



EUROPEAN
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.7.2022

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 8505 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Growth and Employment" for support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Latvia

CCI 2014LV16MAOP001

(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 Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006¹, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 8505, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 4954, certain elements of the operational programme Growth and Employment for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF'), the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund ('ESF') and the specific allocation for the Youth Employment Initiative ('YEI') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Latvia were approved.
- (2) On 22 June 2022 Latvia submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to this operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Latvia proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(ii) to (iv) and (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 8505.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in allocating part of the REACT-EU resources made available to Latvia as external assigned revenues in accordance with Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094² under the new

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

² Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument to support the recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 23).

thematic objective "Fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy" and should cover the year 2022. The resources are allocated to priority axes 13 "Measures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic", supported by the ERDF REACT-EU resources and 14 "Measures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic", supported by the ESF REACT-EU resources.

- (4) The amendment to the operational programme consists, furthermore, in reallocations of the ESF allocation within priority axis 9 "Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty" and in the introduction of new type of projects and target groups.
- (5) The amendment to the operational programme consists, in addition, in corrections in amounts of national co-financing in priority axis 7 "Employment and labour mobility".
- (6) The amendment to the operational programme consists, finally, in the adjustment of output and result indicators.
- (7) In accordance with Article 30(1) and with the sixth subparagraph of Article 92b(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the need to quickly deploy the REACT-EU resources for crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and to prepare a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy within the current programming period and the need to adjust the relevant output indicators following the allocation of the new resources. The request for the amendment to the operational programme sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 92b(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Regulations (EU) No 1300/2013³, (EU) No 1301/2013⁴ and (EU) No 1304/2013⁵ of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as of the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (8) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee at its meeting of 21 April 2022 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (9) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

³ Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 281).

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

(10) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.

(11) Implementing Decision C(2014) 8505 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 8505 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "Growth and Employment" for joint support from the ERDF, the Cohesion Fund, the ESF and the specific allocation for the YEI under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Latvia and benefitting from the REACT-EU resources for 2021 and 2022, submitted in its final version on 4 November 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 22 June 2022, are hereby approved:";

2. in Article 4, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. The total financial appropriation for the operational programme is set at EUR 4 640 676 801, to be financed from:

(a) the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014:

13 03 60: EUR 2 465 883 158 (ERDF – Less developed regions);

13 04 60: EUR 1 246 634 592 (Cohesion Fund);

04 02 60: EUR 676 704 825 (ESF – Less developed regions);

04 02 64: EUR 29 010 639 (Youth Employment Initiative);

(b) the following REACT-EU resources made available to Latvia in accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 on the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2022:

05 02 05 01: EUR 199 954 500 (ERDF REACT-EU);

07 02 05 01: EUR 22 489 087 (ESF REACT-EU).";

3. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision;

4. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Latvia.

Done at Brussels, 22.7.2022

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

