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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.6.2010
C(2010) 3774

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22.6.2010

**amending Decision C(2007)5733 adopting the multi-annual "Regional Competitiveness"
operational programme for Community assistance from the Instrument of Pre-
Accession Assistance for the Regional Development component in Croatia**

CCI 2007HR16IPO001

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)¹, and in particular Article 14(2)(b), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 26 January 2010 the Strategic Co-ordinator in coordination with the National IPA Co-ordinator in Croatia submitted a request for the revision of the multi-annual operational programme called "Regional Competitiveness" for Community assistance from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), adopted by Commission Decision C(2007) 5733 of 29 November 2007 and implemented by means of financing agreement concluded between the Commission and Croatia on 10 November 2008.
- (2) The Council has amended the Accession Partnership for Croatia on 12 February 2008.
- (3) On 14 October 2009 the Commission adopted the multi-annual indicative financial framework (MIFF) for 2011 to 2013².
- (4) On 9 July 2009 the Commission adopted the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2009-2011 for Croatia which present the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to this country³.
- (5) The proposed revision of the multi-annual operational programme is justified by the revision of the multiannual indicative planning document and the amendments introduced by Commission Regulation (EU) No 80/2010 of 28 January 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA)⁴.

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.

² COM (2009)543 of 14 October 2009.

³ C(2009)5371 of 9 July 2009.

⁴ OJ L 25, 29.1.2010, p. 1.

- (6) In accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007, this Decision meets the requirements of Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 1605/2002⁵ and constitutes thus a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 (2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁶.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 167(4)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 at its meeting, on 9 December 2009, the sectoral monitoring committee examined the proposal to amend the financing agreement, in particular as regards the text of the operational programme and its financial plan.
- (8) The Coordination Committee of the Funds referred to in Article 103 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999⁷, which pursuant to Article 14(2) (b) of Regulation (EC) 1085/2006 shall assist the Commission, expressed its favourable opinion on the proposed modification of the operational programme.
- (9) The multi-annual operational programme should therefore be amended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Decision C(2007) 5733 is amended as follows:

1. In Article 2, paragraphs 1 to 2 are replaced by the following:

"1. The maximum amount of assistance granted from the IPA under the operational programme, as calculated with reference to the public expenditure, is set at EUR 63 949 750.

In the budget year 2007, a maximum amount of EUR 11 050 250 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02.

In the budget year 2008, a maximum amount of EUR 11 600 000 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02.

In the budget year 2009, a maximum amount of EUR 12 699 500 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02.

In the budget year 2010, a maximum amount of EUR 14 200 000 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02.

⁵ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

⁶ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

⁷ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 25.

In the budget year 2011, a maximum amount of EUR 14 400 000 may be committed on budget line 13.05.02.

The mentioned amount for 2011 is subject to the approval of the Budget 2011 by the Budget Authority.

2. The maximum amount of the contribution and the resulting co-financing rate for each priority axis under the operational programme shall be as set out in the second, third and fourth subparagraphs.

The maximum amount of the contribution for Priority Axis 1 "Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions" is set at EUR 19,823,500 and the resulting co-financing rate is set at 85%.

The maximum amount of the contribution for Priority Axis 2 "Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy" is set at EUR 38,903,500 and the resulting co-financing rate is set at 85%.

The maximum amount of the contribution for Priority Axis 3 "Technical Assistance" is set at EUR 5,222,750 and the resulting co-financing rate is set at 85%."

2. Annex I is amended in accordance with Annex I to this Decision.
3. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall be implemented by means of an amendment to the financing agreement concluded between the Commission and Croatia.

Done at Brussels, 22.6.2010

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

The multi-annual operational programme "Regional Competitiveness" is amended as follows:

1. On the cover page, the title of the programme is replaced by the following:

"REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE "

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2. On pages 74-78, Section 3.1.4. "Indicators for Priority Axes and Measures" is replaced by the following:

INDICATORS FOR PRIORITY AXES AND MEASURES

Priority Axis 1: Improving the development potential of lagging regions

Objective	Result Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Target (2012)	Target (2014)
To support the creation and growth of industrial and service SMEs	Jobs created in lagging regions	Number of full time jobs directly generated by the activity in question	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	300	450
	Established or expended SMEs located within the targeted regions	SME: up to 250 employees, annual turnover up to 28 m€, assets up to 14 m€	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	100	150

Measure 1.1: Business-related infrastructure

Objective	Output Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Target (2012)	Target (2014)
To provide quality business related infrastructure in Croatia's lagging behind regions	Number of implemented projects for business related infrastructure development	Types of investments in business related infrastructure as indicated in the Operation	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	20	30

