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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on the financing of the Technical Support Instrument and the adoption of the work
programme for 2026**

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Part I - The Technical Support Instrument (TSI) outlook for 2026

1. Introduction

The EU is continuously adjusting its policy priorities to respond to emerging challenges. In its 2026 European Semester – Autumn Package¹, the Commission emphasised that the past months have only added to the sense of urgency with which the EU has to tackle its structural challenges, strategic vulnerabilities and dependencies, and protect its social model. Boosting the EU’s competitiveness to secure sustainable prosperity remains the Commission’s main priority. While the 2026 European Semester Autumn Package shows that the EU can build on a robust economic and labour market performance and support social achievements, the EU must enter a new phase of work, where the Commission, together with Member States, will concentrate decisively on implementation to further reinforce its competitiveness and resilience, with a strong emphasis on delivering concrete results and driving meaningful change across the EU. Unless the EU boosts investment, productivity and innovation it will not keep pace in an increasingly challenging geo-political environment and will not be able to secure its (economic) security and prosperity, including for future generations.

The Technical Support Instrument (TSI) continues to play a key role in shaping and implementing reform agendas in all Member States.

On 10 February 2021, the TSI was established² and became available to all Member States. Through the TSI, the Commission can provide tailor-made expertise on the ground so that Member States have the necessary institutional and administrative capacity to develop and implement growth-enhancing reforms and make European economies more resilient thanks to efficient and well-functioning administrative structures. The TSI was deployed to support Member States in preparing, amending and implementing their recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)³. The TSI also allows to support Member States having to urgently adapt public institutions and processes to specific emerging needs. In April 2022, the TSI offered crucial technical support to Member States helping them urgently reduce dependency on Russian fossil fuels and thus helping EU navigate the energy crisis and avoid recession, welcome persons displaced from Ukraine following Russia’s war of aggression and enhance the harmonised implementation of sanctions. Furthermore, in 2024, the TSI also offered urgent technical support to the Member States through a dedicated

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of Regions and the European Investment Bank: 2026 European Semester - Autumn package - Delivering on the Competitiveness Compass: pushing forward with reforms and investments, COM/2025/ 955 final, 25.11.2025.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 1 – 16, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/240/oj>.

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17–75, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj>.

call for the preparation of their National Implementation Plans under the Pact on Migration and Asylum, due in December 2024.

Stronger and more efficient public institutions are crucial for building resilient and sustainable economic structures that foster job creation and inclusive growth. The overall successful implementation of reforms requires efficient and effective public administrations, as these administrations influence the performance of all public policy domains, including reform efforts. For this reason, addressing the structural challenges faced by public administrations (e.g., in terms of competences, mobility, incentives, changes to work processes, etc.), especially by developing adequate institutional and administrative capacity, is crucial for well-functioning and sustainable economies and the success of structural reforms. In addition, strengthening Member States' administrative capacity is key in implementing EU policies and programmes, including the absorption of cohesion funds or RRF.

For the successful implementation of reforms, ownership by the Member State concerned is essential. The TSI offers interested Member States technical support to carry out reforms, but the decision on the design, structure and implementation of the reforms in question lies with the Member States themselves. It is up to each Member State benefitting from technical support to make the best use of the support received.

TSI objectives and process

Article 3 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/240 sets up the TSI with the general objective to *“promote the Union’s economic, social and territorial cohesion by supporting Member States’ efforts to implement reforms”*.

Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/240 establishes the specific objectives of the TSI, which are to assist national authorities in improving their capacity to: (i) design, develop and implement reforms; as well as to (ii) prepare, amend, implement and revise recovery and resilience plans pursuant to the RRF. These specific objectives are pursued in close cooperation with the Member States concerned, including through exchange of good practices, processes and methodologies, stakeholder involvement, where appropriate, and a more effective and efficient management of human resources.

In accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, technical support under the TSI can be provided if a Member State so requests. Member States may submit requests for technical support for the following: *“(a) the implementation of reforms by Member States, undertaken on their own initiative and in accordance with the general objective and specific objectives set out in Articles 3 and 4 respectively; (b) the implementation of growth-sustaining and resilience-enhancing reforms in the context of economic governance processes, in particular the country-specific recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester or actions related to the implementation of Union law; (c) the implementation of economic adjustment programmes for Member States that receive Union financial assistance under existing instruments [...]; (d) the preparation, amendment and revision of recovery and resilience plans pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 and the implementation thereof undertaken by Member States”*. Article 9(5) (second paragraph) requests the Commission to come to an agreement with the Member States concerned on the priority areas for support, the objectives, an indicative timeline, the scope of the support measures to be provided and the estimated global financial contribution for such technical support. These elements provide the basis for this annual work programme and will be reflected for each Member State concerned in a cooperation and support plan.

In response to specific emerging needs of Member States, the Commission shall organise additional dedicated calls. Therefore, a limited proportion of the budget (not exceeding 10%) may be used for such additional dedicated calls. In addition, in the event of unforeseen and duly justified grounds of urgency requiring an immediate response, including a serious disturbance in the economy or significant circumstances seriously affecting the economic, social or health conditions pertaining in a Member State and going beyond its control, Article 12(7) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240 requires that a limited part of the maximum Union contribution be reserved for special measures. Therefore, to ensure the timely availability of resources in 2026, a limited proportion of the budget (not exceeding 10%) may be used for the adoption of special measures.

Pursuant to Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, by 31 October 2025 all Member States submitted a total of 300 requests for technical support to the Commission.

After receiving any necessary clarifications from the Member States concerned, the Commission analysed the requests to determine their eligibility and ensure their compliance with the criteria and principles set out in Article 9(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240. This assessment also considered whether actions to be implemented under the TSI overlapped with those implemented under other Union instruments in the Member States concerned, in particular with actions and measures financed by Union funds or other Union programmes; this was done to avoid double funding and to ensure complementarity.

The high interest of Member States in the call led the Commission to strongly prioritise when selecting which requests to fund. This prioritisation was based on the criteria defined in the Regulation (EU) 2021/240, bearing in mind the prioritisation made by the Member States themselves and the main challenges faced by the Member States, as indicated in the recovery and resilience plans under the RRF, the past country-specific recommendations, the country reports, relevant infringement cases, etc. The Commission also considered the link between requests and strategic Union priorities. In application of the principle of sound financial management, the most mature requests having the highest potential impact on the ground were prioritised over others.

As a result of this need to prioritise, more than half of the eligible requests were selected for funding under TSI 2026.

As the support measures ensuing from the selected requests are implemented, they may need to be adjusted together with the corresponding amounts initially allocated to them. This would be done through appropriate reprogramming, in order to reflect the prevailing circumstances in relation to the relevant needs, including follow-up activities directly linked to the subject matter of the support measures foreseen and which are indispensable to ensure the reforms' effectiveness. In addition, should additional funding become available during the year due to reprogramming, withdrawals of requests or cancellations of technical support measures, it may also be opportune and possible to select, later in the year, requests submitted by the Member States which could not be prioritised due to insufficient availability of financial resources when the initial selection was made.

Further to the above and in line with the needs expressed by the Member States, priority areas of intervention, objectives and expected results have been identified for TSI 2026, together with the methods of budget implementation indicated in Part II below.

The Commission, under Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, implements the instrument in accordance with the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509⁴ ('the Financial Regulation'). In addition, Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240 provides that the related measures may be implemented either directly by the Commission or, indirectly, by persons or entities in accordance with Article 62(1) of the Financial Regulation. The support can take different forms, *inter alia*, grants, public procurement contracts, reimbursement of costs incurred by external experts, contributions to trust funds set up by international organisations and actions carried out through indirect management. In line with the room for manoeuvre granted under Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, the Commission determines the most appropriate method of budget implementation in terms of needs and costs in order to ensure an appropriately high level of technical expertise, determined by excellence, independence and pluralism; open, transparent, effective and proportionate related processes.

In line with Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, the Commission will support the better coordination of policies on public administration and good governance, which is considered necessary for the management of the instrument and the achievement of its general and specific objectives. The main aim will be to achieve better synergy between the Commission policy initiatives related to public administration and to develop the Commission methodology, country and thematic knowledge on the topic while ensuring that the respective initiatives are of good quality and that there is adequate capacity at domestic level for their implementation. This support will reinforce the expertise of the Commission in coordinating public administration policies and governance-related matters. It should stimulate more targeted dialogue on the topic with Member States in order to learn from one another and transfer knowledge, and it should also promote common principles, values and good practice for public administration and good governance. In addition, the Commission will finance corporate IT⁵ and corporate communication activities (based on the Corporate communication action in 2024 – 2027 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027, C(2023)6467 and the annual Commission Communication on IT Implementation Plan and Allocation of IT corporate resources and other activities in line with Article 6(2) referred to above.

