

EN
ANNEX

The Annex to Commission Decision C(2021) 6152 is amended as follows:

1) In section **1. Introduction**, second paragraph, bullet points a) to h) are replaced by the following:

- “a) for grants (implemented under direct management): section *Grants*,
- b) for prizes (implemented under direct management): point 2: N/A,
- c) for procurement (implemented under direct management): point 3: N/A,
- d) for actions implemented under indirect management: point 4: N/A,
- e) for contributions to trust funds: point 5: N/A,
- f) for financial instruments: point 6: N/A,
- g) for contributions to blending facilities: point 7: N/A,
- h) for other actions or expenditure: point 8: experts.”

2) In the section **Grants**, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

“The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 152 617 154.”

3) In section **8. Other actions or expenditure**, the following paragraph 8.1 is added:

“8.1. Expert contracts

Amount

The amount of EUR 500 000 is reserved for expert contracts under this work programme.

Description

<p>The I3 instrument will use the services of remunerated external experts in accordance with Article 237 of the Financing Regulation. The EMI (Expert management Internal) tool that has access to the entire EU experts database via the e-grants tool will be used to select the experts. The EMI tool allows for a full management of remunerated experts contract management (search for experts, create pools, contracts and their amendments and related payments).</p>
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<p>The reasoning of contracting external experts for the evaluation of applications submitted under the I3 instrument is to receive an independent and impartial assessment on the proposals’ quality. The experts chosen will have a relevant professional record of accomplishment on innovation and smart specialisation. This will assure the selection of proposals with the best quality. The experts will perform the following tasks:</p>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- participate in expert briefings- read/analyse call/evaluation related background information- draft/submit individual/consensus evaluation reports- participate in evaluation meetings- quality check draft consensus reports (role of quality checkers)- assess the fairness/efficiency of the evaluation process (role of the observers) |
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Both virtual and central evaluation meetings with physical presence are envisaged depending on the logistical feasibility.

Implementation

The action will be implemented by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency.

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