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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VI

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1

Action Document for Support for EU trade, gender, consumer safety, migration, employment and social affairs policies in China

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Support for EU trade, gender, consumer safety, migration, employment and social affairs policies in China OPSYS number: ACT-60559 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the People's Republic of China (PRC)
4. Programming document	Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	<p>The proposed action intends to underpin the EU-China relationship by providing support to key policy actions and priority areas of engagement. Relevant specific objectives from the 2021-2027 Regional MIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promote European values and interests in the bilateral relations with China, in line with the multi-faceted approach outlined in the 'Strategic Outlook' Joint Communication;- Engage China to tackle global challenges, to deliver on international commitments such as the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement and to address its role as global actor and donor by promoting international norms and standards and countering negative impact where necessary. <p>Relevant expected results from the 2021-2027 Regional MIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ER 1.2: Increased frequency and/or more efficient preparation and follow-up of high-level dialogues and sectoral dialogues, and enhanced people-to-people ties (e.g. culture and education) and facilitated coordination on mobility, migration and people-to-people exchanges including on right-based migration management and civil society exchanges.- ER 1.3: Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs) operating in China and competing with Chinese businesses in partner countries and support for European businesses (focus on competitiveness of European business organisations and SMEs; the implementation of ILO

	<p>conventions; corporate social responsibility and environmental standards by Chinese businesses in China and overseas; raising awareness of Chinese producers and exporters about EU product safety rules; due diligence to ensure that production and supply chains are aligned with EU values on human rights, environmental objectives and long-term sustainability standards, including in research and innovation).</p> <p>- ER 2.3: Coordinate on health and safety, with an emphasis on global health including pandemics and consumer protection</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	25040 - Responsible business conduct 330 - Trade policies and regulations 15190 - Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility 16010 - Social protection 15170 - Women's equality organisations and institutions			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 3 on healthy lives, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on sustainable economic growth and decent work, SDG 10.7 on facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies			
8 a) DAC code(s)	DAC 331 – Trade policies and regulations - app. 20% DAC 25040 – Responsible business conduct – app. 40% DAC 15190 - Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility – app. 15% DAC 16010 - Social protection – app. 15% DAC 15170 - women's equality organisations and institutions– app. 10%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Other – 90000, Private Sector - 60000, International Organisations			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Disabilities @			
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 10 850 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 10 850 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Procurement Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2			

1.2. Summary of the Action

The proposed support for EU policies in China will fund five actions with immediate needs for financial resources, aiming to inform, enhance, maintain and contribute to EU relations and interests towards China:

- 1) EU trade and investments, with the continuation of the project ***“Understanding Chinese Legal Reform 2020 (EUCLERA)”*** 2019/407-336
- 2) Consumer protection, with the continuation of the project ***“EU-China (Asia) action on consumer protection and non-food product safety in Asia”*** 2019/409-997
- 3) Migration and Mobility Dialogue and parallel negotiations on Visa Facilitation and Cooperation in Combatting Illegal Migration, with the continuation of the project ***“EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility support (MMSP II)”*** 2019/407-068
- 4) Labour and Social rights, with the continuation of the project ***“Improving China’s institutional capacity towards universal social protection”*** 2019/406-271
- 5) **Promoting Economic Empowerment of Women at Work in Asia** 2019/404-960

Activities in these areas will be pursued working as closely as possible with EU Member States, in line with the Team Europe approach.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

In line with the Joint Communication ‘*EU-China: A Strategic Outlook*’¹ of March 2019 the EU pursues a multi-faceted approach towards China. The EU-China relationship is one of the most important but also one of the most challenging that the EU has. Reflecting this complexity, based on a pragmatic and principled engagement, the EU is dealing with this unique strategic partner simultaneously as a negotiating partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival.² This relationship is sustained through annual summits and regular high-level (strategic, economic and trade, digital, climate/environment, migration and mobility and people-to-people) meetings. Over sixty subject-specific, regular, high level and senior officials' sectoral dialogues underpin the political initiatives outlined above.

At the same time, China’s increased political assertiveness, growing economic and technological dominance, are exacerbating the overall structural challenges of engaging with this unique partner.

The impact of China’s development model and external policies on global climate, unsustainable use of natural resources combined with its sub-par standards, make it a difficult but critical partner in international negotiations. These factors will have an impact on the implementation of the many dialogues and priorities discussed above. There is therefore an increasing need for targeted, yet flexible programming to advance EU values and interests in a responsive manner.

The EU has a strategic interest to engage with the PRC as a key player across all pillars of the EU’s work on international partnerships, in both offensive and defensive ways. China’s trade, aid, lending and investment practices will be crucial to sustainable growth and development, including in the EU; China’s domestic and international action on climate change, biodiversity and environment will be fundamental to the achievement of the Green Deal especially since it acceded in October 2021 to the presidency of CBD COP 15 (adoption of a global Biodiversity Framework); and China’s approaches to governance, peace & security have the potential to undermine global norms and reshape multilateralism. In all these areas, engagement with China as a partner, competitor or rival (as appropriate) is not only imperative; it is vital in order to uphold the rules-based international order and the position of the EU.