2. Priority areas for intervention in 2026

In accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, the technical support for structural reforms may relate to the following broad public policy areas, among other areas:

- (a) public financial and asset management, budget process, including green and gender budgeting, macro-fiscal framework, debt and cash management, expenditure and tax policy, tax compliance, revenue administration and customs union, as well as fighting aggressive tax planning, tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance;
- (b) institutional reform and efficient and service-oriented functioning of public administration and e-government, simplification of rules and procedures, auditing, enhancing capacity to absorb Union funds, promotion of administrative cooperation, effective rule of law, reform of

⁴ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

⁵ IT development and procurement strategy choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board.

the justice systems, capacity building of competition and antitrust authorities, strengthening of financial supervision and reinforcement of the fight against fraud, corruption and money laundering;

(c) business environment, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, the self-employed, entrepreneurs and social economy enterprises, the re-industrialisation and relocation of production to the Union, private sector development, product and service markets, public and private investments including into physical and virtual infrastructure, project promoters and nurseries, public participation in enterprises, privatisation processes, trade and foreign direct investment, competition, efficient and transparent public procurement, sustainable sectoral development, and support for research, innovation and digitisation;

(d) education, life-long learning and training, vocational education and training, youth policies, labour market policies, including social dialogue, for the creation of jobs, increased labour market participation of under-represented groups, up- and re-skilling in particular digital skills, media literacy, active citizenship, active ageing, gender equality, civil protection, border and migration policies, the promotion of social inclusion and the fight against poverty, income inequality and all forms of discrimination;

(e) accessible, affordable and resilient public healthcare, social security systems, care and welfare, and childcare;

(f) policies for the mitigation of climate change, the digital and just green transitions, e-government solutions, e-procurement, connectivity, data access and governance, data protection solutions, e-learning, use of Artificial Intelligence based solutions, the environmental pillar of sustainable development and environmental protection, climate action, transport and mobility, promoting the circular economy, energy and resource efficiency and renewable energy sources, achieving energy diversification, tackling energy poverty and ensuring energy security, and for the agricultural sector, soil and biodiversity protection, fisheries and the sustainable development of rural, remote and insular areas;

(g) financial sector policies and regulation, including financial literacy, financial stability, access to finance and lending to the real economy, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, the self-employed and entrepreneurs;

(h) the production, provision and quality monitoring of data and statistics;

(i) preparation for membership of the euro area; and

(j) early detection of and a coordinated response to substantial public health or security risks, as well as ensuring business and service continuity for essential public and private institutions and sectors.

Against this background, the priorities for support measures under the TSI work programme for 2026 have been set on the basis of the Member State requests for technical support that are selected for funding.

The remaining requests refer to Member State reforms to support recovery, sustainable economic growth, job creation and to enhance resilience.

Description of how the action(s) included in this work programme contribute mainstreaming climate, biodiversity and gender-equality

Under the work programme for 2026, the TSI will support the mainstreaming of climate and biodiversity objectives. Among others, it includes actions and activities to: improve the

capacity for modelling the impact of climate change and climate adaptation and mitigation measures on public finances; strengthen climate adaptation, promote climate mitigation (including through the development of carbon capture, utilisation and storage), support the increase of renewable energy through implementation of the EU regulatory framework on electricity, improve water management (including wastewater, water resilience for agriculture, governance of water services, and stormwater management), increase the housing sustainability and affordability through the development of national housing data systems; re-direct private and public capital flows towards climate and environmental action as well as sustainable investments, also in support of other EU instruments (e.g., InvestEU, RRF); develop green hydrogen market; support the uptake of renewable energy including faster permitting; support just transition regions, accelerate the green transition of manufacturing industry; improve regulatory impact assessment in the area of energy; implement Social Climate Plans of the EU Emission Trading System; prepare national restoration plans; support environmental inspections; support innovation and investment in net-zero technologies; increase the overall quality and efficiency of the public administration and reduce their impact on climate and biodiversity; and leverage technology to analyse procurement documents for green/climate related aspects.

The TSI support will also contribute to the gender equality objective, in particular through securing access to early childhood education and care services, enhancing the labour market participation of the women, enhancing their financial resilience and promoting work-life balance for parents.

Overall, the TSI priorities for 2026 reflect 9 areas set out in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240 and are as described below (grouped by thematic area).

2.1. Public Finances

The TSI will support measures in at least 23 Member States, related to public finances.

a) Priorities for the year

The **2026 European Semester – Autumn package** emphasises maintaining the sustainability and quality of public finances as well as the need for investments to support productivity, transition, environmental sustainability, fairness and macroeconomic stability. In light of these objectives, the **Economic Governance Framework** is key to ensuring sound and sustainable public finances, by providing greater clarity and predictability for fiscal policy and debt sustainability. A central policy measure in the European Semester process is the submission by Member States of their medium-term fiscal-structural plans or their related annual progress reports. These plans form the basis for sustainable public finances, as well as supporting reforms and investments in a green, digital, inclusive, and resilient economy.

Moreover, many Member States have received **country-specific recommendations** in 2025 highlighting the need for improving fiscal sustainability of public finances, including through dedicated tax policy reforms. These recommendations are more urgent for those ten countries in an excessive deficit procedure, and those in a national escape clause due to increased defence spending.

A specific priority in the area of **public financial management** is the further implementation of the European Green Deal, Directive 2024/1265⁶, and the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change⁷, all of which emphasise the integration of climate adaptation and resilience into national fiscal frameworks.

In this context, Commission's priorities for support include facilitating policy design for structural and public investment policies related to **climate change** through better evidence of their macro-fiscal impact, and integrating structural reforms and investments as well as fiscal risk considerations into budgetary planning frameworks.

Regarding reforms in **tax and customs administrations**, the priority remains to support the cohesion of the internal market, by reducing barriers created by fragmented national tax systems and divergent national standards and practices. The EU is committed to enhancing the competitiveness of European businesses and reducing their burden by creating a single internal market.

The EU is pursuing the creation of a simpler and more modern tax environment in its Member States. The package on Value Added Tax (VAT) in the Digital Age (**ViDA**)⁸ aims to simplify and modernise compliance and make the cross-border operation of businesses easier. Moreover, the Directive on Faster and Safer Relief of Excess Withholding Taxes (**FASTER**)⁹ (2025/50) aims to simplify and harmonise withholding tax procedures in Member States to alleviate the tax burden of cross-border investment.

In this context, Commission's priority is to support the implementation of the ViDA and FASTER policy priorities through dedicated **revenue administration** reforms. How the above initiatives are applied in practice depends to a large extent on the level of fitness of the national revenue administrations. Tax administrations that are streamlined and simplified through business process improvement, digitalisation and innovation will be better prepared to administer future EU tax and customs frameworks. Providing tailor made support and solutions to tax administrations is expected to level the playing field when future rules are adopted, and to reduce administrative barriers across the internal market through fit-for-purpose harmonisation and simplification of implementing solutions.

b) Objectives pursued

The **overarching objective** is to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of public spending and increase the quality of public finances, with a view to facilitate the digital

⁶ Council Directive (EU) 2024/1265 of 29 April 2024 amending Directive 2011/85/EU on requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States, ST/6920/2024/INIT, OJ L, 2024/1265, 30.4.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1265/oj>.

⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, COM/2021/82 final, 24.2.2021.

⁸ (1) Council Directive (EU) 2025/516 of 11 March 2025 amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards VAT rules for the digital age, ST/15342/2024/INIT, OJ L, 2025/516, 25.3.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/516/oj>.

(2) Council Regulation (EU) 2025/517 of 11 March 2025 amending Regulation (EU) No 904/2010 as regards the VAT administrative cooperation arrangements needed for the digital age, ST/15343/2024/INIT, OJ L, 2025/517, 25.3.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/517/oj>.

(3) Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/518 of 11 March 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011 as regards information requirements for certain VAT schemes, ST/15344/2024/INIT, OJ L, 2025/518, 25.3.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/518/oj.

⁹ Council Directive (EU) 2025/50 of 10 December 2024 on faster and safer relief of excess withholding taxes ST/10058/2024/INIT OJ L, 2025/50, 10.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/50/oj>.

and green transitions and to contribute to the achievement of the targets proposed in the recovery and resilience plans.

In the field of **public financial management**, the objective is to support Member States in building up sufficient capacity to carry out robust economic analysis for climate policies, assess impacts of physical risks of climate change, and incorporate climate change and nature-related impacts into their routine budgetary and fiscal policy processes.

