

## Measure 505: Technical Assistance

This measure is applied in accordance with:

- Article 182 of Commission Regulation (EC) No: 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 [Implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA)]

### 1.1 Rationale

The measure covers the provision of the service of technical assistance. This service is justified to support costs associated with implementation of the Programme as set out in paragraph 1.4 Scope of aid.

The measure concerns only technical assistance provided for on the basis of Article 182 of Commission Regulation (EC) No: 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 [Implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA)].

### 1.2 Correlation with other measures

This Measure will provide coverage of technical assistance needs for all the measures of the Programme.

### 1.3 Objectives

The aims of this measure are to assist in particular in implementation and monitoring of the programme and its possible subsequent modification. In support of these aims, the objectives include:

- to provide support for the monitoring of the programme
- to ensure an adequate flow of information and publicity
- to support studies, visits and seminars
- to provide support for external expertise
- to provide support for the evaluation of the programme
- to provide support for the future implementation of a national rural development network

### 1.4 Scope of Aid

Under this measure the following actions are eligible provided they are covered by a technical assistance action plan previously approved by the Monitoring Committee and that each specific activity is approved by the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee before its implementation:

**5051 Expenditures on meetings of the Monitoring Committee, including cost of all experts and other participants, where their presence is considered to be necessary to ensure the effective work of the committee.**

**Description:** The sub-measure will support setting up of the Sectoral Monitoring Committee and its monitoring activities, specifically including: studies and surveys of the Programme implementation contracted and realised via expert assistance, interpretation and translation, contracting of companies or external experts and/or fixed-term employment of personnel for the performance of monitoring, payment of costs associated with the Sectoral Monitoring Committee operation and activities, i.e. editing, per diem and

travelling, and other costs of meetings, etc. Fees for the Sectoral Monitoring Committee members and ordinary administrative expenses associated with the Programme management and civil servants normally hired are excluded

**5052 Other expenditure necessary to discharge responsibilities of the Monitoring Committee which falls under the following categories:**

- expert assistance to consider and review programme baselines and indicators;
- experts to assist or advise the Monitoring Committee concerning implementation and functioning of the monitoring arrangements;
- expenditure associated with meetings and ancillary tasks of working groups;
- seminars.

**5053 Expenditure on information and publicity campaigns, including costs of printing and distribution.**

**Description:** The sub-measure shall incorporate actions of:

- preparation and publication of the informational materials (such as brochures, leaflets, newsletters);
- organization of general public awareness campaign (throughout officials workshops, conferences and information seminars);
- promotion of information exchange and collaboration initiatives between potential beneficiaries, journalists and central/local government (through surveys and technical assistance in the identification of areas and situations with similar interests and common workshops to analyse and disseminate individual experiences)
- training of trainers (advisory services-both private and public, to support the beneficiaries in the application process);

**5054 Cost of translation and interpretation provided in response to requests by the Commission, not including those required pursuant to application of the framework, sectoral and financing agreements.**

**5055 Expenditure associated with visits and seminars. Each visit and seminar shall require the submission of a timely written report to the Monitoring Committee.**

**5056 Expenditure associated with the preparation of measures in the programme to ensure their effectiveness including those measures where application is foreseen at a later stage.** Such preparatory activities also cover the "acquisition of skills" to prepare for the implementation of the measure "Preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies" until such measure is accredited.

**Description:** As to ensure effectiveness in implementation of the measures in the programme, activities related to the preparation of measures, including those measures whose application is foreseen at a later stage, are envisaged.

The sub-measure consists of conducting studies and research activities in support of:

a) Measures to be considered in the programming period 2007-2013 in principle including, but is not limited to:

- preparation of feasibility study for rendering plant including technical documentation, design and Bill of Quantity),
- study of the potentials for rural tourism development in selected areas, research on the integrated development of selected areas, by means of natural, historic, cultural and handicraft resources, typical agricultural products, sports and/or recreational activities to be performed,
- research on the training requirements of potential beneficiaries, in the various sectors envisaged and preparation of specific training programmes/curricula;

b) Future measures planned for the next programming period of 2011-2013 such as, but not limited to:

- Feasibility Study on establishment of CMO for fruit and vegetable with particular emphasis on setting-up of producer groups and introduction of improvement of the market chain for fresh fruit and vegetable;
- Study on the current situation of the Rural Infrastructure;
- Preparation of National Agriculture Training Strategy for the implementation of the operations envisaged improvement of occupational skills and competence of persons engaged in agriculture sector;
- Preparation of National Agri-environment Plan and future measures;
- Introduction of Leader approach and local action groups.

**5057 Expenditure for evaluations of the programme required pursuant to the provisions of Article 63 of Sectoral Agreement.**

**Description:** The sub-measure shall incorporate actions of contracting of experts or companies for technical studies and evaluations or procedural evaluations so as to improve the final results of the Programme measures.

**5058 Expenditure associated with the establishment and operation of a national network supporting the coordination of activities preparing and implementing local rural development strategies.** This can also cover expenditure associated with the future establishment of a national rural development network in line with the EU rules for Member States as well as the expenditure linked to participation in the European Network for Rural Development established by Article 67 of Council Regulation (CE) No 1698/2006.

