defence applications without any predefined topics and was launched in a two stages' evaluation. The first stage of submissions (short outline proposals) opened on 4 June 2019 and closed on 3 September 2019. 12 proposals were invited to submit a full proposal for the second stage that closed on 30 January 2020. This call was managed directly by the Commission.

Intentions for the current year 2023:

There are no calls to be launched, but EDA will continue with project management of 9 projects (6 projects have been finalised) and the Commission will continue with project management of 3 projects (lump sum scheme).

Forecast for the year 2024

There are no commitment appropriations foreseen for 2024. Only payment appropriations are requested for the balance payments, as well as for the payments due under the delegation agreement between the Commission and the EDA, foreseen until the first half of 2024.

4. Implementation

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

The Commission implements these projects by means of grants, tenders and reimbursements.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

- Activities carried out: indirect management – approval reports EDA + direct management: management of 3 projects
- Deliverables submitted:
 - METAMASK 4 deliverables received in 2023; Project ends in March 2023, one deliverable is still missing but expected to arrive by 31 MAR 2023.
 - PRIVILEGE 3 deliverables have been submitted in 2023 and the project will end in May 2023.,
 - SPINAR 4 deliverables – Project was finalised on 30 Nov. 2022 and the payment of the balance was done; REQUEST FOR PAYMENT of balance for GRANT 886555-2 - SPINAR, PADR-FDDT-OPEN-03-2019 ‘Challenging the Future’, **485 867.20 EUR**, Thales, PO SI2.4057167, CLO/100 3/3/23
- Meetings held:
 - SPINAR – final meeting held on 08 Feb 2023,
 - PRIVILEGE: No meeting was held until now but a final review meeting is planned with the help of an independent expert in May/June 2023
 - METAMASK final meeting requested but not yet approved

Indirect Management – EDA:

• **ACAMSII:** The project started on 1 May 2018 and ended on 28 February 2022. Two prototypes of an adaptive camouflage system for soldiers were manufactured, based on thermochromics and Light Emitting Diode (LED) architectures respectively. The final workshop and technical demonstration took place on 27 January 2022 in Paris. It was attended by 45 participants on site and 35 remotely, including officials from DG DEFIS and EDA, DGA French delegation represented by experts in camouflage and managers, state representatives and military end-users from the countries represented in the consortium. The consortium members presented the results of the project and the two adaptive camouflage prototypes.

The third amendment to update Annex 8 Programme Security Instructions (PSI) to the latest version provided by Commission (version 2, dated 14 July 2021) was concluded on 12 January 2022. In 2022, the consortium submitted the final technical and financial reports, and EDA executed the final payment.

• **TALOS:** The project started on 1 September 2019. The activities foreseen in the grant agreement have continued as planned. The project has experienced small delays in the submission of some deliverables, but this was notified on time and properly justified.

In 2022, main focus of the work was on criticality mapping and exploitation (WP3), high power laser demonstration (WP4) and system architecture and integration (WP7). Feedback from end-users on the R&D assessment and roadmap was also collected. The planning of the final demonstration has started. In the consortium meeting held in October 2022, the project coordinator reported that it may not be possible to perform the full demonstration before the end of the project, due to delay of procurement. A workplan is being developed to mitigate this potential issue.

The second amendment was approved on 16 August 2022. The scope was the extension of the project duration by 6 months to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 crisis on the schedule and activities, the update of the Annex 8 Programme Security Instructions (PSI) to the latest version provided by Commission (version 2, dated 14 July 2021) and the change of the legal name of the beneficiary CMI Defence. The third amendment was approved on 7 November 2022 and included a minor update of Annex 9 Security Aspects Letter and a change of the legal representative of the project coordinator CILAS SA.

- **EXCEED:** The project started on 1 November 2020. The project has also experienced small delays in the submission of some deliverables, but this was notified on time and properly justified.