¹ JOIN(2019) 5 final

² Joint Communication *EU-China – A Strategic Outlook*, March 2019

The EU's relationship with China is also extremely relevant to the wider EU-Asia policy, including in the context of the the Joint Communications '**The Global Gateway**'³ (December 2021) and '**The EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**'⁴ (September 2021). The trajectory of Chinese domestic development, as well as Chinese external action and development financing will have a significant impact on global public goods and regional stability, and on the development pathway of other regions and countries as well as on Europe's open strategic autonomy. This calls for principled and calibrated engagement with China at both bilateral level and regional/global level with a view of underpinning this complex political and economic relationship.

2.2. Problem Analysis

The continuation of "**Understanding Chinese Legal Reform (EUCLERA)**" will provide updated information and intelligence on legislative and regulatory policy developments affecting EU trade and investment interests. China's current investment and trade practices impact on the **EU's ability to benefit from an open global trade regime** and to advance the **WTO reform agenda**. It also negatively impacts European businesses through asymmetries in market access and an uneven playing field. Progress in China's regulatory environment with respect to key international conventions in the areas of environment and labour is also required as well as strengthening of responsible business practices in order to support sustainable and low-carbon development. Monitoring of legislative and regulatory policy developments is also crucial to assess their degree of alignment with World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitments.

Although the primary focus are trade and investment policies, a wider range of policy areas are concerned by reforms and monitored as part of the project. EUCLERA also aims at contributing towards greater consistency between respective intelligence gathering and advocacy actions among the European Commission, Member States and EU businesses, and maximize the use of resources and efforts.

The continuation of the project "**EU-China (Asia) action on consumer protection and non-food product safety in Asia**" would further contribute to the decrease of dangerous non-food consumer products on the EU market. Trainings/webinars provided to manufacturers, sellers and online marketplaces aim at improving awareness on EU product safety rules resulting in fewer dangerous non-food consumer products of Chinese origin in the EU.

China is the EU's largest trading partner in goods and many non-food consumer products sold in the EU come from China. In addition, EU consumers buy increasingly online (70% of EU citizens shop online today), including directly from China. Therefore, addressing product safety and consumer protection concerns (as well as related environmental and social standards) remains a priority. Bilateral cooperation also builds on high-level **trilateral** cooperation between the European Commission, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Chinese Authorities.

The continuation of the "**EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility support (MMSP II)**" will ensure close monitoring of significant policy and legislative developments and provide a solid basis for exchange and dialogue and opportunities for capacity building on issues of common concern (in particular visa, fight against irregular migration, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, document fraud). Moreover, it will support the parallel negotiations on agreements on Visa Facilitation and Cooperation in Combatting Illegal Migration. China is an important country of origin of migration to the EU and is also becoming an important country of destination of migrants. According to the International Migrant Stock of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), with 10.5 million Chinese living outside of China in 2020, China ranks fourth in terms of the number of global migrants.

Europe is also the second most popular destination for Chinese migrants with over 1 million Chinese having migrated to Europe for work, studies and other long-term migration purposes.⁵ At the same time, legal migration flows from China to the EU have continued to increase, reflecting important tourism and business interests. Travel and visa cooperation bring considerable challenges to EU-China relations, both in light of growing Chinese demand to ease the Schengen visa regime, and difficulties for EU Member States to implement visa application solutions within the Chinese national regulations.

Cooperation with China on migration and mobility has developed over the past several years, although significant challenges persist, in particular the reduced mobility since the Covid-19 outbreak. Following the re-launch of the EU-

³ JOIN(2021) 30 final

⁴ JOIN(2021) 24 final

⁵ UNDESA 2016

China Mobility and Migration Dialogue in 2015, the first phase of the Migration and Mobility Roadmap was launched. Implementation of the second phase of the Roadmap is underway and includes two parallel negotiations on: a) a Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA) and b) an agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Migration (CIMA). The focus on migration and mobility falls within the overall framework of the **Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy**. It is also in line with the priorities of the EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation jointly signed in 2013 and the bilateral **High-Level People to People Dialogue**.

The continuation of *“Improving China’s institutional capacity towards universal social protection”* would build on effective cooperation in recent years by means of policy dialogues with the Chinese authorities and technical assistance projects. China has already made significant advances in many areas, including broadening its social security coverage or improving occupational safety and health. However, many challenges remain in terms of China's commitment to **decent work, universal social protection, equality (including gender equality), economic participation in the workplaces or data collection and analysis**.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards offer important guidelines towards the development of comprehensive, adequate and sustainable labour markets and social protection systems. China has been a member of the ILO since 1919 and has signed up to some of the conventions the organisation sponsors. Overall, the action will contribute to the EU's commitment to promote the decent work agenda globally expressed in a number of strategic documents, most recently in the EC Communication on **‘decent work worldwide for a global just transition and a sustainable recovery’** (2022).⁶

Economic Empowerment of Women would address persisting challenges to equal rights for women. China advocated for and implemented equal rights for women earlier than many countries, since the revolution movement of the 1930s', which led to very high women participation in the labour force (declining since 1990) and improved maternal outcomes, and access to basic services. Although China has progressive laws promising guarantees for gender equality, the implementation of these should improve. Women in China still face **challenges in the labour market, access to productive assets, land ownership, marital and inheritance customs, having a voice and taking leadership roles, harassment, gender based violence and domestic abuse** remain frequent. China may still be considered a male-dominant and patriarchal society, with gender stereotyping and restrictive social norms and attitudes. Sex-disaggregated data, necessary to take stock and measure progress, is still lacking. This action will contribute to the Gender Action Plan III and the Country Level Implementation Plan.