The objectives in the areas of **revenue administration and tax policy** are to boost revenue collection, increase tax compliance, enhance administrative cooperation across Member States, fight tax fraud and tax evasion, and ensure fair, simple and sustainable taxation that is conducive to growth, investment and innovation. This will also support EU tax and customs authorities in their efforts to alleviate the administrative burden on businesses and their own revenue administrations through simplification, streamlining and modernisation.

For the workstreams of public financial management as well as revenue administration and tax policy, the **specific objectives** are:

- To create sufficient analytical capacity in Member State administrations to support climate-related tax reforms and create the basis for green investments.
- To support Member States in implementation of both eInvoicing and Digital reporting Requirements (DRR), according to the legal requirements and in meeting the implementation deadline of 1 July 2030 for the ViDA legislative package.
- To support Member States in the effective and timely implementation of the FASTER Directive.

c) Expected results

The expected results in the field of **public financial management** are higher efficiency and sustainability of public spending, supported by an optimised allocation of resources and impact of public investment, also taking into account goals related to recovery and resilience plans. In this context, the support will contribute to improved **fiscal sustainability** of public finances. The quality of public finances will also benefit from greater capacity of Member States to make better-informed decisions, based on enhanced **macroeconomic and fiscal analysis and forecasting** capacities, specifically in the area of climate policy modelling and climate fiscal risk assessment. More informed spending decisions and evidence-based formulation of policies will also be the result of enhanced **economic modelling** capabilities supporting policy impact assessment.

The expected results in the areas of **revenue administration and tax policy** are higher revenue collection and higher tax compliance, supported by strengthened tax authorities as well as by enhanced tax systems, also taking into account goals related to economic growth, the single market, the recovery and resilience plans, and European Semester country-specific recommendations. In this context, the support is expected to lead to a **reduction of administrative burden** benefiting taxpayers, revenue authorities and businesses throughout the EU.

2.2. Governance and Public Administration

The TSI will support measures in at least 25 Member States, related to better public administration and governance.

a) Priorities for the year

The quality and performance of public institutions in Member States impact their competitiveness. Public administration and governance are important cross-cutting themes in the European Semester.

The 2025 country-specific recommendations related to public administration often concern administrative burden reduction, improving the functioning and the capacity of public administration, digitalisation of public administration, improving public procurement and governance fragmentation. A specific European Semester priority concerns defence spending.

The Technical Support Instrument prioritisation for the year responds to this. It will focus on efficient administrative processes and government services, effective regional policy, reducing administrative burden, reform and investment planning and coordination, transparent public procurement data, joint procurement around defence, and transparency and accountability in public policy making. Digital transition of the civil service and the wider public sector remain an important cross-cutting priority.

In addition, the Commission continues to promote cross-country knowledge and learning on how to build better administration and it responds to strong Member States demand to learn, share knowledge and good practices, collaborate with peers on solving policy and institutional reform problems, and on implementing EU laws and policies. Facilitating such learnings across sectors brings strong EU value added and continues to be a priority for the year.

The Commission Communication COM(2023)667 on **Enhancing the European Administrative Space** (ComPAct)¹⁰ frames several priorities for the year and beyond. This includes a focus on overall quality of public administration, with an emphasis on leadership, skills, greening, digital transformation of government and cooperation and knowledge exchange among Member States.

b) Objectives pursued

The overarching objective is to improve quality of public administration, to increase efficiency and to deliver better policies and services. More specifically, this will include support to:

- Increase public sector productivity, by analysing tasks and structures across ministries, identifying efficiency gains, bundling shared service functions and launching consolidation pilots.
- Improve quality of administrative services, through reviewing user satisfaction and regulatory obstacles, and developing tools for user centric service design and their delivery.
- Build effective regional policy, by developing a legislative and strategic planning and monitoring framework that facilitates balanced regional development and place sensitive investment decisions.
- Reducing administrative burden, through a systematic and comprehensive approach to identify, quantify and reduce administrative and legislative compliance.
- Capacity building for reform and investment management, with an effective cross-sector coordination, stakeholder engagement and strategic investment planning system.

¹⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Enhancing the European Administrative Space (ComPAct), COM/2023/667 final, 25.10.2023.

- Foster joint defence procurement in the EU, by removing legislative and procedural obstacles to joint defence procurement in Member States and building harmonised policies and practices for increased cross-EU defence procurement.
- Improve the quality and availability of public procurement data at EU level, notably regarding below threshold procurement operations, by connecting European databases – including Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) – with national procurement data sets available on national portals.
- Integrity and transparency of government action, by system building for enhancing systemic decision traceability, managing conflicts of interest and identifying lobby interests.
- Facilitating Member States peer exchanges, to help them learn from each other, share good practices, solve policy and institutional problems.

Moreover, the overall support and coordination of public administration and better governance will aim at achieving a better synergy between the various initiatives in this domain. It will also consolidate and further develop country and thematic knowledge on the topic. The Commission support aims to foster exchange and to stimulate a more targeted dialogue with and between Member States on public administration, good governance and digital transition, across sectors so they can design and implement better reform initiatives, learn from one another and transfer knowledge and promote common principles, values and good practice. In addition, the support will also aim at increasing the collection and dissemination of data on the topic to foster a better understanding of the needs or of the current state of play and encourage dialogue and improvements. In this context, data-collection activities such as Eurobarometer surveys and life events studies will be performed.

c) Expected results

The technical support is expected to help improve the **quality of public administration** in Member States, which contributes to national and overall EU competitiveness, balanced economic development, citizen satisfaction and public trust.

In particular, increasing public sector productivity will streamline costs and improve quality of policy making and implementation. Developing more user centric services and reducing administrative burden will contribute to a better business environment, stimulate business formation and increase trust in government. A comprehensive regional policy and strategic cooperation and investment planning will foster balanced socio-economic territorial development and increase impact of strategic investments. Making better procurement data available at EU level will improve public spending, will boost strategic procurement's role to promote policy objectives such as innovation and green, and will facilitate access to tenders for SMEs deepening the Single Market. More and better joint defence procurement will make allocation of public funds more efficient and effective and contribute to increasing EU wide defence capabilities. Building a systemic integrity and transparency framework will improve quality of government decision making and builds public trust.

The Commission's **enhanced coordination in public administration**, as well as an increased number of cooperation and exchange missions between Member States administrations will promote knowledge sharing and enhance reform and problem-solving capacity across the EU. Additional data and information gathered through data-collection exercises such as Eurobarometer surveys and life events studies will increase the Commission's and Member States' understanding of public needs and priorities and support Member States'

administrations implement targeted reforms, which are more responsive and relevant for the European citizens and businesses.

2.3. Sustainable Competitiveness

The TSI will support measures in all Member States, related to competitiveness and sustainability, including energy policy.

a) Priorities for the year

The EU has put forward an ambitious policy agenda¹¹ for 2024 - 2029 to enhance EU's strength and unity, in particular in the area of sustainable prosperity and competitiveness, through fostering economic growth, supporting EU's competitive industry, transitioning to more sustainable production and consumption practices and accelerating green, digital and social transition.

Member States priorities for technical support for 2026 are in line with the 2025 European Semester Country-Specific Recommendations¹² and the 2026 European Semester Autumn Package Communication¹³, which emphasise the need to boost competitiveness and sustainable prosperity, in particular taking decisive action to foster economic growth, bolster economic security and productivity, increase affordable sustainable housing, accelerate decarbonisation, bring down energy prices, develop clean energy infrastructure, and invest in climate resilience and environmental sustainability.

In the area of **competitiveness**, Member States have prioritised in their requests technical support focussing on the implementation of major policy initiatives such as the Competitiveness Compass¹⁴, the Clean Industrial Deal¹⁵, the European Affordable Housing Plan¹⁶ and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy¹⁷.

This includes supporting sustainable competitiveness priorities such as sustainable economic growth and productivity, strengthening of governance of state-owned enterprises as well as improving housing and decarbonisation of transport.

¹¹ https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029_en.

¹² https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-european-semester-country-specific-recommendations-commission-recommendations_en.

¹³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of Regions and the European Investment Bank: 2026 European Semester - Autumn package - Delivering on the Competitiveness Compass: pushing forward with reforms and investments, COM/2025/955 final, 25.11.2025.

¹⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Competitiveness Compass for the EU, COM/2025/30 final, 29.1.2025.

¹⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: The Clean Industrial Deal: A joint roadmap for competitiveness and decarbonisation, COM/2025/85 final, 26.2.2025 and Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Delivering on the Clean Industrial Deal I, COM/2025/378 final, 2.7.2025.

¹⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/employment-and-social-affairs/affordable-housing_en.

¹⁷ Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future, SWD/2020/331 final, 9.12.2020.