In November 2022 progress meeting was held. A second amendment to EXCEED Grant Agreement was approved in January 2022. The third amendment to the Grant Agreement was approved in July 2022 extending the project duration by 18 months due to the major deviation proposed by the consortium (MDR), the COVID impact on project activities (access to some consortium members facilities, availability of resources, etc.), and a delay in the project schedule due to the lack of slots for production. The fourth amendment is in preparation.

- **ARTUS:** The project started on 1 February 2021 and the activities foreseen in the grant agreement are ongoing as planned. The deliverables are being submitted on time and with very good quality

On 30 November 2022, the consortium executed the final demonstration to test the performance of a small swarm of intelligent and autonomously operating UGV to support infantry platoons during their missions.

In April 2022, the consortium submitted the first technical and financial reports. After the positive assessment of these reports, EDA executed the first interim payment.

- **OPTIMISE:** The project started on 1 April 2021. The activities foreseen in the grant agreement are ongoing as planned. Three workshops with end-users took place in 2022. In 2022, the consortium focused on WP3 (Technology development) and WP 4 (Integration and Validation). New tests will need to be scheduled in 2023. A project amendment will be needed in 2023 to address incurred delays.

During 2022, regular review meetings with the EDA were held to discuss the progress toward Milestones M1 (Preliminary Design Review), M2 (WP3 Status Verification), M3 (WP4 Status verification) and M4 (Critical Design Review).

The first technical periodic report and special report have been submitted.

- **PILUM:** The project started on 1 April 2021 and the activities foreseen in the grant agreement are being successfully executed. The project is reporting every 3 months to the EDA PO. PILUM Grant Agreement has been amended in December 2022 to extend it by six months due to delays in project deliverables. These delays were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and manifested in unexpectedly prolonged periods for the procurement of raw materials needed for the railgun demonstrator and its electric supply. The delays were further intensified by the strong interdependency of the PILUM work packages. The project schedule was adjusted accordingly, and the finalisation of PILUM is now envisaged in Q3/2023.

In a project meeting that took place on 24 November 2022 at the premises and testing sites of the lead beneficiary (French-German Research Institute Saint-Louis), the project leader presented the updated work progress.

- **INTERACT:** The project started on 1 June 2021 and the activities foreseen in the grant agreement are ongoing as expected with some delays due to overload of the lead beneficiary IOSB. In 2022, the consortium successfully delivered WP 2 (State of the Art & Requirements Analysis): the state-of-the-art analysis; the definition of the scenarios, and the Key Performance Indicators requirements.

The four main objectives of the WP 3 (Interoperability) have been delivered and approved. The first technical periodic report has been submitted (with some delays) and validated. The financial part is under EDA review. The first special report delayed due to work overload of the consortium.

The first amendment to INTERACT Grant Agreement (modification of the PADR PSI and the update of the Security aspects letter) was signed in January 2022. The second amendment to the Grant Agreement was signed in June 2022 due to a merger of beneficiary SEASTEMA with FINCANTIERI NEXTECH and to a slight evolution of the technical annex.

- **CROWN:** The project started on 1 July 2021. The activities foreseen in the grant agreement have continued as planned with some small delays identified in the submission of deliverables but not affecting the normal execution of the project. The key activity of 2022 has been the achievement of Milestone 1 (Project Management) and progressing toward Milestone 2 (System Concepts and Requirements). The first technical periodic report and the special report have been delivered on time. Since June 2022 the external review is in progress, and it is foreseen to be finished in Q1 2023.

- **QuantaQuest:** The project started on 1 September 2021. The activities foreseen in the grant agreement are ongoing as planned. In September 2022 a progress review meeting was held. The consortium is on the way to achieve the 1st Milestone: Photonic Integrated Circuit test circuits' delivery, first generation of assembled and functional chips has been manufactured and delivered. The first technical periodic report and the first special report were submitted.
- **AIDED:** The project started on 1 October 2021. During 2022, the planned deliverables have been developed and submitted as planned. Milestone 1 (System requirements and operational concept), milestone 2 (1st evaluation of AI solutions prototyping) and milestone 3 (System architecture & interfaces) have been completed successfully. In October 2022 status update meeting, the consortium leader reported two issues that could affect the project implementation. A meeting has been organised to analyse the reasons and the mitigation activities. A Grant Agreement amendment is expected most likely to cover the recommended changes. The first technical progress report and the first special report are delayed due to changes within the consortium.

