



Brussels, 20.7.2020
C(2020) 5101 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.7.2020

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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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

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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(2020) 2798, 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 7 July 2020 Latvia submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the 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)(i) to (v), 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) Pursuant to Article 25a(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Latvia requests the transfer of the resources available for programming for the year 2020 from the ERDF to the ESF, from the Cohesion Fund to the ERDF and from the Cohesion Fund to the ESF within this operational programme. The transfer of resources does not include a change in the allocation by category of regions.

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

- (4) The amendment to the operational programme consists in addition in the transfer of ERDF resources from priority axes 1 "Research, technological development and innovation" and 4 "Transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors" to priority axis 3 "Competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises", the transfer of ERDF resources from priority axis 5 "Environmental protection and resource efficiency" to priority axis 1, the transfer of Cohesion Fund resources from priority axis 6 "Sustainable transport system" to priority axes 4 and 5 and the transfer of ESF resources from priority axes 7 "Employment and labour mobility" and 3 to priority axis 9 "Social inclusion and the fight against poverty".
- (5) The amendment of the operational programme further includes the withdrawal of the major project "Railway Electrification" (CCI 2017LV16CFMP001) and a subsequent substantial change in the scope of specific objective 6.2.1 "Ensuring a competitive and environmentally friendly TEN-T railway network by promoting its safety, quality and capacity". The amendment to the operational programme also includes changes to indicators to reflect the transfer of resources and change in the scope of activities.
- (6) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The request to transfer resources from the ERDF to the ESF and from the Cohesion Fund to the ERDF and the ESF are duly justified by the necessary and exceptional investments aiming to support the crisis management and recovery efforts through support to businesses, employment, skills and healthcare. The amendment to the operational programme sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on 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, Regulations (EU) No 1300/2013², (EU) No 1301/2013³ and (EU) No 1304/2013⁴ 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.
- (7) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 2 July 2020 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) Implementing Decision C(2014) 8505 should therefore be amended accordingly,

² 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).

³ 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).

⁴ 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).

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 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 for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 4 November 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 7 July 2020, 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 4 418 233 214 and shall be financed from 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).";
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, 20.7.2020

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