**Description:** As stipulated in Article 183 of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006, the beneficiary countries and organisations established in the beneficiary countries and administrations of beneficiary countries active in the field of rural development shall have access to the European Network for Rural Development<sup>133</sup>. In order to establish and operate of a national rural network capable to coordinate activities of preparation and implementation of local rural development strategies, a technical and organizational support is foreseen This can also cover expenditure associated with the future

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<sup>133</sup> established by Article 67 of Council Regulation (CE) No 1698/2005

establishment of a national rural development network in line with the EU rules for Member States as well as the expenditure linked to participation in the European Network for Rural Development established by Article 67 of Council Regulation (CE) No 1698/2006

### 1.5 Final Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of activities under the measure for Technical Assistance is the Managing Authority delegated to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

### 1.6 Eligibility Criteria

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

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

### 1.7 Indicators

Number of promotion materials for general information of all interested parties (leaflets, brochures etc): N/to be monitored/

number of publicity campaigns: N/to be monitored/

number of expert assignments supported: N/to be monitored/

number of workshops, conferences, seminars: N/to be monitored/

number of meetings of the Monitoring Committee: N/to be monitored/

number of studies on elaboration and implementation of Programme measures: N/to be monitored/

number of Programme evaluation reports: N/to be monitored/

Number of rural networking actions supported: N/to be monitored/

### 1.8 Financial Dispositions

The Community contribution shall be limited to

- 80 % in the case of activities covered by Article 182, where those activities are not taken at the initiative of the Commission;
- 100 % in the case of activities covered by Article 182, where those activities are taken at the initiative of the Commission;

Table 9: Indicative Financial Plan for Measure 505 (2007-2011), in EUR

Year	Total eligible cost	Public expenditure					
		Total		EU contribution		National contribution	
		EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
1	2=3	3=5+7	4=3/2	5	6=5/3	7	8=7/3
2007	105,000	105,000	100%	84,000	80%	21,000	20%
2008	335,000	335,000	100%	268,000	80%	67,000	20%
2009	510,000	510,000	100%	408,000	80%	102,000	20%
2010	562,500	562,500	100%	450,000	80%	112,500	20%

2011	700,000	700,000	100%	560,000	80%	140,000	20%
Total	2,212,500.0	2,212,500.0	100%	1,770,000.00	80%	442,500.0	20%

Table 10: Breakdown of Measure 505 Budget by Group of investments in EUR

Group of investment		% of the measure 505	EU funds	National Co-financing	Total cost
5051	Expenditures on meetings of the IPARD Monitoring Committee	2%	35,400	8,850	44,250
5052	Other expenditure necessary to discharge responsibilities of the IPARD Monitoring Committee	2%	35,400	8,850	44,250
5053	Expenditure on information and publicity campaigns	17%	300,900	75,225	376,125
5054	Cost of translation and interpretation provided in response to requests by the Commission	3%	53,100	13,275	66,375
5055	Expenditure associated with visits and seminars	28%	495,600	123,900	619,500
5056	Expenditure associated with the preparation of measures in the programme	30%	531,000	132,750	663,750
5057	Expenditure for evaluations of the programme	15%	265,500	66,375	331,875
5058	Expenditure associated with the establishment and operation of a rural development network consistent with Article 68 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005	3%	53,100	13,275	66,375
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>1,770,000.0</b>	<b>442,500.0</b>	<b>2,212,500.0</b>

## 1.9 Financing Conditions

- Beneficiaries are obliged to keep all accounting records at least 5 years after the investments take place;
- The beneficiary should collaborate and provide any requested information to the officials of IPARD Agency or European Commission authorised to control and audit the implementation of the assistance as well as NAO/NF and Auditing Authority.

## 1.10 Implementing arrangements

The Measure shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the FwA and Article 33 of the Sectoral Agreement<sup>134</sup> on rules of procurement and the relevant provisions as covered by the Commission decision to confer management of aid on the management and control system in the country.

The Instruction and the Manual, including the forms required for the implementation of the functions and procedures, shall be prepared by the Managing Authority in cooperation with the IPARD Agency in order to ensure transparency of the implementation procedure of the Measure.

<sup>134</sup> Law on ratification of the Framework Agreement (OG 18/2008 from 05.02.2008) and Law on ratification of the Sectoral Agreement (OG 165/2008 from 30.12.2008).

The IPARD Agency is responsible for implementing the Measure.

Following the accreditation criteria, the Managing Authority carries out the following functions:

- preparation of public tender or call for tenders referring to activities under the Measure;
- procedure for the award of low-value contracts;
- checking of tenders received under a public tender or call for tenders for their compliance with the terms and criteria of a public tender, and/or award of low-value contracts;
- selection of the supplier;
- definition of contractual obligations between the Managing Authority and the supplier;
- monitoring of activities in order to secure good performance;
- drawing-up of implementation reports for the Measure on the basis of indicators;
- checking the performance with regard to payment eligibility and adequate use of earmarked funds;
- checking of payment claims;
- determination of amounts approved to a supplier;
- procedure for repayment of inadequately used earmarked funds

The procurement procedures and implementation manual shall be in accordance with Article 33 of the Sectoral Agreement.

### **1.11 National legislation**

For the purpose of implementing the Technical Assistance Measure, the provisions of the Law on Public Procurement and the Law on Budget will apply as basis for procedures and manuals preparation.