4.3. Forthcoming implementation in 2023

- Activities to be carried out: indirect management – approval reports EDA + direct management: management of 3 projects
- Deliverables to be submitted: projects in direct management: METAMASK 1 deliverable; PRIVILEGE 8 deliverables.
- Meetings to take place: final project meeting of two projects in direct management

Indirect Management – EDA:

- Deliverables to be submitted by PADR projects in 2023:
 - EXCEED – 10 deliverables, payment of 4.885.636,82 EUR executed on 01 March 2023
 - TALOS – 12 deliverables, final payment to take place in 2023, final meeting in April 2023
 - CROWN – 32 deliverables, potential delay expected, GA extension under discussion, PR 1 payment to be executed by mid-April 2023, Project has monthly follow up meetings, final meeting not planned, yet
 - AIDED – 14 deliverables, slight delay, EDA is clearing financial statements, now waiting for the originals to endorse payment of 773.000 EUR. Deliverables were two months late.GA extension under discussion,
 - ARTUS – everything is delivered, all deliverables currently under review
 - OPTIMISE – 6 deliverables, 1st periodic payment executed on 20 Jan 2023: 642,483,54 EUR, final payment planned for fall 2023,Meeting planned for June 2023, final meeting not planned yet
 - PILUM – 7 deliverables, payment based on first periodic report on 26 July 2022: 610.907,88 EUR
 - QUANTA QUEST – 11 deliverables, PR1 payment to be executed in beginning of 2023: 748.488,00 EUR, final payment in 2024 of 748.900,00 EUR, potential delay expected, the GA extension is under discussion
 - INTERACT – 7 deliverables, PR 1 payment to be executed in beginning of 2023: 750.000,00 EUR, final payment of 750.000,00 EUR end of summer/fall 2023. Tabletop exercise to validate proposals on 29/30 MAR in Stockholm

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

2017 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	April 2017
Direct management (studies)	
Publication of call for tenders	3rd quarter 2017/1st quarter 2018
Closing date of call for tenders	4th quarter 2017/1st quarter 2018
Award decision	4th quarter/1st quarter 2018
Pre-financing payment	1st quarter 2018
Interim payment	2nd quarter/3rd quarter 2018
Final payment	3rd quarter/4th quarter 2018
Indirect management (projects)	
Publication of calls for proposals	June 2017
Closing date of calls for proposals	September/October 2017
Award decision	December 2017/1st quarter 2018
Pre-financing payment	December 2017/1st quarter 2018
Interim payment	2018 – 2019
Final payment	2019 – 2020

2018 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2018
Indirect management	
Publication of call for proposals	March 2018
Closing date of call for proposals	June 2018
Award decision	September 2018
Pre-financing payment	December 2018
Interim payment	2019-2020
Final payment	2020-2021

2019 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
Adoption of financing decision	March 2019
Direct management (projects)	
Opening of calls for proposals	June 2019
Closing date of calls for proposals (stage 1)	September 2019
Closing date of calls for proposals (stage 2)	January 2020
Award decision	2nd quarter 2020
Pre-financing payment	2nd quarter 2020
Interim payment	2nd quarter 2021
Final payment	3rd quarter 2024
Indirect management (projects)	
Opening of calls for proposals	March 2019
Closing date of calls for proposals (stage 1)	August 2019
Closing date of calls for proposals (stage 2)	January 2020
Award decision	2nd quarter 2020
Pre-financing payment	4th quarter 2020
Final payment	1 st quarter 2024