Priority Axis 2: Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy

Objective	Result Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Target (2012)	Target (2014)
To enhance the competitiveness of SMEs	Increase in SMEs' satisfaction rate with advisory services provided	SME: up to 250 employees, annual turnover up to 28 m€, assets up to 14 m€. Satisfaction rate – certain score on satisfaction surveys	%	0	Annual MELE surveys of SMEs using business support	annually	10-20%	20-30%
	Number of assisted individual SMEs and clusters	Indicates number of SMEs and clusters receiving support	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	375	595
To improve commercialisation of technology and R&D	Number of cooperation agreements between scientific community and business/industry	Indicates the number of cooperative R&D projects jointly initiated by researchers from HEIs/PROs and business partners (SMEs and industry)	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	10	20

Measure 2.1: Development of business climate

Objective	Output Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Mid term target (2012)	Target (2014)
To improve the quality and mechanisms of support available to investors and SMEs at national as well as sub-national level	Number of e-business centres assisted	Indicates the number of e-business centres receiving training and physical investment support	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	10	18
	Number of Business Support Service Professionals and Business Support Institutions assisted	Indicates the number of Business Support Service Professionals and Business Support Institutions receiving training	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	160 professionals 21 institution	160 professionals 21 institution
	Number of institutions receiving support to improve communication with business community	Indicates the number of Business Support Institutions and Associations receiving training	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	0	80
	Volume of training on clustering and internationalisation received	Participants: clusters members and cluster managers	No. of Trainees	0	Project monitoring report	annually	40	240
	Number of counties receiving support to improve investment performance	Indicates the counties which will receive full certification	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	20	20
	Number of methodologies, registers and strategies	Indicates the number of prepared methodologies, registers and	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	3 sets of methodologies; 1 register	3 sets of methodologies; 2 registers; 2 strategies

Measure 2.2: Technology transfer and support services for knowledge-based start-ups

Objective	Output Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Target (2012)	Target (2014)
To improve technology transfer and commercialization capacities of higher education institutions and public research organizations	Number of knowledge transfer projects completed	Projects involve establishment and/or equipping of technology transfer offices and research institutions. Projects also include proof of concept projects and collaborative projects with industry	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	10	63
	Number of competitive scientific projects completed	Competitive scientific projects with commercial potential	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	0	20
	Number of participants in educational events	Participants: members of research institutes, higher education institutions Educational events: trainings, consultations, workshops, etc.	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	100	140
	Biotechnology incubation centre (BioCentre) completed	BioCentre construction and equipping completed, together with accompanying facilities as specified in the Operation	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	1	1
	Projects prepared for submission to IPA with complete documentation	Total number of project applications prepared	Number	0	Implementing body	annually	15	85
	Strategy and action plan for the period after 2010	Strategic document for science and technology of Croatia	Number	0	Project monitoring report	annually	0	1
	Total value of projects prepared	Projects concern types of investments specified in the grant scheme under the measure	EUR	0	Implementing body	annually	5.000.000 EUR	14.500.000 EUR

Priority Axis 3: Technical assistance

Objectives	Result Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Target (2012)	Target (2014)
To develop the institutional capacity for managing and absorbing IPA	OP funds absorbed		%	0	MELE, implementing body, final beneficiaries, project monitoring report	annually	55% ¹	100%

Measure 3.1: OP management and capacity building

Objectives	Output Indicator	Definition	Unit	Baseline value (2007)	Source	Frequency of reviewing	Target (2012)	Target (2014)
To ensure efficient and effective OP management	OP management and administration staff trained	Management and staff within the Operating Structure	%	0	Operating Structure, final beneficiaries, project monitoring report	annually	70%	100%
	Sectoral Monitoring Committee meetings		Number	0	Head of Operating Structure	annually	10	14
	Publicity events	Publicity events such as launches, press conference, seminars, publications, brochures, TV/radio broadcast	Number	0	Head of Operating Structure, project monitoring reports	annually	10	14

¹ Refers to allocations 2007-2009

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3. Section 4. "FINANCIAL TABLES" on pages 95-98 is replaced by the following:"

YEAR 2007	Public expenditure			IPA cofinancing rate
	Total Public expenditure	IPA Contribution	National Public Contribution	
	(1) =(2) + (3)	(2)	(3)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	(%)
Priority Axis 1 - Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	4,030,295	3,425,750	604,545	85
Measure 1.1 - Business-related infrastructure	4,030,295	3,425,750	604,545	85
Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy	7,890,882	6,707,250	1,183,632	85
Measure 2.1 - Development of business climate	4,006,176	3,405,250	600,926	85
Measure 2.2 - Technology transfer & support services for knowledge-based start-ups	3,884,706	3,302,000	582,706	85
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	1,079,118	917,250	161,868	85
Measure 3.1 - OP management and capacity building	1,079,118	917,250	161,868	85
Total	13,000,295	11,050,250	1,950,045	85