Main stakeholders:

The proposed actions will target a variety of stakeholders:

- Relevant services of the European Commission and the European External Action Service, EU Member States, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA), the expert group Consumer Safety Network, European testing laboratories and EEA countries, international organisations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), and UN Agencies specialised in migration or gender.

- Chinese state actors such as the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MoHRSS), National Health Commission (NHC) and Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA), Women Organizations such as ACWF – and sub-national authorities.

- Non-state actors such as EU Chambers of Commerce, business organisations, EU and Chinese social partners and civil society, in particular women's groups such as the All China Women Federation.

⁶ COM(2022) 66 final

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to promote EU **values** and **interests** in the bilateral relations with China, in line with our multi-faceted approach.

The **Specific Objectives** (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Provide up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of the **policy** and **regulatory developments** in China concerning EU **trade** and **investment** interests, or other relevant sectoral policy areas. This will support EU Member States and EU businesses with interests in China, by drawing attention to major policy moves or legislation providing coordinated translation services and contributing to strengthening the EU's advocacy and compliance efforts. It will indirectly benefit China's law-making process with timely comments provided by the EU.
2. Increase the protection of EU citizens against unsafe products on the EU market through enhancing cooperation between the EU and China on **product safety, consumer protection and environmental standards**. Raise awareness among Chinese stakeholders about EU product safety and consumer protection requirements, benefitting Chinese economic operators with higher benchmarks on legal, technical and environmental compliance in the EU and global market
3. Strengthen the EU's dialogue on **migration** and mobility with China. This includes the parallel negotiations on VFA and CIMA, addressing legal and illegal migratory flows between the EU and China, fighting of irregular migration, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, migration developments in third countries and migration as a global challenge.
4. Support the reform of China's national policies regarding social coverage to strengthen its social protection system and align it with international standards. This will also enhance the EU-China dialogues and cooperation on **employment, social affairs and inclusion**, in line with the external dimension of European Pillar of Social Rights⁷ and its action plan and the Commission's Communication on Decent Work Worldwide (2022).⁸
5. Promote the **Economic Empowerment of Women**, by strengthening women's leadership and role in sustainable and inclusive economic growth and their access to business opportunities. Strengthen capacity of women-owned businesses and women entrepreneurs to enable them to engage in policy dialogue; and to increase the implementation of gender-sensitive culture and practice in the labour market.

The Expected **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (S.O.) are:

S.O. 1 EU trade and investments

Output 1.1: **Factual evidence** of new legislative and/or regulatory measures which may have an impact on market access for EU business or discriminate against EU business in China, is provided with a view to promoting reciprocity, a level playing field and fair competition in all aspects of EU's trade and investment relationship with China.

S.O. 2 Consumer protection

Output 2.1: Strengthened **cooperation** and dialogue with Chinese authorities in the Product Safety and Consumer Protection policy area, including with regional offices responsible for carrying out inspections and testing of products.

Output 2.2: Improved **awareness** among manufacturers, retailers, exporters, distributors and e-commerce operators in the producer country about EU product safety and consumer protection requirements and environmental standards that need to be met to reduce the presence of unsafe products on the EU market, and products that have been designed for recycling or reuse in a circular economy.

⁷ <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/european-pillar-of-social-rights/en/>

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1187

Output 2.3: Strengthened **trilateral** cooperation with the US and China to tackle product safety concerns of common interest.

S.O. 3 Migration dialogue

Output 3.1: Development, negotiation and implementation of indicative second-phase **Roadmap**, which includes the preparation and the facilitation of the **dialogue** between the EU and China on migration and mobility and the parallel negotiations on VFA and CIMA, developments in third countries and migration as a global challenge.

Output 3.2: Development of EU-China cooperation in the area of migration and mobility, by addressing migration **management capacities** of the competent Chinese authorities, in order to also address the practical needs of EU Member States.

S.O. 4 Labour and Social rights

Output 4.1: Fair and equal competition based on **international social standards** and mitigated downward pressure on social conditions globally, including by working with Chinese authorities to improve the **social protection system** in China.

Output 4.2: Influence of the reform process by providing **information on the EU approach and sharing expertise** with Chinese policy makers in the fields of labour law, social security and pensions and mobility of workers.

Output 4.3: Promotion of China's ratification of **relevant international conventions**.

S.O. 5 Economic Empowerment of Women

Output 5.1: Establishment of **knowledge exchange platform** among women's networks, public institutions and the private sector.

Output 5.2: Increased access to **entrepreneurship and leadership training** and with public sector institutions and private sector companies, for women-owned organisations, women entrepreneurs.

Output 5.3: Strengthened and expanded **networks of private sector companies** adhering to women empowerment, with better awareness and EU visibility in promoting the principles of GEWE.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Indicative list of activities related to each output:

S.O. 1 EU trade and investments

1.1 **Monitoring and assessment** of policy developments, legislative acts and proposals, announcements from central government, relevant provinces / municipalities (e.g. Shanghai, Guangdong) and major Industry Associations, with a particular focus on initiatives with potential impact on trade and investment position of EU companies in China and/or are not in line with China's WTO commitments.

1.2 **Description** and **analysis** of the selected announcements / proposals where the main potentially "conflicting" elements are identified.

1.3 **Translations** and further **detailed analysis** of the impact of specific announcements / proposals.