4.5. Type of activities financed, number and amounts

2017 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Direct management:		
Impact Assessment Study on EU funding for collaborative defence research and development programmes	Ecorys	79 975
Magnitude of costs and cost structure of defence research and development programmes and optimal EU intervention to incentivize cooperation	Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques (Iris)	14 550
Defence SMEs and defence supply chains	Europe Economics	49 000
Indirect management¹⁹ :		
a) Grants		
Open Cooperation for European maritime awareness (OCEAN2020) – core project	Leonardo sprl (coordinator)	35 480 000
Generic Open Soldier System Reference Architecture (GOSSRA)	Rheinmetall (coordinator)	1 488 641.50
Ultralight modular bullet proof integral solution for dismounted soldier protection (VESTLIFE)	Asociacion de Investigacion de la Industria Textil (coordinator)	2 433 425.38
Adaptive Camouflage for the Soldier II (ACAMS II)	Totalforsvarets Forskningsinstitut (coordinator)	2 631 507
Predictive methodology for technology intelligence analysis (PYTHIA)	Engineering – Ingegneria Informatica Spa (coordinator)	861 033.16
b) Expert contracts for assistance in evaluations	Continuous call for applications, to be published June 2017	100 000
c) Remuneration in the frame of the delegation agreement	European Defence Agency	1 000 000

– 2018 commitment appropriations

Title / Action	Beneficiary / Contractor	EUR (maximum)
Indirect management :		
a) Grants		
Trusted and flexible system-on-chip for European defence application (EXCEED)	ST Microelectronics S.A. (coordinator)	11 980 950.50
Tactical advanced laser optical system (TALOS)	Compagnie industrielle des lasers (CILAS) (coordinator)	5 399 005
Strategy oriented analysis of the market forces in EU defence (SOLOMON)	Engineering – Ingegneria Informatica Spa (coordinator)	1 879 916.25
b) Expert contracts for assistance in evaluations	Continuous call for applications, published June 2017	100 000
c) Remuneration in the frame of the delegation agreement	European Defence Agency	2 400 000

–2019 commitment appropriations

Title/action	Beneficiary/contractor	EUR (maximum)
Direct management²⁰:		

¹⁹ Exact amounts subject to the outcome of the preparation of the individual grant agreements.

a) Grants		
Metasurfaces for time-domain adaptive masking (METAMASK)	University of Sienna (Coordinator)	1 426 350
Spin-based hardware artificial neural network for embedded RF processing (SPINAR)	Thales SA (coordinator)	1 388 192
Privacy and homomorphic encryption for artificial intelligence (PRIVILEGE)	Thales Six GTS France SAS (coordinator)	1 400 406,78
b) Expert contracts for assistance in evaluations	Continuous call for applications, published June 2017	200 000
Indirect management²¹:		
a) Grants		
European active electronically scanned array with Combined Radar, communications, and electronic warfare functions for military applications (CROWN)	Indra Sistemas SAS (coordinator)	9 999 688,75
Autonomous Rough-terrain Transport UGV Swarm (ARTUS)	Fraunhofer (coordinator)	1 527 268,75
Artificial Intelligence for the detection of explosives devices (AIDED)	Space Applications Services NV (coordinator)	1 546 000
Innovative Positioning system for defence in GNSS-denied areas (OPTIMISE)	Skylife Engineering SL (coordinator)	1 499 400
Projectiles for Increased Long-range effects Using Electro-Magnetic railgun (PILUM)	Institut Franco-allemand de Recherches de Saint Louis (coordinator)	1 498 822,5
Quantum Secure Communication and Navigation for European Defence (QUANTAQUEST)	Thales SA (coordinator)	1 496 977
Interoperability Standards for Unmanned Armed Forces Systems (INTERACT)	Fraunhofer (coordinator)	1 500 000
b) Expert contracts for assistance in evaluations	Continuous call for applications, published June 2017	100 000
c) Remuneration in the frame of the delegation agreement	European Defence Agency	1 435 000

4.6 Types of beneficiaries

- private companies / service providers
- public service providers

²⁰ Exact amounts subject to the outcome of the preparation of the individual grant agreements.

²¹ Exact amounts subject to the outcome of the preparation of the individual grant agreements.

- 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 Decisions, C(2017) 2262, adopted on 11 April 2017, C(2018) 1383 adopted on 9 March 2018, C(2019) 1873 adopted on 19 March 2019 set out the main elements of the implementation.

