

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

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 of the Budget Support Component

NA

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures³¹.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: a) demonstrated capacity to manage EU programmes and funds; b) demonstrated capacity to effectively work with the governmental stakeholders; c) extensive experience in the sectors targeted by the programme with a focus on the mining sector governance, more specifically on the modernisation of the regulatory framework and capacity building at institutional level. The implementation by this entity entails the implementation of the Specific Objective 1 (Improve governance, transparency and environmental sustainability of the mining sector and related value chains;), output 1.1 (Improved institutional and regulatory framework for the Mining sector, including from a gender/age/disability and from an environmental sustainability perspective) and 1.3 (Enhanced inclusive stakeholder dialogue and coordination effectiveness).

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Republic of Zambia. The implementation by this alternative entity would be justified because of the following criteria: a) demonstrated capacity to effectively work with the mining sector stakeholders; b) extensive experience in the sectors targeted by the programme with a focus on the mining sector governance, more specifically on the modernisation of the regulatory framework and capacity building at institutional level.

The partner country will act as the contracting authority for the procurement. The Commission will control ex- ante all the procurement and grant procedures.

³¹ 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.