



EUROPEAN
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Brussels, 9.9.2021
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.9.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 approving certain elements of the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region Alentejo in Portugal

CCI 2014PT16M2OP003

(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) 10163, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 7398, certain elements of the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the European Social Fund ('ESF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region of Alentejo in Portugal were approved.
- (2) On 18 August 2021 Portugal 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 Portugal proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (v), and (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163.
- (3) The amendment to the operational programme consists mainly in the introduction of a new specific objective in ESF priority axis 5 "Employment and economic valorization of endogenous resources" under investment priority 8v; in the introduction of new COVID-19 related output and result indicators in ESF priority axis 5; in the introduction of a new type of action to be supported under investment priority 8v in ESF priority axis 5; in the introduction of a new type of beneficiary under investment priority 8v in ESF priority axis 5; in the modification of output indicators to be used as

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

target in the performance framework for ESF priority axis 5; in the modification of the description of the type of action under investment priority 8v in ESF priority axis 5.

- (4) In addition, the amendment to the operational programme consists in an increase of the Portuguese cofinancing in the value of EUR 145 379 in ESF priority axis 5 "Employment and economic valorization of endogenous resources" as well as in some minor corrections and clarifications in the text of the operational programme.
- (5) 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 need to provide an effective and immediate response to the current public health and economic crisis related to the COVID-19 by strengthening labour market intervention in order to maintain the level of employment by supporting the return of workers to normal working hours after a period of lay-off has been completely terminated. This amendment aims at (i) supporting the maintenance of jobs and alleviating corporate crisis situations and (ii) reducing the unemployment risk for employers affected by the business crisis as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The request for amendment 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 1301/2013² and (EU) No 1304/2013³ 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.
- (6) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee at its meeting on 11 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. Nevertheless, Portugal provided supplementary information on 1 September 2021 and submitted a modified version of the revised operational programme on 2 September 2021.
- (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) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 is amended as follows:

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

² 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).

³ 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).

"The following elements of the operational programme "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region of Alentejo in Portugal for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 12 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 2 September 2021, are hereby approved:";

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

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Portuguese Republic.

Done at Brussels, 9.9.2021

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