Commission Communication COM(2017) 295 "Launching the European Defence Fund", 7 June 2017 and Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund.

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, a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Fund, COM(2018) 476 of 13 June 2018, which resulted in the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund.

1. Heading 7 – Public Administration

PP 2 2 5 0: Pilot project — Towards the creation of a European Diplomatic Academy

Pilot project is implemented by EEAS. Information in Working Document IV provided [for information purpose only](#).

2. Legal basis, financial programming and budgetary characteristics

Pilot Project. Commitment appropriations for this pilot project were voted under the 2022 (EUR 990 500) and 2023 (EUR 990 500) budgets.

3. Objectives

2022 Commitments appropriations (budget remarks)

The main objective of the pilot project is to investigate and analyse the possibilities for a creation, under the current framework, of a European Diplomatic Academy. This pilot project will establish a robust evidence base to decide on options as regards the possibilities for a creation, under the current framework, of a European Diplomatic Academy providing training, including in support of preparation for possible entry into the EEAS and Union delegations, through a developed teaching of courses and subjects.

2023 commitment appropriations (budget remarks)

Extending the pilot project by one year will provide a more solid basis, thereby ensuring sustainability of the project. The aim of the second phase of the pilot project will be two-fold:

- Through an extension of the study, provide more analysis and options for the creation of a European Diplomatic Academy by providing a training needs analysis, and by looking in particular into target groups of a future academy, including the possibility of those interested in becoming EU Diplomats in the future who are not MS' diplomats. The study should also analyse the preparation for possible entry into the EEAS and EU Delegations.
- Organise a second pilot academic year (following on the one foreseen in the first phase of the pilot project), in order to incorporate its results, as of the dimension of the participation of MS' diplomats in the future European Diplomatic Academy. Participants should, in principle, as during the first phase, be around 60 recruit and trainee diplomats from EU Member States and EU Institutions.

With this second year, the two elements of the pilot project, the study and the pilot academic programme as abovementioned, should deliver the necessary robust evidence base and analysis concerning the legal and administrative set-up, delivery model, governing bodies and budgetary requirements for a future European Diplomatic Academy. The outcomes of the analysis should refer also to the possible locations for the European Diplomatic Academy, which could be situated in different EU existing academic and diplomatic training institutions highly specialized in EU External Action in order to gain from their academic and practical experience in the field.

4. Implementation

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

Implementation by open call for tenders.

4.2. Previous years' implementation

2022 commitment appropriations

The EEAS is implementing this pilot project through two separate procurement procedures (middle-value calls for tender) for a i. Feasibility study; and ii. A Pilot Academic Programme (September 2022-May 2023). The EEAS set up a scholarship scheme to cover lodging and boarding expenses of participants.

4.4. *Timetable for the main steps of implementation and forecasts for 2023*

2023 commitment appropriations

Step	Date
	Pilot academic programme
Adoption of the Financing Decision	1st to 2nd quarter of 2023
Publication of tender procedure	25 January 2023
Closing date of the call	20 February 2023
Award decision	2nd to 3rd quarter of 2023
Launch of the project(s)	3rd to 4th quarter of 2023

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

The pilot programme is run by the College of Europe in Bruges and the College of Europe in Natolin.

42 young European diplomats have been selected to participate in a 9-month programme in the campus of the College of Europe in Natolin (Poland). After an initial team building period of two weeks in Natolin, the core programme was hosted at the campus of the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). It was complemented by regular study visits to the European institutions in Brussels, as well as to Organisations of relevance to European external action and foreign and security policy, such as NATO. The participants were trained on EU foreign and security policies, with the objective of acquiring skills and competencies to promote and defend effectively the EU's principles and interests in the world.

The feasibility study will be prepared by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), the European University Institute (EUI) and the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). It will outline various options as well as the budgetary framework for the establishment of the future European Diplomatic

4.6 *Types of beneficiaries*

- 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?*

No Financial Decision has been adopted – exempted under FR 110(1) – administrative autonomy

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 draft Council Decision on the EU Diplomatic Academy has been prepared.

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