In the area of **sustainability**, Member States have prioritised in their requests technical support focussing on the implementation of major policy initiatives such as the Water Resilience Strategy¹⁸, the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy¹⁹, as well as the regulatory framework on electricity including in particular the Grids Package²⁰, the Clean Industrial Deal²¹ and the Affordable Energy Action Plan²², and the Reform of the EU Electricity Market Design²³.

This includes supporting climate and energy priorities such as the electricity sector reform, the development of carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and enhanced climate adaptation, and the resilience of natural resources, with a particular emphasis on water management (wastewater, water resilience for agriculture, governance of water services, and stormwater management).

b) Objectives pursued

In the area of **competitiveness**, the technical support will aim at enabling Member States to design and implement policies for growth and competitiveness by strengthening productivity enhancing policies, improving the governance of the state-owned enterprises, supporting innovation in housing construction as well as greening mobility and transport.

In the area of **sustainability**, the technical support will address the objective to enable Member States to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, including affordable, clean and secure energy, and resilient natural resources. In particular, this includes supporting reform objectives in the electricity sector, the development of carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and strengthening governance for climate adaptation as well as promoting the resilience of natural resources (including the implementation of the EU regulatory framework on waste water, the management of stormwater to enhance resilience to storms and floodings, modernising the governance of water services, and improving water resilience for agriculture).

c) Expected results

In the area of **competitiveness**, the technical support measures will contribute to the efforts of Member States to foster growth and prosperity by creating a conducive business environment, boosting productivity, improving the governance of state-owned enterprises, accelerating the construction of sustainable and affordable housing and promoting sustainable mobility.

In the area of **sustainability**, the technical support measures will contribute to the efforts of Member States to improve preparedness to reach climate and energy objectives and accelerate the green transition by timely implementing key reforms of the electricity sector, developing carbon capture, utilisation and storage, improving governance for climate adaptation,

¹⁸ [Water resilience strategy - European Commission.](#)

¹⁹ [EU Adaptation Strategy - Climate Action - European Commission.](#)

²⁰ [Commission proposes upgrade of the EU's energy infrastructure to lower bills and boost independence.](#)

²¹ [Clean Industrial Deal - European Commission.](#)

²² [Action Plan for Affordable Energy: Unlocking the true value of our Energy Union to secure affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans - Energy.](#)

²³ [Electricity market design.](#)

improving water management, including for wastewater and stormwater, making water services more effective, and strengthening the resilience of the water sector for agriculture.

2.4. European Pillar of Social Rights

Based on requests from Member States, the TSI will provide support to at least 11 Member States in the areas of education, training and skills, active labour market and social policies, social welfare systems, and health. The support will underpin the Commission's priorities 2024-2029, in particular the need to promote social fairness, strengthen social cohesion and ensure equal opportunities for all. It will also help Member States address 2025 Country Specific Recommendations, focusing on improving basic skills, addressing early childhood education challenges and care and long-term care shortages, enhancing efficiency in healthcare spending, reinforcing primary care and prevention.

a) Priorities for the year

In the area of **education and skills**, support measures will underpin reforms to improve the quality, tools and skillsets in the education, training and labour market of the Member States. The support measures will help Member States achieving the targets referred to in the **European Education Area**²⁴, related to basic skills and early childhood education and care. They will also help address 2025 Country Specific Recommendations to improve basic skills and increase access to affordable high-quality early childhood education and care, encouraging women participation in labour market.

The TSI will also support structural reforms in the **areas of labour market and social policies**. As highlighted in the 2025 Joint Employment Report²⁵, it is crucial for Member States to continue implementing policies that enhance the resilience of European labour markets and the adequacy of social protection systems, with a particular focus on people in vulnerable labour market and social situations.

In this context, the TSI will support integrated interventions to address long-term care workforce shortages and improve working conditions, enhance the labour market participation of the women and promote work-life balance for parents, address undeclared work and unsafe working conditions through enforcement and AI-driven solutions and improve housing affordability through the development of national housing data systems. The support measures will contribute to a better implementation of **the Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights**²⁶, **of the European Care Strategy**²⁷ **and of the Affordable housing plan**²⁸.

In **health**, the support measures are expected to enhance the resilience and fiscal sustainability of Member States health systems by improving the quality of health spending, strengthening

²⁴ [Homepage - European Education Area](#).

²⁵ European Commission: Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Joint Employment Report 2025 – As adopted by the EPSCO Council on 10 March 2025, Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2767/9542551>.

²⁶ [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan - Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion](#).

²⁷ [A European Care Strategy](#).

²⁸ [The European Affordable Housing Plan - Housing - European Commission](#).

primary care, integrated care and health system performance assessment as well as the governance of health promotion and disease prevention policies.

The support measures are expected to strengthen the resilience of health systems in line with the objectives of the **European Health Union**²⁹, by improving the prevention, treatment and aftercare for diseases such as cancer, in line with **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**³⁰ the European Care Strategy³¹, and helping Member States with the implementation of the European Health Data Space³². The reforms will eventually contribute to a better access to healthcare, which is a priority in the context of strengthening the Social Europe and addressing 2025 Country Specific Recommendations.

b) Objectives pursued

The support measures in the areas of **skills, education, labour market and social protection** aim to support Member States in improving the relevance, efficiency and sustainability of their skills, education, labour market and social protection systems, in line with national objectives and EU targets, through targeted measures.

More specifically, they aim to:

- Foster basic skills through teachers' professional development, curriculum and assessment reform, and inclusive education
- Improve availability of affordable high-quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) services, increase the participation of women in the labour market and support work-life balance for parents.
- Address staff shortages in long-term care sector through analysis of workforce policies and roadmap with recommendations to improve recruitment of foreign workers.
- Reduce undeclared work and unsafe working conditions through the development of a national risk-based inspection methodology.
- Address data-fragmentation, governance and insufficient interinstitutional coordination through the development of a National Housing Data System (SNDH)

The support measures for **health** aim at strengthening the resilience of the health systems and support more effective and more integrated ways of delivering healthcare services. The specific objectives of these technical support measures are to:

- Enhance the governance, planning, monitoring, evaluation capacity and skills of the Ministries of Health and associated public entities in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention, primary, secondary and tertiary care, eHealth, health system performance assessment, and integrated care;

²⁹ [European Health Union \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/infographic_european_health_union_20240211.pdf).

³⁰ [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/infographic_european_beating_cancer_plan_20240211.pdf).

³¹ [A European Care Strategy for caregivers and care receivers](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/infographic_european_care_strategy_20240211.pdf).

³² Regulation (EU) 2025/327 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2025 on the European Health Data Space and amending Directive 2011/24/EU and Regulation (EU) 2024/2847 (Text with EEA relevance), PE/76/2024/REV/1, OJ L, 2025/327, 5.3.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/327/oj>.

- Improve the efficiency of health systems through interoperable eHealth systems, more effective (clinical) governance, planning, costing, accounting and payment systems, and use of human resources;
- Improve access to and increase the quality of health services, including digital health solutions, medicines, cancer prevention and care, and ensure sustainable public finances and investments in health systems.

c) Expected results

The technical support measures in the areas of **skills, education, labour market and social protection** will increase the quality, relevance and effectiveness of education, labour market and social protection policies and contribute to: (i) adoption of a revised framework on basic skills, including in the areas of teachers' attractiveness and curriculum assessment; (ii) a comprehensive and coordinated system for ECEC and a legal framework conducive to the implementation of work-life balance arrangements and the integration of women into the labour market; (iii) better workforce planning and structural solutions addressing workforce and skills shortages in the care sector (iv) a more effective, risk-based and coordinated enforcement system to address undeclared work and recurrent OSH breaches and (v) an operational national housing data governance model to improve coordination on housing policies.

In the area of **health**, the technical support measures will contribute to: (i) the provision of strategic and operational tools, recommendations and capacity building for strengthening the governance, planning, monitoring and evaluation of health promotion and disease prevention measures and health services across primary, secondary and tertiary care, eHealth, emergency services, health system performance assessment, cancer screening and care, as well as integrated care; (ii) the development and implementation of tools for improving the governance and planning as well as the skills and expertise of the health workforce; (iii) recommendations and tools for improving the accessibility and effectiveness of health systems, including health spending, and (iv) the design and implementation of effective and efficient care delivery models.

2.5. Access to Finance

The TSI will provide support measures in at least 9 Member States in the area of capital markets development, regulation and supervision, promotional banking, and financial education. All support actions will contribute to the aims of the Savings and Investments Union. They will also help Member States address 2025 Country Specific Recommendations in the area of access to finance and competitiveness.

a) Priorities for the year

Building **the Savings and Investments Union (SIU)**³³ is a shared responsibility of Member States and EU institutions. EU-level measures are clearly justified in areas where all Member States can and should move together to address EU-wide shortcomings. Other measures will

³³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Savings and Investments Union, A Strategy to Foster Wealth and Economic Competitiveness in the EU, COM/2025/124 final, 19.3.2025.

rely more on Member States acting individually. As part of the SIU agenda, the Commission offered assistance to Member States in identifying, designing and implementing national measures and offered support for coordinating their actions, where such initiatives go further and faster to achieve the objectives of the SIU.