1.4 **Monthly overview** of the trade and economic policy and legal trends.

1.5 **Ad-hoc research** and/or **information sessions** to EU DEL, European Commission services, and - directly or indirectly - other stakeholders on any relevant element identified that could significantly affect trade and investment between the EU and China.

1.6 Improvement of a **web-database application** to make it more user-friendly (notably for queries) and more tailored to each user's profile.

S.O.2 Consumer protection

2.1 **Technical cooperation** to support the regulatory dialogue and the implementation of product safety measures. This would include the organisation of workshops, conferences and other events to strengthen the EU's outreach, promote EU requirements, policies and standards and facilitate a common understanding of both side's respective policies.

2.2 **Trainings** on EU product safety requirements aimed at Chinese companies, focussing on non-food consumer products that are most often found as unsafe on the EU market (e.g. toys, electric accessories and appliances, childcare products, etc.). Contents of the training programmes will focus on legislation in place in the EU and relevant EU standards and practices, including risk assessment.

2.3 **Trainings** on commercial practices aimed at operators selling to consumers in the EU online. Training for online sellers will focus on pre-sale, post-sale and other obligations for sellers and platforms.

2.4 **E-learning platform** with learning and information material in English and Chinese, in continuity with the existing 'Safe non-food consumer Products in the EU and China' (SPEAC) project. The platform will increase the impact and facilitate knowledge sharing as much as possible, train the trainers, including Chinese authorities, as well as develop e-learning modules to complement the trainings. A number of e-learning modules and recorded lessons will be developed and updated.

S.O. 3 Migration dialogue

3.1 **Seminars and workshops** on migration to facilitate practical cooperation between EU and Chinese stakeholders in the areas of returns and readmissions of irregular migrants, criminal investigation and judicial cooperation on trafficking in human beings. Seminars to build capacity of Chinese officials on migration policies.

3.2 Targeted **awareness-raising exchanges** of migration officials and stakeholders. Briefings to EU and EU MS officials to familiarise and engage with Chinese migration systems and structures.

3.3 **Information campaigns** (including social media).

3.4 **Technical assistance and trainings** of migration officials and Chinese stakeholders.

3.5 **Studies and policy research** providing sex-disaggregated evidence-based tools on international best practice on irregular migration (e.g. border control, irregular transit migration); regular migration (e.g. visa facilitation, researchers' mobility, bilateral labour agreements), as well as on other areas related to migration.

3.6 Other **preparatory or complementary activities** in relation to the EU-China Mobility and Migration Dialogue and its Roadmap and parallel negotiations on VFA and CIMA, such as field visits for EU MS officials, technical and/or logistical meetings between EU and Chinese officials.

S.O. 4 Labour and social rights

4.1 International **best practices sharing**, with a particular focus on the EU experiences on employment and related social affairs.

4.2 **Events** (conferences, training, seminars, workshops, mutual technical visits or other exchange activities) within the scope of the policy dialogues on social security.

4.3 **Specialised technical assistance**, guided by international labour standards, to relevant stakeholders related to employment and social protection.

4.4 **Technical reports** and notes.

4.5 **Structured programmes** in specific areas, such as actuarial studies on pensions, through the promotion of linkages between training institutions in China and European training institutions and experts in this area.

4.6 Activities promoting the ratification and effective implementation of ILO conventions.

S.O. 5 Economic empowerment of women

5.1 **Research** (both compiling existing data and conducting research) and provision of technical advice (e.g. reviews and assessment of the institutional, legal, economic and socio-cultural environment, compilation of good practices as well as key barriers to women's economic empowerment, focusing on women entrepreneurs, decent employment and social protection). Review of relevant Chinese and regional policies, and providing advice to improve gender equality. Creation of online and offline platforms and learning events to disseminate and debate the findings among the stakeholders.

5.2 Mobilisation and engagement of '**EU-China Champions**' to serve as mentors and advocates for gender equality at work to enhance national-level commitments (from national experts and activists, MS and UN staff, civil society leaders). Communication platform to engage both government and business leaders in China and EU countries.

5.3 Development of **training programmes** for women's organisations and women's entrepreneur networks and/or department of trade/chambers of commerce to respond to specific needs of women-owned SME and women entrepreneurs (around business training, financial education and/or technical skills). Establishment of partnerships with national training institutions, including top-tier business schools/academic institutions, focusing on skill development of women entrepreneurs to enhance leadership, productivity, competitiveness, market access, and access to technology and innovation. Organisation of networking events such as chamber of commerce events, career fairs, academic networks, professional conferences to link women entrepreneurs to expand market access, and promote best practice.

5.4 Provision of technical support companies to operationalize Women Empowerment Principles, by tailoring them to the reality of corporations in the specific sectors and Chinese contexts, including identification of areas for concrete implementation of these commitments. Organisation of training and peer-to-peer exchange programme for companies to enhance measurements, monitoring and reporting of their results on implementing Women Empowerment Principles. Organisation of training sessions on sexual harassment, promoting a positive workplace culture, and investing more into women's skill development and leadership.

5.5 Compilation of good practice case studies, and use of evidence-based advocacy for further rollout.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Crosscutting issues will be integrated in the different components of this support programme. Implementation of the gender action plan in China is informed by an in-country gender equality working group composed of EU member states. The working group has been guided by a recently completed country gender analysis while deliberating on the country level gender implementation plan. In line with Gender Action Plan (GAP) III, 85% of projects in the PRC are expected to be gender mainstreamed.

