



Brussels, 8 February 2018
devco.r.dir(2018)842928

**SUMMARY SHEET
FOR DEVCO'S MANAGEMENT MEETING OF 15 FEBRUARY 2018**

Subject: OPSYS terminology: harmonisation of 5 key terms

Decision to be taken:

Approve the usage of the 5 key terms for the OPSYS IT system.

Background/Analysis

Different terms are used among external action family staff to designate certain key concepts that are extensively used in the external action domain. It is therefore proposed to harmonise 5 key terms in order to foster business process convergence and to facilitate the future use of OPSYS as a common information system, both in terms of the user-friendliness of its screens and in terms of the transparency of our reporting.

The 5 terms have been chosen in agreement with DG BUDG, having in mind corporate harmonisation. They are intended to be used as generic terms covering concepts which currently have different names (such as "National Indicative Programme" and "Indicative Strategy Paper"), but which refer to the same business object. These generic terms will appear as such on OPSYS screens and will allow for consolidated reporting. They will also offer greater readability for external stakeholders (e.g. in SEDIA).

The proposed terms are the following:

1. Basic Acts and EU trust funds

Basic Act is a generic term from the Financial Regulation that covers, for all DGs, the concept of Instrument as well as other regulations that set the framework for the EU's external action (i.e. under the general budget of the Union, instruments such as the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI); under the EDF, the 11th EDF Implementing Regulation) and, by assimilation, the budget attached to the Common Foreign and Security Policy under the MFF.

The European Fund for Sustainable Development is at the same time a basic act and receives financing from the EDF into the guarantee fund established by it. It should therefore also be mentioned in this category, while avoiding double accounting.

EU trust funds receive financing contributions from existing basic acts and/or additional sources (EU MS or other donors). Once the contributions have been transferred, these funds can technically be followed up in OPSYS like basic acts and be used as a separate

source of funding for actions, subject to specific reporting. They will therefore appear in OPSYS under the category "Basic Acts and Funds".

2. Indicative Programming Document

Indicative Programming Document is a generic term used in the basic acts¹ for all the documents that set the framework for EU assistance in a given country, region or thematic area for a multi-annual period, as defined in the different Instruments, such as Multiannual Indicative Programmes (DCI), National Indicative Programmes (EDF), Indicative Strategy Papers (IPA) and Single Support Frameworks (ENI).

If Indicative Programming Documents are based on Country Strategy Papers or Joint Programming Documents, the latter will be available in OPSYS.

3. Commission Financing Decision

Commission Financing Decision is a generic term covering the various types of documents that express (1) the College's exercise of its implementing powers ("mode décisionnel") and (2) its responsibility for budget implementation ("mode ordonnateur"). In the context of external action, it can take various forms:

- an Annual Action Programme,
- a Multiannual Action Programme,
- a National or Country Action Programme,
- a Multicountry Action Programme,
- a CBC Programme,
- a Complementary Financing Decision,
- an Individual Measure,
- a Special Measure,
- a Support Measure,
- an Exceptional Assistance Measure,
- an Interim Response Programme,
- an Annual Work Programme
- a Pilot Project,
- a Preparatory Action,
- a Preparatory Measure,
- a One-off Action,
- a Commission Decision implementing a CFSP Council Decision.

In view of the often twofold nature of Commission decisions (see above), modifications to the two components of the Commission decision can require separate and distinct procedures. The generic term chosen and its use in OPSYS does not put in question the nature of the Commission decision and the applicable modification procedures.

Commission financing decisions contain several actions or correspond to a single action.

4. Action

Action, as per the Financial Rules and the CIR, is a generic term describing the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision. An action corresponds to one or several budgetary commitments.

¹ CIR Title I, Article 1: "Those actions shall be implemented (...) on the basis of the indicative programming documents referred to in the applicable Instrument (...)"

It usually takes the form of an Action Document or of a similar document. In some cases (such as for administrative expenditure), it is reduced to core information.

5. Intervention

The term "Intervention" comes from the Better Regulation package, where it refers to EU activities for the purpose of assessing performance.

In the external action context, interventions are usually referred to as 'programmes' or 'projects'. In the EAMR, interventions correspond to what is currently called "project", which can be either a contract or an action.

Within the context of OPSYS, an intervention is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground: monitoring of results and annual reporting on KPIs to Headquarters, monitoring of missions and site visits, as well as evaluations.

The scope of an intervention corresponds, in most cases, to an action or a part of it (an action component or a contract).

The scale of an intervention and its level (action, action component, contract) is determined in function of:

- the coherence of the planned activities and results; and
- the responsible entity (e.g. Delegation in charge).

The Delegation will define the intervention's level in the action document, which will be validated through the quality review process.

Examples:

Case 1: a single intervention at the level of an action

Action 2017/39769 - Support to Decentralisation in Ghana 11th EDF, 45 000 000 €, Delegation in charge: Ghana

<i>Budget support (Sector Reform Contract)</i>	40,000,000
<i>Technical Assistance to Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Decentralisation (Including communication and visibility for € 200,000)</i>	4,600,000
<i>Monitoring and Reporting:</i>	300,000
<i>Evaluation and Audit</i>	100,000

Case 2: several interventions at the level of contracts

Action 2016/38787 – Contribution to the African Investment Facility in support of regional economic integration in West Africa, 100 000 000 €, Delegation in charge: Nigeria (regional)

Contract 2017/386495 – Construction du pont de Rosso, BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT, 20 500 000 €
→1 Intervention, Delegation in charge: Senegal

Contract 2017/386607 - Projet de réhabilitation de la route Lomé-Cotonou (phase 2) et de protection côtière (Benin – Togo)”, BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT, 20 525 400 €
→1 Intervention, Delegation in charge: Togo

3 other contracts in 3 other countries: 3 other Interventions

In some particular cases, a new action may contribute to an existing intervention previously created in the framework of an older action.

Interventions inherit the logframe (or part of the logframe) from the corresponding action(s).

The following services have been consulted for the purpose of identifying and defining the 5 terms:

- BUDG D1 and D2 (Financial rules 1 & 2 and Programme Management);
- RTD J3 (Common Service for Business Processes)
- DEVCO 05, R1, R3, R4, A6
- FPI.1
- NEAR A4, R1, R2
- UFCA units DEVCO, NEAR and FPI
- OPSYS PSC Chairs.

[e-signed]
Luc BAGUR