More specifically, technical support will facilitate multi-country cooperation to build stronger, more efficient, competitive and liquid **capital markets at the regional level**, directly supporting the SIU's core aim of channelling private savings more effectively into productive investment across the EU.

In the area of **promotional banking**, the priority of the TSI 2026 cycle is to contribute to the aims of the SIU and to improve the access to finance for companies allowing them to improve their competitiveness and to finance their sustainable and digital transition.

Moreover, the enhancement of the **financial literacy** of EU citizens is another priority of this year's TSI cycle. This entails the improvement of essential knowledge and skills to make important financial decisions, to secure their financial independence and well-being and to ensure individual households' financial resilience.

b) Objectives pursued

In the area of **capital markets**, the support aims at enabling the beneficiary Member States to develop a consistent regulatory and supervisory framework, in line with the EU-level policies and legislation, through concrete alignment tools, and a roadmap that removes cross-border barriers and strengthens regional market interconnectedness.

In the area of **promotional banking**, the support measure aims at allowing the beneficiary Member State to promote the use of financial instruments and to thereby improve access to finance for companies. This will be achieved among others by setting up a national strategy and a methodological framework for the use of financial instruments, the design of pilot financial instruments models as well as support on the operational, legislative and procedural frameworks.

The technical support measure related to **financial literacy** aims at developing a set of identified cutting edge AI-tools tailored to target groups needs enhancing effectiveness of financial literacy education for citizens and entrepreneurs, helping a Member State acquire the capacity to assess the effectiveness of AI tools in financial education. Those measures aim at enhancing financial literacy knowledge and increase the levels of financial literacy of citizens (including vulnerable groups - young, elderly) and entrepreneurs.

c) Expected results

In the area of **capital markets**, the support will contribute to a more efficient access to finance, stimulate private investment, and enhance the depth, resilience, competitiveness, and interoperability of capital markets at the regional level.

The support in the area of **promotional banking** will diversify funding sources for businesses and to crowd-in private investors leveraging public funds.

Technical support measures to be provided to national authorities in the area of financial literacy will contribute to long-term households' financial resilience and wealth, with a

positive impact on the rate of sound participation to financial markets and its resilience. Furthermore, they will enhance the individuals' understanding of risks involved when borrowing or investing money, allowing them to make better decisions about personal finances including under a long-term perspective, and to soundly invest in capital markets as for their needs.

2.6 Overview of the allocation of financial resources

In conclusion, and as to be explained in Part II, the indicative allocation of financial resources for support measures by thematic area is summarised in the following table:

	Public Finances	Governance and Public Administration	Sustainable Competitiveness	European Pillar of Social Rights	Access to Finance	Total (EUR)
TOTAL (EUR)	13 253 366*	9 014 546*	17 180 163*	7 889 363*	2 859 365*	50 890 702
1) Grants	880 002	0	190 000	605 000	0	1 675 002
2) Public procurement	11 994 000	3 935 683	3 340 000	315 000	130 000	19 714 683
3) Indirect management	229 364	5 078 863	13 650 163	6 969 363	2 729 365	28 657 118
4.1) Other expenditure (AA/SLA)	150 000	0	0	0	0	150 000
4.2) Other expenditure	693 899					693 899

* Total including amounts in rows 1), 2), 3) & 4.1)

Part II – Actions to be financed in 2026

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/240, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2026 as follows:

a)

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (section 2) EUR 1 675 002,
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (section 3) EUR 19 714 683,
- for actions implemented under indirect management (section 4) EUR 28 657 118,

b) for other actions or expenditure (section 5) EUR 843 899.

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument (OJ L 57, p.1)

Budget line

06.02 02 00 EUR 50 890 702

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme amounts to EUR 1 675 002. It includes a) grants to be awarded without a call for proposals based on the type of applicants and the criteria indicated in this Financing Decision and b) grants to be awarded without a call for proposals to entities already identified in this Financing Decision.

2.1 Grants to be awarded without a call for proposals to support structural reforms in the area of public finances

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results of these grants are those of point 2.1 of Part I.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award/eligible applicants

Grants may be awarded to national authorities, the European Investment Bank group, international organisations public or private bodies and entities legally established in Member States or the European Free Trade Association Countries which are party to the European Economic Area Agreement, Member State ministries, agencies and bodies, other bodies with a public service mission, private bodies, and non-for profit international or European expertise associations and networks which, in view of the nature of the action, have specific and recognised competencies, experience and leadership, a high degree of specialisation or administrative power in the field of budget preparation, budget implementation, public financial management and revenue administration reform.

Such entities will be identified on the basis of their specific experience in providing support

in the fields of budget preparation, budget implementation, reform of public finance management systems, macroeconomic statistics and National Accounts, fiscal policy analysis and modelling, or in supporting tax or customs administration reform processes in recent years in European or neighbouring countries and proven knowledge of the local context. Grants may be awarded also to entities which are in a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly position.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 198 of the Financial Regulation.

Support will be provided to carry out the activities set out in article 8 of Regulation 2021/240.

Implementation

Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

I. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Grants may be awarded to entities as set out in Article 12 (3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

Grant beneficiaries will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed based on thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action.

In accordance with Article 201(5)(c)(d) of the Financial Regulation, the financial capacity of those beneficiaries that are public bodies, including Member States organisations, or international organisations will not be verified.

The award of grants without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198, first paragraph, letters (c) or (f) and third paragraph of the Financial Regulation will be duly substantiated in the award decision. The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application, which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- the extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context; and
- the financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget as well as a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

II. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

2.1.1. Grant to be awarded without a call for proposals to Danish Research Institute for Economic Analysis and Modelling (DREAM)

Objectives pursued and expected results

The objective of the action is to ensure that Member States have the necessary models,

analytical tools, and data to carry out robust climate economic analysis, comply with the amended Directive 2011/85/EU on requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States, and address the implementation of climate- and fiscal CSRs. The expected results of the action are for Member States to have well-developed macro-economic models to estimate the impact of climate policies on the economy and public finances. As such, the action will contribute to better fiscal and budgetary planning in the context of increasing pressures caused by climate change.

Description of the activities to be funded

Activities to be funded under this specific action entail:

- Support for the collection and preparation of national-level datasets to be used for building a Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model based on the DREAM model.
- Support for the construction of a CGE model, including baseline construction.
- Study visits and workshops for knowledge-sharing on the existing DREAM CGE model, including theoretical underpinnings and practical data collection considerations.
- Study visits and workshops focusing on the CGE model, including model calibration and introduction of technology catalogues.
- Support for tailoring the model to national contexts via the construction of sector-specific modules, upon demand.
- Support for the development of common databases for better integration into existing bottom-up energy models.

Amount

EUR 880 002

Grant beneficiary:

According to Article 198 (f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to particular bodies for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

The grant is to be awarded to Danish Research Institute for Economic Analysis and Modelling (DREAM), an independent governmental institution.

DREAM has an extensive, specific and applied expertise and experience in: (1) providing economic research along with developing modelling tools; (2) integrating technology catalogues into macroeconomic models; and (3) conducting analysis and forecast of economic, technology and climate policies. DREAM can tailor and provide highly specialised hands-on expertise necessary for the capacity building under this action.

In particular, DREAM has developed a specific model with the aim of assessing the effectiveness and macroeconomic impacts of energy and climate policies. The model is unique and leading in the sector as it links a standard, top-down CGE model (focused on calculating the impact of policies on rational agents) with bottom-up models which draw on

engineering data and technology catalogues to estimate cost and effectiveness of climate investments.

Furthermore, DREAM has the operational capacity to involve a sufficient number of skilled staff to cover all objectives of the action. DREAM is the best suited entity for this action given its operational and technical capacities, as well as its high degree of specialisation that is required.

DREAM has previously successfully provided support under the TSI in the same area of technical expertise, confirming its suitability for this project.

The award decision will be adopted at a later stage.

Implementation: Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force).

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

2.2 Grants to be awarded without a call for proposals to support structural reforms in the area of governance and public administration

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results of these grants are those of point 2.2 of Part I.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award/eligible applicants

Grants may be awarded to national authorities, the European Investment Bank group, international organisations, public or private bodies and entities legally established in Member States or the European Free Trade Association Countries which are party to the European Economic Area Agreement, Member State ministries, agencies and bodies, other bodies with a public service mission, private bodies, and non-for profit international or European expertise associations and networks which, in view of the nature of the action, have specific and recognised competencies, experience and leadership, a high degree of specialisation or administrative power in the field of governance and public administration and, more precisely, in the areas of reform of human resources, state organisation, judicial reform, e-government, anti-corruption.