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the studies and policy dialogues that will be funded by this action will mainstream gender as a key consideration for analysis and policy dialogue, even if they do not focus exclusively on gender equality in all of the proposed Components.

However, apart from the above mentioned gender mainstreaming throughout the programme, one gender-specific action (Component V) is proposed in this Action Document. Component V will strive to improve women's economic empowerment and women business opportunities and entrepreneur skills (DAC marker G2).

Human Rights

Respect for human rights, including women's rights, is a fundamental value of the European Union. Aligning the legal framework of the PRC with international standards (ratification of international human rights treaties) may become a key activity under this action. The design and implementation of the action will give attention to those who are most marginalised, excluded or discriminated against and living in vulnerable situations. The action will attempt to intensify the dialogue on human rights as universal and as core aspect of China-EU relations. This action will apply a human rights-based approach encompassing all human rights, whether civil and political or economic, social and cultural in order to integrate human right principles (respect to all human rights, participation, non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency). The approach will be guided by the principle of "leaving no one behind", equality and non-discrimination on any grounds.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that disability is not considered the overall nor a specific objective of the facility. However, in all activities all possible measures will be taken to ensure inclusive policy dialogues. Therefore, attention will be paid to ensure and enable the participation of people with disabilities in the activities under the facility and to ensure that the achieved results will be accessible for people with disabilities.

Democracy

All activities, including policy dialogue with the Government of the PRC, will aim to strengthen good governance, transparency, anti-corruption and the rule of law in China.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Monitoring the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace and security both in China and in partner countries may be an expected output of this action.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Building resilience and preventing disaster are primarily relevant in China when it comes to floods and earthquakes. Protecting the environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change and building resilience of communities living within or in close proximity to water resources may be key issues of thematic policy dialogue. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, our global response to it will be a relevant crosscutting issue.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Despite the turbulence that currently characterises the bilateral relationship at the political level, the Chinese authorities have shown commitment to a number of key areas of mutual interests and priorities. The key assumption that drives this programme is that we will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during its lifetime. We also assume that the PRC will remain interested to engage with us. The most prominent risks and corresponding mitigating measures are the following:

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Sensitivity about EU-China relations limits cooperation and dialogue activities.	H	H	The activities will have built in governance and project management structures so that they can be accelerated or decelerated as needed.
External environment	Lack of Chinese commitment to implement the action.	H	H	High-level involvement from the EU side in order to foster active Chinese involvement is ensured. Political will on the Chinese side cannot be taken for granted in the current context.
External environment	Insufficient involvement of EU Member States in the activities.	L	L	Member States are highly interested in cooperation with the PRC. However the programme could still function without their active participation.
Planning and systems	Insufficient institutional capacity of the beneficiary.	L	L	In case it is suspected that institutional capacity may be deficient, the activity will be focused on assessing and building capacity.
Planning and systems	Silo mentality or lack of ability to coordinate with and mobilise other Chinese line ministries and authorities.	M	H	Implementation through indirect management with the International Organizations which have solid experience of working with the Chinese authorities and political buy-in could mitigate much of this risk.
Planning and systems	Insufficient resources on the side of the European Commission or the EU Delegation to China to steer the project implementation.	H	M	Senior European Commission management will actively address human resource deficits at the EU Delegation.
Domestic environment	Major changes in socio-economic parameters in China affecting the proposed project design.	L	M	Major socio-economic changes have not been forecasted during the project duration. However, the proposed action is designed in a way to be able to respond to unforeseen socio-economic developments (e.g. new migration challenges).

Lessons Learnt per component of the programme:

The project “*Understanding Chinese Legal Reform 2020 (EUCLERA)*” builds upon the successful experience gained with three previous European Commission projects: a one-year action launched in October 2015 (“*Understanding Chinese Legal Economic Reform*”) and a second project (“*Understanding Chinese Legal Economic Reform II*”). Hence, the current proposal is firmly rooted in previous experience and lessons learnt. The proposed programme will continue using a web-based approach, with daily alerts by e-mails and monthly rounds-up. The option of on-demand further analysis, translations and ad hoc presentations will also be kept.

Cooperation with the Chinese Authorities on product safety is currently supported by the ‘*Safe non-food consumer Products in the EU and China*’ (SPEAC) project. Since 2008, the central product safety authorities of the European

Union, the United States and China have pursued joint efforts to strengthen non-food consumer product safety and protect the end consumers. The proposed programme contributes to enhancing bilateral cooperation with the Chinese authorities as well as fulfilling trilateral commitments. This operation will build on the results already achieved in the SPEAC⁹ project including development of training materials.

The continuation of ***“EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility support (MMSP II)”*** builds on previous migration and mobility projects funded by the EU in China, including two phases of a capacity-building project to support migration management in China carried out from 2007 to 2013 and specifically, the first and second phase of the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project.

The first phase of the EU-China Dialogue on Migration and Mobility Support Project was successful in keeping the dialogue open, which was important in the original context and remains relevant in case political relations deteriorate. Secondly, it helped achieve concrete results under the umbrella of the Mobility and Migration Dialogue and its Roadmap, such as agreements for a visa waiver for diplomats, exchanges on irregular migration or the opening of EU Member States' visa application centres in a number of cities where there are no consulates. Notably, the project also enables technical-level exchanges with the Chinese authorities and EU Member States in a balanced and comprehensive manner, in order to support the political dialogue on migration and mobility and the parallel negotiations on VFA and CIMA. The first phase of the project was assessed by an external evaluation as highly relevant and effective.

