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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.6.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10182 approving certain elements of the operational programme "Integrated Regional Operational Programme" for support from the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Slovakia

CCI 2014SK16RFOP002

(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,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 10182, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4846, certain elements of the operational programme "Integrated Regional Operational Programme" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Slovakia were approved.
- (2) On 25 May 2021 Slovakia 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 Slovakia proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (v), (c)(i) 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) 10182.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in allocating the REACT-EU resources made available to Slovakia as external assigned revenues in accordance with Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094² under the new 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

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).

economy" and under the technical assistance at the initiative of the Member State and should cover the year 2021.

- (4) The amendment to the operational programme consists in addition in extending the scope of specific objective 2.1.4 in adding the measure to increase collective immunity and in adjusting the target values of indicators in priority axes 1 "Safe and environmental friendly transport in the regions", 2 "Easier access to effective and quality public services", 4 "Improving quality of life in the regions focusing on environment", and 6 "Technical assistance". Furthermore, reallocations within priority axis 2, within priority axis 4 and from priority axes 2 and 4 to priority axis 1 are being made. New priority axes 7 "REACT-EU" and 8 "Technical assistance-REACT-EU" from the ERDF REACT-EU have been embedded into the programme with specific actions. New output and result indicators have been introduced accordingly into these priority axes.
- (5) In accordance with Article 30(1) and in accordance 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. 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, and 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 Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³, as well as of the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (6) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 20 May 2021 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) For reasons of clarity, it is appropriate to indicate the date as of which expenditure that is not related to operations fostering crisis response capacities in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak or supported under the 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" but becomes eligible as a result

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).

of the amendment to the operational programme is to be eligible in accordance with Article 65(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

- (10) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10182 should therefore be amended accordingly,
HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10182 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:
"The following elements of the operational programme "Integrated Regional Operational programme" for support from the ERDF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal in Slovakia and benefitting from the REACT-EU resources for 2021 and 2022, submitted in its final version on 18 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 25 May 2021, are hereby approved:";
2. Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"Article 2

The following priority axes shall be supported by the operational programme:

- (a) Priority axis 1 "Safe and Environmentally Friendly Transport in Regions" from the ERDF;
 - (b) Priority axis 2 "Easier Access to Effective and quality public service" from the ERDF;
 - (c) Priority axis 3 "Mobilising Creative Potential in the Regions" from the ERDF;
 - (d) Priority axis 4 "Improving the Quality of Life in Regions with the Emphasis on the Environment" from the ERDF;
 - (e) Priority axis 5 "Community-led local development" from the ERDF;
 - (f) Priority axis 6 "Technical assistance" from the ERDF;
 - (g) Priority axis 7 "REACT-EU" from the ERDF REACT-EU;
 - (h) Priority axis 8 "Technical assistance – REACT-EU" from the ERDF REACT-EU.";
3. in Article 4, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:
"2. The total financial appropriation for the operational programme is set at EUR 1 894 842 772, 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 1 578 083 169 (ERDF – Less developed regions);
13 03 62: EUR 121 858 609 (ERDF – More developed regions);
(b) the following REACT-EU resources made available to Slovakia in accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 on the following specific budget line in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2021:

05 02 05 01: EUR 194 900 994 (ERDF REACT-EU).";

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

Article 2

Expenditure that is not related to operations fostering crisis response capacities in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak or supported under the 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" but becomes eligible as a result of the amendment to the operational programme "Integrated Regional Operational Programme" approved by this Decision is eligible from 25 May 2021.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Slovak Republic.

Done at Brussels, 14.6.2021

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