Such entities will be identified on the basis of their specific experience in supporting structural reforms in European and neighbouring countries in recent years in the areas mentioned above, and on the basis of proven knowledge of the local context. Grants may be awarded also to entities that are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 198 of the Financial Regulation

Support will be provided to carry out the activities set out in article 8 of Regulation 2021/240.

Implementation

Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

I. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Grants may be awarded to entities as set out in Article 12(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

Grant beneficiaries will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed based on thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action.

In accordance with Article 201(5)(c)(d) of the Financial Regulation, the financial capacity of those beneficiaries that are public bodies, including Member States organisations, or international organisations will not be verified.

The award of grants without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198, first paragraph, letters (c) or (f) and third paragraph of the Financial Regulation will be duly substantiated in the award decision. The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application, which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- the extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context; and
- the financial quality of the proposal, including a reasonable and realistic budget as well as a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

II. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

2.3 Grants to be awarded without a call for proposals to support structural reforms in the area of sustainable competitiveness

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results of these grants are those of point 2.3 of Part I.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award/ eligible applicants

Grants may be awarded to national authorities, the European Investment Bank group, international organisations, public or private bodies and entities legally established in Member States or the European Free Trade Association Countries which are party to the European Economic Area Agreement, Member State ministries, agencies and bodies, other bodies with a public service mission, private bodies, and non-for profit international or European expertise associations and networks which, in view of the nature of the action, have specific and recognised competencies, experience and leadership, a high degree of specialisation or administrative power in the field of investment climate, public assets, natural resources, energy and climate.

Such entities will be identified on the basis of their specific experience in supporting structural reforms in European and neighbouring countries in recent years in the areas mentioned above, and on the basis of their proven knowledge of the local context. Grants may be awarded also to entities that are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 198 of the Financial Regulation.

Support will be provided to carry out the activities set out in article 8 of Regulation 2021/240.

Implementation

Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

I. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Grants may be awarded to entities as set out in Article 12(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

Grant beneficiaries will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed based on thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action.

In accordance with Article 201(5)(c)(d) of the Financial Regulation, the financial capacity of those beneficiaries that are public bodies, including Member State organisations, or international organisations will not be verified.

The award of grants without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198, first paragraph, letters (c) or (f) and third paragraph of the Financial Regulation will be duly substantiated in the award decision. The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application, which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- the extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context; and
- the financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget as well as a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

II. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

2.3.1 Grant to be awarded without a call for proposals to Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH), together with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Bocconi University

Objectives pursued and expected results

The European Union is facing a combination of competitiveness and productivity challenges. There is a need to improve the key contributing factors to competitiveness and productivity, such as the investment dynamics, industrial structure, and innovation

outcomes.

In Spain, the overall economic growth has been relatively robust, but productivity performance needs to be strengthened, in order to underpin long-term competitiveness. Effectively addressing these challenges requires that the Spanish National Productivity Board (NPB) and the National Statistical Institute (INE) are equipped with adequate analytical capacity and comprehensive access to relevant comparable data at EU level in order to support the design and implementation of productivity enhancing reforms. The objective of the technical support is to provide high quality data that will enhance the capacity and tools of institutions in Spain such as the NPB, INE, national ministries and relevant public analytical bodies to conduct rigorous productivity analyses. Through this project, the sources of micro data for economic research and analysis will be enriched by the wider scope of cross-country harmonised data availability. In addition, this project will build on existing work and leverage the expertise of other EU NPBs. This will not only allow the Spanish NPB and INE to commence implementation swiftly and efficiently, with a clear plan for delivering tangible benefits but also to collaborate and coordinate with other EU NPBs in research projects and economic analysis. This coordination and collaboration will highly improve the visibility, credibility, and policy impact of the Spanish NPB and INE, thereby supporting the effective fulfilment of their mandates.

Description of the activities to be funded

Amount

EUR 190 000

Grant beneficiary:

According to Article 198 (f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to particular bodies for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

The grant beneficiaries are the best suited entities for this action since they have the administrative capacity, the operational and technical competence as well as the degree of specialisation required. IWH will lead coordination, technical knowledge and implementation, financial management, as well as overall technical aspects. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Bocconi University will support data access and infrastructure development, research design, training, as well as indicator development.

IWH is the host of the Competitiveness Research Network (CompNet) that produces a unique micro-founded dataset covering productivity indicators. Since 2012, IWH has provided through CompNet a forum for policy-oriented research in the areas of competitiveness and productivity, taking a firm-level, a macro, and a cross-country perspective. It has extensive experience in creating, managing and improving a unique dataset with information at firm level featuring a selection of competitiveness-related indicators covering 17 Member States. The dataset, which is currently at its 10th vintage, is widely used globally by universities and research teams of European and international organisations. The Commission uses granular information produced by IWH through CompNet in its country monitoring and surveillance

activities. Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Bocconi University have strong expertise in microdata analytics. In particular, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has an established track record in econometrics, applied economics, social sciences, and analysis of large-scale administrative and survey microdata to study productivity, labour markets and education. Bocconi University is a leading academic centre for research in economics, finance, and public policy, where advanced microdata methods are applied to policy evaluation, firm behaviour, and decision-making.

The grant beneficiaries' specific experience is demonstrated also by past and ongoing projects, which are directly focused on the development of micro-data infrastructure in several Member States.

The grant beneficiaries are thus well placed to i) provide a forum for high-level, policy-oriented research in the areas of competitiveness and productivity (taking a firm-level and a cross-country perspective), and ii) create, manage and enhance a novel firm-level dataset including a selection of fundamental competitiveness-related indicators covering a large number of Member States.

The award decision will be adopted at a later stage.

Implementation: Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

2.4 Grants to be awarded without a call for proposals to support structural reforms in the area of European Pillar of Social Rights

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results of these grants are those of point 2.4 of Part I.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award/eligible applicants

Grants may be awarded to the national authorities, the European Investment Bank group, international organisations, public or private bodies and entities legally established in Member States or the European Free Trade Association countries which are party to the European Economic Area Agreement, Member State ministries, agencies and bodies, other bodies with a public service mission, private bodies and non-for profit international or European expertise associations and networks, which, in view of the nature of the action, have specific and recognised competencies, experience and leadership, high degree of specialisation or administrative power in the field of labour market, emergency preparedness in migration management, health, social services and education.

Such entities will be identified on the basis of their specific experience in supporting structural reforms in European and neighbouring countries in recent years in health care systems, emergency preparedness in migration management, education and training, the labour market and social security and social welfare and on the basis of proven knowledge of the local context. Grants may be awarded also to entities that are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 198 of the Financial Regulation

Support will be provided to carry out the activities set out in article 8 of Regulation 2021/240.

Implementation

Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

I. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Grants may be awarded to entities as set out in Article 12(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

Grant beneficiaries will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed based on thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action.

In accordance with Article 201(5)(c)(d) of the Financial Regulation, the financial capacity of those beneficiaries that are public bodies, including Member States organisations, or international organisations will not be verified.

The award of grants without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198, first paragraph, letters (c) or (f) and third paragraph of the Financial Regulation will be duly substantiated in the award decision. The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application, which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- the extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context; and
- the financial quality of the proposal, including a reasonable and realistic budget as well as a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

II. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

2.4.1 Grant to be awarded without a call for proposals to the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Objectives pursued and expected result

The overarching objective of the action is to support Slovenia in addressing the labour and skills shortages in the care sector. The project seeks to provide technical support for systematic measures to strengthen the care workforce, improve working conditions, integrate migrant workers, and develop innovative organisational models for community-based care.

The expected result of the technical support is that Slovenia is able to transition from temporary to structural solutions addressing workforce and skills shortages in the care sector. Findings gained from TSI support will assist in the preparation of draft amendments to the 2023 Staffing Act (ZZUKDPSS), which is scheduled to be evaluated in 2027.

Alternatively, the inputs may contribute to the draft Care Workforce Act planned for 2028, ensuring long-term sustainability of staffing policies.

