

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation the Budget Support Component: NA

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁸.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

4.4.1.1. Outcome 1 “Strengthen competitiveness of local MSMEs”

a) Purpose of the grants

Grant(s) will be used to achieve outputs related to outcome1 (Competitiveness of local MSMEs).

The grants will contribute in achieving:

- labelling/certifying BDS providers;
- creating a network of MSMEs and BDS providers;
- providing tailored made BDS to MSMEs in partnership with BDS providers;
- support MSMEs to access finance (grants, loan or equity).

(b) Type of applicants targeted

National bodies/agencies, legal entities, private, non-for profit, business associations and BDS providers.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Demonstrated solid knowledge and experience in providing mentoring/coaching and BDS to MSMEs in developing and fragile countries;
- Demonstrated experience in the implementation of reforms aiming at formalising the economy and developing entrepreneurship;
- Demonstrated experience in facilitating access to finance to MSMEs.

4.4.1.2. Outcome 3 “Improve business environment”

¹⁸ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.