“Improving China’s institutional capacity towards universal social protection” draws on previous experience of bilateral cooperation on social affairs, including the EU-China Social Security Reform Project (2006-2011), the EU-China project on occupational safety and health in high risk sectors (2012-2016), EU-China Social Protection Reform project (2014-2018) and the ongoing project on Improving China’s Institutional Capacity towards Universal Social Protection (2019-2022). These have contributed to China's institutional capacity in the field of employment, social affairs, occupational safety and health. The proposed operation will build on these to address outstanding or emerging challenges.

The implementation of the previous projects showed that successful implementation requires flexibility to accommodate the policy needs and strong support of all stakeholders involved. Employing an International Organisation that counts the PRC among its members makes a substantial difference to how receptive the Chinese authorities are. Close involvement and technical steer from the relevant European Commission services will ensure that the action stays in line with the EU's policy priorities in this area. Previous experience has also showed the importance of social partners' involvement as a way to increase relevance and effectiveness of the employment and social policies and enhancing social dialogue. Ensuring universal social security in China, including for internal migrant workers, will reduce downward pressure on social conditions globally.

Economic Empowerment of Women will build on similar actions in previous years in China and other countries in the region with multilateral partners. This action aligns with the **EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025**. Women entrepreneurship can be a starting point in discussions on trade or human rights. Lessons learned show that stereotypes about women's unpaid work and care in the household in China have been given attention in order to change attitudes. Further support to mainstreaming gender in public policy and in SOEs in China is needed. Discrimination in recruitment, job allocation, unequal pay and glass ceilings in promotion are remaining challenges in China that should be further addressed, with awareness about attitude and policy advocacy (f.e. mandatory gender reporting by companies). An incentive system (or gender-responsive policies) for women equality in the labour market should be considered.

The action aims to strengthen implementation of measures in accordance with key European values of gender equality and women empowerment. Efforts will focus on promoting awareness and practice of women empowerment in the workplace, women in management positions, women capacity for business development, including equal access to finance and productive assets, women protection in the labour market/social security/sexual harassment and general gender rights.

⁹ <https://speac-project.eu/>

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic is to underpin core EU interests and values in the EU-China relationship. This action will enable the EU to deepen understanding of relevant Chinese policy issues and pursue strategic interests as well as effective policy outreach and dialogue with the Government of the People's Republic of China and other key stakeholders.

Promoting **EU trade and investment** is a core priority in the EU's engagement with China. Monitoring and analysis of various legislative and policy developments will enable the EU to assess and prepare for their implications and, if needed, raise concerns with relevant Chinese authorities. A solid understanding of the policy and regulatory landscape in China will allow EU policymakers to adapt their strategies and better identify key upcoming market access and investment barriers, as well as support processes related to the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of bilateral trade and investment agreements. China's policy and regulation reform process will also indirectly benefit from the action through timely comments provided by the EU.

On **consumer protection and product safety**, the intervention will increase awareness among Chinese companies (mainly SMEs) on EU non-food product safety and consumer protection. Specifically, the action will provide information resources and training on EU requirements on product safety relevant for both online and offline trade, targeting local manufacturers, buyers, exporters and e-commerce operators with a focus on the products most often detected as unsafe in the European market. Parallel activities envisaged could include an institutional dialogue in other important Asian manufacturing countries and similar training activities in other countries of the region according to further market development and increasing number of products manufactured in Asian countries and sold on the EU market.

The operation will benefit European consumers, companies and Member State authorities through safer products on the European market and improved consumer protection. The promotion of EU practices on product safety can potentially improve the access of EU businesses to Chinese and other Asian markets, as that promotion may bring the Chinese and Asian regulatory framework closer to the EU acquis. The action will also benefit Chinese economic operators (manufacturers, retailers, exporters, distributors and online operators) with enhanced knowledge and capacities to comply with higher benchmarks (legal requirements, technical standards, procedures and tests, etc.) in the EU and global market.

On **migration and mobility**, the EU-China Dialogue will aim to advance the second phase of the Roadmap focussed on shared priorities in this area, in particular the parallel negotiations on VFA and CIMA, while maintaining a flexible approach to respond to shifts in the relationship and effectively addressing requests from respective partners.

On **employment and social affairs**, as an open economy integrated into global supply chains, the EU needs to make the global playing field as level as possible, with China as one of its most important players. This also applies to the promotion of international labour and social standards. Promotion of fair and equal competition with China will mitigate downward pressure on social conditions globally and make the EU economy and society more resilient.

Committed to becoming climate neutral by 2050 and 2060, respectively, both the EU and China have embarked on ambitious climate policies. Like with other deep economic transformations, climate action will entail substantial social adjustment and social protection schemes such as unemployment insurance and its linkage with active labour market programs can be essential to enhance smoother transition. Policies need to be devised to ensure workers are retrained and the costs and benefits of the adjustment are shared fairly, avoiding that the most vulnerable people or regions suffer from climate action.