Description of the activities to be funded

The activities to be performed under this action include:

- **To review policies and good practices** by developing a comparative report on workforce policies in the EU care sector and analysing their transferability to Slovenia, through desk research, expert interviews and peer-learning workshops.
- **To design a roadmap for retaining and strengthening the community care workforce**, with consultations to validate its feasibility.
- **To conduct a legal and policy review of Slovenia's labour migration framework** to support on the design of legislative changes for foreign care workers integration and providing recommendations to improve recruitment and integration of third country workforce.
- **To map digital and AI e-care solutions in the EU care sector** and identifying implementation opportunities, barriers, and costs for Slovenia.
- **To design and deliver tailored training for Long-Term Care (LTC) providers** on leadership, user-centred care, foreign worker integration, and digital technology use.
- **To provide support to developing technical guidance and to provide training for policy-makers** on improving working conditions and embedding it into national law, workforce planning, designing pathways for attracting and integrating foreign workers, and digital and AI use in care.
- **To disseminate the results** through communication activities to ensure effective and continuous outreach, visibility and stakeholder engagement, to validate and share recommendations within Slovenia and with other EU Member States.

Amount

EUR 605 000

Grant beneficiary:

According to Article 198 (f) of the Financial Regulation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to particular bodies for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence; its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals

The grant is to be awarded to the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (the European Centre), an independent intergovernmental organisation affiliated to the United Nations, which operates legally as an Austrian association (non-profit).

The European Centre is the best suited entity to implement the action for the following

reasons:

Technical competence:

The European Centre has a long-standing track record in developing integrated policies and action in the area of long-term care and social policy, including on workforce education and training.

It successfully contributed in past EU-funded initiatives on long-term care, e.g. with the Commission under the PROGRESS programme ('Quality management by result-oriented indicators – Towards benchmarking in residential care for older people'); Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) 2017 ('Supporting the Slovenian authorities with the implementation of an integrated system for long-term care in Slovenia'), and currently under the TSI 2025 cycle ('Supporting the implementation of Slovenia's long-term care system') which this 2026 project will complement.

Degree of specialisation/specialised knowledge:

The European Centre combines academic research with practical insights, offering an intersectoral perspective across welfare, health, care, labour, ageing and social inclusion. The entity is well-versed in analysing and assessing LTC policies with a focus on the implications for care users and informal carers. They also offer trainings and consultancy for professionals, provider organisations and policy makers in LTC.

The European Centre has actively contributed to the policy debate on long-term care reforms in Slovenia over the past two decades, based on a close cooperation with Slovenia's National Liaison Officials and Board Members of the European Centre, and its participation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Standing Working Group on Ageing as well as a member of Eurocarers. They have also cooperated with Slovenia for the implementation of Slovenia's long term care reform, funded through a TSI 2025 project.

Administrative capacity:

The European Centre works with a wide network of National Liaison Officials in the UNECE region, as well as an international network of scientific experts and partners. The European Centre's Health & Care team, which has a strong and longstanding focus on long-term care, gathers leading experts with a background in economics, sociology, public health and political sciences.

The European Centre has the experience and staff to cover all necessary administrative aspects for a successful project implementation, from identification and selection of appropriate expertise to project management, communication and reporting.

In conclusion, the European Centre has a unique technical knowledge, specialised expertise and administrative capacity that would allow a timely deployment of high-quality support and expertise on the ground. Moreover, it is a trusted partner for the Slovenian authorities, with whom they cooperated for more than 20 years.

The award decision will be adopted at a later stage.

Implementation: Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

2.5 Grants to be awarded without a call for proposals to support structural reforms in the area of access to finance

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results of these grants are those of point 2.5 of Part I.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award/eligible applicants

Grants may be awarded to the national authorities, the European Investment Bank group, international organisations, public or private bodies legally established in Member States or the European Free Trade Association countries which are party to the European Economic Area Agreement, Member State ministries, agencies and bodies, other bodies with a public service mission, private bodies and non-for profit international or European expertise associations and networks, which, in view of the nature of the action, have specific and recognised competencies, experience and leadership, high degree of specialisation or administrative power in the field of financial sector policies.

Such entities will be identified on the basis of their specific experience in supporting structural reforms in European and neighbouring countries in recent years in the financial sector. Grants may be awarded also to entities that are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 198 of the Financial Regulation

Support will be provided to carry out the activities set out in article 8 of Regulation 2021/240.

Implementation

Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force)

I. Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Grants may be awarded to entities as set out in Article 12(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

Grant beneficiaries will demonstrate their financial capacity by proving that they have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity during the period of the grant. Operational capacity will be assessed based on thematic experience in the policy field linked to the action.

In accordance with Article 201(5)(c)(d) of the Financial Regulation, the financial capacity of

those beneficiaries that are public bodies or international organisations will not be verified.

The award of grants without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198, first paragraph, letters (c) or (f) and third paragraph of the Financial Regulation will be duly substantiated in the award decision. The potential beneficiary will be invited to submit an application, which will be evaluated according to the following main award criteria:

- the extent to which the proposed action is in line with the objectives pursued and the extent to which the proposed outputs present added value in this context; and
- the financial quality of the proposal, including a reasonable and realistic budget as well as a sound cost-efficiency ratio.

II. Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: 100% in line with Art. 12(3) of Regulation 2021/240.

In case the actions set out for implementation through grants (direct management) in Section 2 cannot be implemented under this delivery mode, they will be implemented through public procurement (direct management) within the procurement activities set out in Section 3 (Procurement activities for implementation of Technical Support Instrument).

3. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in year 2026 amounts to EUR 19 714 683.

Procurement activities for the implementation of the Technical Support Instrument

General description of the contracts envisaged (*study / technical support / evaluation / survey / IT capacity building / communication services etc.*)

Based on the requests of the Member States, specific technical support measures will be undertaken in the policy areas referred to in Article 5 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/240. The contracts may, *inter alia*, be used for studies, provision of technical support, carrying out surveys, monitoring, evaluation, etc.

These activities will support the Member States national authorities in their efforts to implement reforms. The contracts will serve the priorities and objectives referred to in Part I of this document and respect the principles set out under Article 163 of the Financial Regulation, *inter alia*, transparency, proportionality, equal treatment, and non-discrimination. By means of public procurement contracts as budget implementation instruments, the Commission assesses, among others, the need for a high level of technical expertise, the lack of an effective alternative that meets the Member States' identified needs, the ability to quickly respond to the Member States' needs as well as the available resources.

In addition, expenditure for activities such as audit and evaluation, analysis and surveys, data-collection exercises (such as Eurobarometer surveys), meetings of experts, organisation of strategic events, publications, awareness-raising and dissemination activities, as well as to any other activities in support of the general and specific objectives of the Technical Support instrument.

Type of contracts:

- 1) direct contracts;
- 2) specific contracts based on existing or new framework contracts, including framework

contracts for the provision of technical support for the implementation of structural reforms under the Technical Support Instrument.

By the Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood under co-delegation for the provision of technical assistance under TAIEX to serve priorities and objectives referred to in Part I of this document (including to institutions in those Member States that have requested support e.g. expert missions) up to EUR 4 480 683.

Implementation

Directly by the Commission (Reform and Investment Task Force and Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood under a co-delegation)

In case the actions set out for implementation through public procurement (direct management) cannot be implemented under this delivery mode, due to circumstances outside of the control of the Commission, they will be implemented through indirect management in accordance with the criteria set out in Section 4 (Actions implemented in indirect management in accordance with Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation).

4. Actions implemented under indirect management

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management under this work programme is EUR 28 657 118.

It includes agreements to be signed with entities identified herein or selected on the basis of the criteria indicated in this Financing Decision, to the extent that the current provisions and framework agreements allow the conclusion of agreements under indirect management.

In line with the Financial Regulation, the following activities will be implemented under indirect management in view of the type of the implementing entity. Entities falling under Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, which have undergone an ex ante assessment of their procedures and systems, guaranteeing a level of protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that guaranteed by the Commission when it implements the EU budget directly, or have been exempted by the Commission from the pillar assessment requirement in accordance with Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation will act under indirect management for the tasks they will undertake to implement the actions.

4.1. Contribution agreements to support structural reforms in the area of public finances

Criteria for selecting an implementing entity:

Article 110(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation provides for setting out of the criteria for selecting an entity in the Financing Decision. The criteria to be used for selecting an implementing entity, considering the nature of the action, are as follows:

1. The entity satisfies the requirements set out in Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation. When the entities concerned comply only partially with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall take appropriate supervisory measures as provided for in Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation;
2. The entity's financial and operational capacity is adequate;

3. The entity has specific knowledge and recognised competencies in the relevant field;
4. The entity has extensive experience and leadership in the domain; and
5. The entity is active in the subject area in the European Union or in any other European country.

Description

The objectives pursued and expected results of the actions are those of point 2.1 of Part I.
The actions that can be financed through indirect management are outlined in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

4.2. Contribution agreements to support structural reforms in the area of governance and public administration

Criteria for selecting an implementing entity:

Article 110(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation provides for setting out of the criteria for selecting an entity in the Financing Decision. The criteria to be used for selecting an implementing entity, considering the nature of the action are as follows:

1. The entity satisfies the requirements set out in Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation. When the entities concerned comply only partially with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall take appropriate supervisory measures as provided for in Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation;
2. The entity's financial and operational capacity is adequate;
3. The entity has specific knowledge and recognised competencies in the relevant field;
4. The entity has extensive experience and leadership in the domain;
5. The entity is active in the subject area in the European Union or in any other European country.

