

Action fiche

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Addendum T05-EUTF-REG-REG-02 - Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF)		
Total cost	Original estimated cost: 5 000 000 EUR Total estimated cost after addendum No. 7: 16 993 979,53 EUR EUR Budget increase: 1 000 000 EUR New total estimated cost: 17 993 979,53 EUR Total amount drawn from the TF: 17 993 979,53 EUR		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Direct and indirect management - Project modality		
DAC-code	43010	Sector	
Sector of intervention of the Trust Fund	Cross-sectorial		
Sector of intervention of the Valletta Action Plan	Cross-sectorial		

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) is used for the provision of short-term consultancies to assist in identifying, preparing, evaluating, monitoring and auditing actions implemented by the Trust Fund, as well as communication and visibility activities. It may also be used to commission studies linked to the objective of the trust fund.

2.2. Context

2.2.1. Country/regional context, if applicable

N/A

2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

N/A

2.3. Lessons learnt

Based on experiences using the TCF over the last 2 years, several conclusions can be drawn:

- A service contract is not always the right modality. The EUTF is active in a variety of challenging contexts and countries, and as new situations present themselves, other modalities may be more suitable. For example, where organisations have approached The EU Trust Fund for help, a grant contract may be more appropriate; or in the case

of a project to be implemented by a multilateral organisation or an EU Member State agency, a delegated agreement. Using the type of contract that fits the situation will more easily enable the EU Trust Fund to achieve quick and targeted results.

- Project implementation can sometimes be held up for the want of a small but critical input, for example, in the case of a cross-border project, the cost of enabling stakeholders from one country to join their colleagues in another to assess bids.
- There is normally no source of funds for communications activities that span more than one project, or promote the EUTF in a more general sense. These activities are usually relatively low-cost but can have disproportionate impact.

This is the first such facility for the Trust Fund. Experience has shown that terms of reference (ToR) of technical assistance activities need to be clearly drafted with precise and detailed outputs and that inception meetings are essential to get to common understanding of expectations. ToR should build on a dialogue with duty-bearers in a given country on the national status on implementation/enforcement of the **UN *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and the Members of their Families*** (to the extent that the country has ratified this convention/treaty).

When formulating the ToR, it is important to ensure gender mainstreaming and to apply a rights-based approach in order to ensure that due attention to gender equality, women's rights and empowerment and to human rights of all are given due attention at each stage of the intervention/ Action cycle.

Particular attention will be drawn to preventing duplication of work with other initiatives by increasing internal coordination and dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

2.4. Complementary actions

Particular attention will be drawn to preventing duplication of work with other initiatives by increasing internal coordination and dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

2.5 Donor co-ordination

Donors and partners may be invited to comment on the Terms of Reference and be consulted during the activities, where feasible and relevant. So far, activities, financed under the TCF have had a strong participation by EU Member States and other donors, for instance during the Nairobi Summit on Solutions for Somali Refugees in March 2017, or the preparation of the humanitarian-development nexus framework in Uganda.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective is to increase the efficiency of the Trust Fund, through gender-and-rights-responsive technical assistance for the identification, formulation, evaluation, monitoring of and communication on trust fund interventions, including audits, evaluations/communication actions for this programme or other EUTF programmes, as well as technical studies.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results are:

- Gender responsive and rights-based trust fund interventions are identified, formulated, evaluated and monitored, and solutions are found to problems identified during the implementation process;

- Trust fund interventions have appropriate visibility;
- Trust fund stakeholders are well-informed on issues related to the Trust Fund objectives, and are enabled to share information and formulate an operational response to challenges in the region.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risks are:

- Technical assistance does not meet the needs of the trust fund;
- Technical assistance is not gender responsive and aware of the importance of a rights-based approach.
- Technical assistance overlaps with existing initiatives.

The assumptions for the success of the project and its implementation include:

One of the key assumptions is that the studies produced are of sufficient quality, gender responsive and rights-based, and follow an inclusive process so as to ensure that they lead to valuable recommendations / outputs for all stakeholders (duty-bearers but also rights-holder groups).

Mitigating measures have been considered, including:

Publishing a pipeline of assistance to be commissioned, consulting other donors on terms of reference available to other donors, consulting with national authorities.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

As illustrated above, particular attention will be given in project specifications to environmental sustainability, gender equality, good governance and human rights, in order to ensure mainstreaming in future actions. Those themes may also be the subject of specific studies.

3.5. Stakeholders

The relevant stakeholders are the Trust Fund Manager(s), EU Delegations, Trust Fund donors and beneficiary countries. As noted above under Lessons Learnt, stakeholders at project level can also benefit from the TCF.

Relevant national and international women's Machineries, national Human Rights institutions, OHCHR offices, and CSO, working for rights of women, children, people with disabilities, indigenous populations or ethnic minorities and those people at a higher risk of migration, should also be involved during the whole identification implementation and evaluation of the actions.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement, if relevant

Financing agreements are not envisaged.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The implementation period will begin from the date of signature by the last party of the first contract implementing this Action, or from the earliest starting date of implementation period at contract level in case of retroactive financing, whichever occurs first, and will last until the 31/12/2025. This operational implementation period will be followed by a liquidation period of 18 months which will end on the 30/06/2027.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

Interventions should be implemented in either direct or indirect management by the Manager(s) of the Trust Fund, through service contracts, framework contracts, grants and delegated agreements.

4.4. Indicative budget

COMPONENT	TOTAL AMOUNT (in EUR)
Technical cooperation facility (T05-EUTF-REG-REG-02)	17 993 979,53 EUR

The progress of the action will be monitored through regular reporting to the operational committee. In principle, summary reports of individual actions will be made available to members of the Trust Fund's operational committee.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

If necessary, ad hoc audits or expenditure verification assignments could be contracted by the European Commission for one or several contracts or agreements.

Audits and expenditure verification assignments will be carried out in conformity with the risk analysis in the frame of the yearly Audit Plan exercise, conducted by the European Commission. The amount allocated for external evaluation and audit purposes should be shown in the budget at section 4.4. Evaluation and audit assignments will be implemented through service contracts, making use of one of the Commission's dedicated framework contracts or alternatively through the competitive negotiated procedure or the single tender procedure. Evaluations will be gender-sensitive and rights-based. Evaluation teams will be gender balanced and include expertise on gender mainstreaming and Rights Based Approach as reflected in the ToR.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The action will finance communication activities, but as a technical cooperation facility will not be subject to specific communication and visibility measures.