On **gender equality**, this action will focus on women economic empowerment by increasing women leadership role and access to business opportunities. This will be achieved by capacity development (training, study visits, high level technical assistance), support to policy dialogue, and changes to corporate culture and practice. Tools (output) will be networking and exchange platforms – including online. Research and case studies will result in knowledge tools and manuals for economic empowerment for women. Companies implementing best practice on Women Equality Principles will network and share experience, for further rollout.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention. On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Promote EU values and interests in the bilateral relations with China, in line with our multi-faceted approach.	Number of leaders' summits and high-level dialogues held per year.	3 (2021)	4 per year	Internal monitoring & reporting	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Provide up-to-date and comprehensive analysis of the policy and regulatory developments in China concerning EU trade and investment interests, or other relevant sectoral policy areas. This will support EU Member States and EU businesses with interests in China, by drawing attention to major policy move or legislation affecting EU-China trade and providing coordinated translation efforts, thus strengthening their advocacy and compliance. It will indirectly benefit China's law-making process with timely comments provided by the EU.	Number of reports per year.	12 (2020)	1 per month (tbc in inception phase)	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Outcome 2	Increase the protection of EU citizens against unsafe products on the EU market through enhancing cooperation between the EU and China on product safety , consumer protection and environmental standards . Raise awareness among Chinese stakeholders about EU product safety and consumer	Number of meetings and commitments on consumer protection and product safety with Chinese authorities.	0 (2021)	1 per year	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
	protection requirements, benefitting Chinese economic operators with higher benchmarks on legal, technical and environmental compliance in the EU and global market.					during the lifetime of the action.
Outcome 3	Strengthen EU's dialogue on migration and mobility with China. This includes addressing legal and illegal migratory flows between the EU and China, fighting irregular migration, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, migration developments in third countries and migration as a global challenge.	Number of Dialogues on Migration and Mobility held per year.	0 (2021)*due to Covid-19 pandemic	1 per year	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Outcome 4	Support reform of China's national policies regarding social coverage to strengthen its social protection system and align it with international standards, while enhancing the EU-China dialogues and cooperation on employment, social affairs and inclusion , in line with the external dimension of European Pillar of Social Rights ¹⁰ and its action plan and the Communication on Decent Work Worldwide ¹¹ .	Number of events on employment or social affairs with Chinese authorities per year.	0 (2021)	1 per year	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Outcome 5	Promote Economic Empowerment of Women , by strengthening women's leadership and role in sustainable and inclusive economic growth and their access to business opportunities. Strengthen capacity of women-owned businesses and women entrepreneurs to enable them to engage in policy dialogue; and to increase the implementation of gender-sensitive culture and practice in the labour market.	Number of enterprises/women that acknowledge having benefited from project (with EU visibility) to strengthen empowerment and experienced increased business opportunities.	0 (2021)	TBC in inception phase	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Output 1.1	Factual evidence of new legislative and/or regulatory measures which may have an impact on market access for EU business or discriminate against EU business in China, is	Number of monitoring reports per year.	4 (2020)	4 per year	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of

¹⁰ <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/empl/european-pillar-of-social-rights/en/>

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1187

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
	provided with a view to promote reciprocity, a level playing field and fair competition in all aspects of EU's trade and investment relationship with China.					the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Output 2.1	Strengthened cooperation and dialogue with Chinese authorities in the Product Safety and Consumer Protection policy area, including with regional offices responsible for carrying out inspections and testing of products.	Number of technical meetings with Chinese authorities on product safety and consumer protection.	0 (2021)	1 per year	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Output 2.2	Improved awareness among manufacturers, retailers, exporters, distributors and e-commerce operators in the producer country about EU product safety and consumer protection requirements and environmental standards that need to be met to reduce the presence of unsafe products on the EU market, and products that have been designed for recycling or use in a circular economy.	Number of relevant stakeholders that have been reached with the training materials	none	qualitative description of trends	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Output 2.3	Strengthened trilateral cooperation with the US and China to tackle product safety concerns of common interest.	Number of trilateral meetings.	0 (2021)	1 during the life time of the action	Contractor's reporting	We will not face a complete breakdown of the bilateral relationship during the lifetime of the action.
Output 3.1	Development, negotiation and implementation of indicative second-phase Roadmap, which includes the preparation and the facilitation of the dialogue between the EU and China on migration developments in third countries and migration as a global challenge.	Implementation of new Roadmap.	0 (2021)	Full implementation by end	Contractor's reporting	The Chinese authorities will engage

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
				of the action		constructively in this work
Output 3.2	Development of EU-China cooperation in the area of migration and mobility, by addressing migration management capacities of the competent Chinese authorities, as well as addressing the practical needs of EU Member States.	Number of workshops with Chinese authorities.	0 (2021)	At least 3 during the life time of the action	Contractor's reporting	The Chinese authorities will engage constructively in this work
Output 4.1	Fair and equal competition based on international social standards and mitigated downward pressure on social conditions globally, including by working with Chinese authorities to improve the social protection system and improving health and safety at work in China.	Number of studies produced to support best practices, standards and international conventions in China.	0 (2021)	At least 1 during the life time of the action	Contractor's reporting	We will not have difficulties hiring external staff to undertake this work
Output 4.2	Influence of the reform process by providing information on the EU approach and sharing expertise with Chinese policy makers in the fields of labour law, social security and pensions and mobility of workers.	Number of workshops with Chinese authorities.	0 (2021)	1 per year	Contractor's reporting	The Chinese authorities will engage constructively in this work
Output 4.3	Promotion of China's ratification of relevant international conventions.	Number of deliverables related to ratification of relevant international conventions.	0 (2021)	1 during the life time of the action	Contractor's reporting	The Chinese authorities will engage constructively in this work
Output 5.1	Knowledge exchange platform among women's networks, public institutions and the private sector is established	Number of experts/champions participating in networks and platforms for public institutions, private sector and readers, to share experience on enabling business environment for women (with EU visibility).(disaggregated by sex)	0 (2021)	A 15% increase from 2021 levels.	Contractor's reporting	The Chinese authorities will allow the platforms to function