Description

The objectives pursued and expected results of the actions are those of point 2.2 of Part I.
The actions that can be financed through indirect management are outlined in Article 8 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

4.3. Contribution agreements to support structural reforms in the area of sustainable competitiveness

Criteria for selecting an implementing entity

Article 110(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation provides for setting out of the criteria for selecting an entity in the Financing Decision. The criteria to be used for selecting an implementing entity, considering the nature of the action are as follows:

1. The entity satisfies the requirements set out in Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation. When the entities concerned comply only partially with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall take appropriate supervisory measures

- as provided for in Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation;
2. The entity's financial and operational capacity is adequate;
 3. The entity has specific knowledge and recognised competencies in the relevant field;
 4. The entity has extensive experience and leadership in the domain;
 5. The entity is active in the subject area in the European Union or in any other European country.

Description

The objectives pursued and expected results of the actions are those of point 2.3 of Part I.
The actions that can be financed through indirect management are outlined in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

4.3.1. Contribution agreement to support structural reforms in the area of sustainable competitiveness: Energy Regulation Academy

Implementing entity

Entity entrusted with the implementation pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation.

The entity to be entrusted with the implementation of this action is the European University Institute.

The European University Institute (EUI) is an intergovernmental organisation established in 1972 by the European Union's founding Member States. It provides advanced academic training and research on a wide range of areas including economics, law, and political sciences. In particular, the Florence School of Regulation, which is a part of the European University Institute, conducts independent research and provides specialised training on regulation in the areas of energy and climate, transport and water and waste. It possesses advanced expertise in the energy area, in particular in the electricity sector, with a dedicated team of academic staff and experts, contributing to technical and policy advice.

EUI has significant experience in delivering specialised training courses, including on the topic of electricity, and possesses its own campus facility. EUI has also demonstrated capacity to deliver large-scale capacity-building programmes for the Member States as the implementing partner for the EU Supervisory Digital Finance Academy under the TSI.

Description of the entrusted tasks, including the objectives pursued and expected results

Objectives pursued:

The EU regulatory framework for the electricity sector plays a key role in promoting competitiveness, sustainability and energy security. It supports measures aimed at lowering electricity prices, increasing renewable energy use, and ensuring energy security. In recent years, this framework has evolved rapidly to reflect the needs of the sector, including market integration and flexibility, grid reinforcement, the integration of renewable energy sources, as well as digitalisation and grid security. The 2025 Country Specific Recommendations proposed by the Commission also highlight the importance of electricity market and infrastructure reforms in most Member States.

The objective of the establishment of an Energy Regulation Academy, under the TSI, is to provide targeted, reform-oriented support to relevant Ministries and National Regulatory Authorities, in order to help with the timely implementation of the EU regulatory framework on electricity and support quality reforms in Member States.

The Energy Regulation Academy will focus in particular on three areas of the electricity sector:

- Electricity market reform and regulatory framework
- Investment and financial support mechanisms
- Infrastructure and technological integration of electricity grids

The entrusted tasks to be performed under this action include:

Implementation of an EU Energy Regulation Academy for 27 Member States, focused on supporting capacity building and reforms in the electricity sector, and including:

- Preparation and implementation of cycles of specialised residential and online courses focused on the electricity sector;
- Delivery of thematic workshops tailored to regional electricity aspects;
- Tailored expert support provided to individual Member States, focused on specific reform-related aspects of the electricity sector;
- Capacity building to support Member States in their interpretation of the EU electricity regulatory framework;
- Preparation of technical briefs on key aspects of electricity reforms;
- Communication and knowledge sharing activities.

Expected results:

The Energy Regulation Academy will offer a training programme supporting the effective implementation of energy reforms, focusing on concrete topics contributing to sustainable competitiveness and affordability in the electricity sector.

Technical support provided through the Energy Regulation Academy is expected to contribute to reforms leading to more integrated, resilient, digitalised and flexible electricity systems, ultimately supporting an increased uptake of renewable energy, affordable energy prices for citizens and businesses, and increased security of energy supply.

Amount

EUR 10 000 800

4.4. Contribution agreements to support structural reforms in the area European pillar of social rights

Criteria for selecting an implementing entity

Article 110(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation provides for setting out of the criteria for selecting an entity in the Financing Decision. The criteria to be used for selecting an implementing entity, considering the nature of the action are as follows:

1. The entity satisfies the requirements set out in Article 157(4) of the Financial

Regulation. When the entities concerned comply only partially with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall take appropriate supervisory measures as provided for in Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation;

2. The entity's financial and operational capacity is adequate;
3. The entity has specific knowledge and recognised competencies in the relevant field;
4. The entity has extensive experience and leadership in the domain;
5. The entity is active in the subject area in the European Union or in any other European country.

Description

The objectives pursued and expected results of the actions are those of point 2.4 of Part I.

The actions that can be financed through indirect management are outlined in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

4.5. Contribution agreements to support structural reforms in the area of access to finance

Criteria for selecting an implementing entity

Article 110(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation provides for setting out of the criteria for selecting an entity in the Financing Decision. The criteria to be used for selecting an implementing entity, considering the nature of the action are as follows:

1. The entity satisfies the requirements set out in Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation. When the entities concerned comply only partially with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall take appropriate supervisory measures as provided for in Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation;
2. The entity's financial and operational capacity is adequate;
3. The entity has specific knowledge and recognised competencies in the relevant field;
4. The entity has extensive experience and leadership in the domain;
5. The entity is active in the subject area in the European Union or in any other European country.

Description

The objectives pursued and expected results of the actions are those of point 2.5 of Part I.

The actions that can be financed through indirect management are outlined in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

In case the actions referred to under Section 4 'Actions implemented in indirect management' cannot be implemented under this method of implementation due to circumstances outside of the control of the Commission (e.g. not revised framework agreement, pending pillar assessment), they will be implemented through public procurement (direct management) within the procurement activities set out in point 3.1 (Procurement activities for implementation of Technical Support Instrument).

5. Other actions or expenditure

5.1. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other expenditure

Amount

EUR 693 899

Expenditures for information and communication actions, including corporate communication, expenditures linked to IT networks, focusing on information processing and exchange, including corporate information technology tools. In addition, expenditures for activities such as audit and evaluation, analyses and surveys, meetings of experts, publications, awareness-raising and dissemination activities, as well as to any other activities in support of the general and specific objectives of the Technical Support Instrument.

In line with Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/240, the Commission Communication to the Commission C(2023)6467 Corporate communication action in 2024 – 2027 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021 – 2027 and the annual Commission Communication on IT Implementation Plan and Allocation of IT corporate resources, the Commission will contribute to the financing of the corporate IT and the corporate communication activities in 2026.

IT development and relevant procurement choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board, whenever necessary.

5.2. Administrative/MoU/Service-level agreements

5.2.1. MoU/Service level agreement with DG TAXUD for access and use of its Customs & Tax EU Learning Portal

Amount

EUR 150 000

Description of action

<p>The objective of this action is to support tax administrations by facilitating access to high-quality, harmonised and up-to-date training materials through a single, secure digital platform. By enabling the efficient dissemination of courses developed under the TSI, the action will strengthen administrative capacity, promote a common understanding of complex EU tax and customs legislation, and support consistent and effective implementation across Member States. It aims at reducing duplication of training efforts, fostering knowledge sharing, and allowing tax administrations to update skills in a timely manner in response to evolving policy and regulatory requirements.</p>

<p>Specifically, this objective aims at establishing a framework for cooperation between DG TAXUD and SG REFORM allowing SG REFORM to use the DG TAXUD Customs & Tax EU Learning Portal (LMS) for the publication and delivery of training material developed under the Technical Support Instrument. This cooperation concerns in particular topics in revenue administration and tax policy.</p>

The training materials will primarily target a restricted audience consisting of customs and tax authorities in Member States, in accordance with access conditions to be specified by SG REFORM and implemented through the DG TAXUD LMS.

DG TAXUD will provide SG REFORM and its designated collaborators with access to the DG TAXUD LMS for the development and delivery of training materials, and will ensure the hosting of courses, including support activities and platform maintenance. DG TAXUD will promote and disseminate the courses to the relevant target audience via the LMS, integrate the training materials into its LMS portfolio and maintenance strategy, and may update, modify access to, or remove courses where considered appropriate, including where content becomes outdated. SG REFORM will be responsible for the development and provision of the training content to be published on the DG TAXUD LMS.