YEAR 2008	Public expenditure			IPA cofinancing rate
	Total Public expenditure	IPA Contribution	National Public Contribution	
	(1) =(2) + (3)	(2)	(3)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	
Priority Axis 1 - Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	4,230,589	3,596,000	634,589	85
Measure 1.1 - Business-related infrastructure	4,230,589	3,596,000	634,589	85
Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy	8,282,648	7,040,250	1,242,398	85
Measure 2.1 - Development of business climate	4,206,177	3,575,250	630,927	85
Measure 2.2 - Technology transfer & support services for knowledge-based start-ups	4,076,471	3,465,000	611,471	85
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	1,133,824	963,750	170,074	85
Measure 3.1 - OP management and capacity building	1,133,824	963,750	170,074	85
Total	13,647,061	11,600,000	2,047,061	85

YEAR 2009	Public expenditure			IPA cofinancing rate
	Total Public expenditure	IPA Contribution	National Public Contribution	
	(1) =(2) + (3)	(2)	(3)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	(%)
Priority Axis 1 - Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	4,630,295	3,935,750	694,545	85
Measure 1.1 - Business-related infrastructure	4,630,295	3,935,750	694,545	85
Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy	9,070,589	7,710,000	1,360,589	85
Measure 2.1 - Development of business climate	4,605,883	3,915,000	690,883	85
Measure 2.2 - Technology transfer & support services for knowledge-based start-ups	4,464,706	3,795,000	669,706	85
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	1,239,706	1,053,750	185,956	85
Measure 3.1 - OP management and capacity building	1,239,706	1,053,750	185,956	85
Total	14,940,590	12,699,500	2,241,090	85

YEAR 2010	Public expenditure			IPA cofinancing rate
	Total Public expenditure	IPA Contribution	National Public Contribution	
	(1) =(2) + (3)	(2)	(3)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	
Priority Axis 1 - Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	5,178,824	4,402,000	776,824	85
Measure 1.1 - Business-related infrastructure	5,178,824	4,402,000	776,824	85
Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy	10,190,589	8,662,000	1,528,589	85
Measure 2.1 - Development of business climate	5,178,824	4,402,000	776,824	85
Measure 2.2 - Technology transfer & support services for knowledge-based start-ups	5,011,765	4,260,000	751,765	85
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	1,336,471	1,136,000	200,471	85
Measure 3.1 - OP management and capacity building	1,336,471	1,136,000	200,471	85
Total	16,705,884	14,200,000	2,505,884	85

YEAR 2011	Public expenditure			IPA cofinancing rate
	Total Public expenditure	IPA Contribution	National Public Contribution	
	(1) =(2) + (3)	(2)	(3)	
	EUR	EUR	EUR	
Priority Axis 1 - Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	5,251,765	4,464,000	787,765	85
Measure 1.1 - Business-related infrastructure	5,251,765	4,464,000	787,765	85
Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy	10,334,118	8,784,000	1,550,118	85
Measure 2.1 - Development of business climate	5,251,765	4,464,000	787,765	85
Measure 2.2 - Technology transfer & support services for knowledge-based start-ups	5,082,353	4,320,000	762,353	85
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	1,355,295	1,152,000	203,295	85
Measure 3.1 - OP management and capacity building	1,355,295	1,152,000	203,295	85
Total	16,941,178	14,400,000	2,541,178	85

YEAR 2007 - 2011	Public expenditure			IPA cofinancing rate	
	Total Public expenditure	IPA Contribution	National Public Contribution		
	(1) =(2) + (3)	(2)	(3)		(4)=(2)/(1)
	EUR	EUR	EUR		(%)
Priority Axis 1 - Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	23,321,768	19,823,500	3,498,268	85	
Measure 1.1 - Business-related infrastructure	23,321,768	19,823,500	3,498,268	85	
Priority Axis 2 - Enhancing the competitiveness of the Croatian economy	45,768,826	38,903,500	6,865,326	85	
Measure 2.1 - Development of business climate	23,248,825	19,761,500	3,487,325	85	
Measure 2.2 - Technology transfer & support services for knowledge-based start-ups	22,520,001	19,142,000	3,378,001	85	
Priority Axis 3 - Technical Assistance	6,144,414	5,222,750	921,664	85	
Measure 3.1 - OP management and capacity building	6,144,414	5,222,750	921,664	85	
Total	75,235,008	63,949,750	11,285,258	85	

ANNEX II

Amended financial plan of the multi-annual operational programme "Regional Competitiveness"

<u>Years</u>	Total IPA allocation
2007	11,050,250
2008	11,600,000
2009	12,699,500
2010	14,200,000
2011	14,400,000
Total 2007-2011	63,949,750

Priority	IPA Contribution	National co-financing	Total funding	Co-financing rate
	(a)	(b)	(c) = (a) + (b)	(d) = (a)/(c)
Priority 1 – Improving the development potential of lagging behind regions	19,823,500	3,498,268	23,321,768	85 %
Priority 2 – Enhancing the competitiveness of Croatian economy	38,903,500	6,865,326	45,768,826	85 %
Priority 3 - Technical Assistance	5,222,750	921,664	6,144,414	85 %
Total (2007-2011)	63,949,750	11,285,258	75,235,008	85 %