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Output 5.2	Increased access to entrepreneurship and leadership training and with public sector institutions and private sector companies, for women-owned organisations, women entrepreneurs	Number of trainings and participating female entrepreneurs	0 (2021)	In year 2: 6 trainings, in year 3: 10 trainings.	Contractor's reporting	Authorities allow training to proceed.
Output 5.3	Strengthened and expanded networks of private sector companies adhering to women empowerment, with better awareness and EU visibility in promoting the principles of GEWE.	Number of company networks using gender empowerment tools and awareness campaigns and products disseminated (with EU visibility).	0 (2021)	TBC in inception phase	Contractor's reporting	Chinese companies show interest in gender empowerment.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of the People's Republic of China.

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 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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 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 measures¹².

4.3.1. Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving objectives 1 and 2, specified in section 3.1. The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is indicated in section 4.5.

4.3.2. Indirect Management with an international organisation

A part of this action will be implemented in indirect management with pillar assessed entity(ies), to be selected by the Commission's services via the following criteria:

Horizontal criteria:

(1) knowledge of the Chinese context, successful experience in working with departments and key bodies of the Chinese administration, including policy dialogue;

(2) expertise in providing advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to public and private sector;

Applicable criteria per S.O.:

(a) expertise on migration issues in China, EU and third countries for S.O. 3

(b) expertise on international labour standards and their application in China, EU third countries, for S.O. 4.

(c) expertise on gender issues in China, for S.O. 5.

¹² 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.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1.	5 500 000
Indirect management with selected international organisations cf. section 4.3.2	5 350 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Contingencies	n/a
Totals	10 850 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Specific expertise will be mobilised in the specific thematic areas of this programme. The EU Delegation will constantly monitor and ensure the effectiveness and quality of the different policy and technical outputs, monitor the activities of the implementing Organization including in establishing institutional interactions with the Chinese authorities.

Dedicated steering committees may be established to act as advisory and reporting mechanisms in order to provide the strategic and policy guidance needed to ensure smooth project implementation for each of the designated focus of the Programme. The steering committee should meet at least once a year and will define the priority work streams to be addressed. The steering committee will review and endorse annual work plans, monitor project outputs and achievements and provide advice on how to address obstacles and challenges identified during implementation. The Steering Committee(s), whose composition will be further detailed in the legal commitments, will comprise the relevant sections of the Delegation representing DG INTPA and relevant DGs. Participation of EU HQs will be encouraged through virtual platforms. Private Sector organisations and networks, civil society, including women organisations, will be consulted and involved in the implementation of the action, as appropriate. Great efforts will be made to ensure that, where appropriate, Chinese counterparts participate meaningfully to the Steering Committees.

A coordination mechanism composed of DG INTPA, NEAR, EEAS, FPI will oversee strategic communication aspects, which will be directly managed by the EU Delegation. The implementing partner or other relevant sections in the EU Delegation will facilitate the organisation of policy dialogue meetings, under the chairmanship of the Head of EU Delegation.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the European Commission may participate in any governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the programme.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix, SDGs and GAP III indicators.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partners are responsible for day-to-day monitoring and reporting based on the agreed indicators in the logframe. Adjustments to the agreed indicators will be subject to a discussion and approval of the contracting authority. The contracting authority will also be responsible for the approval of annual reports.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex. Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results and, where applicable, the implementation of the human rights-based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disability when applicable.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

A mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to scope new activities.

A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the Programme covers a wide range of issues implemented at a complex partner, towards which the EU pursues a multi-faceted approach.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation(s) may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3. Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION¹³

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources. At country level, resources required for strategic communication will, in principle, be consolidated in Support Facilities, allowing EU Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

To that end, Delegations will develop short strategic communication and public diplomacy plans that reflect the objectives of the Delegation as a whole in this domain, initially covering the period up to the Mid-Term Review (MTR). The strategic plan will include key administrative information and cover the following main elements:

1. Audiences targeted
2. The principal objective(s)
3. The core narrative
4. Preliminary suggestions for content, partnerships and channels

Communication activities foreseen under the current action will be fully in line with this strategic communication plan. Activities will be funded by the support facilities and, if necessary, will optimize communication and visibility resources of the components of this action.

It remains a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication material related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states. The implementing partner(s) shall also provide any content requested by the EU Delegation to support their own communication activities, including by giving full access to relevant audio, photo and video material that the partner(s) has the rights to.

Public diplomacy activities will be funded and managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments via a dedicated allocation.

¹³ The title of this section has been updated to reflect the fact that public diplomacy activities are not covered by this Action. Public diplomacy activities are funded and managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments via a dedicated allocation.

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action