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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX IV

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 Enhancing the role of the European Union in multilateral fora in Asia and supporting the Asia-Europe Foundation

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23(2) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Enhancing the role of the European Union in multilateral fora in Asia and supporting the Asia-Europe Foundation OPSYS number: ACT-60767 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall benefit countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. In accordance with Article 43(1) of the NDICI Regulation, activities may also exceptionally take place in countries which are not in the Asia-Pacific Region or the EU, but are members of the targeted multilateral fora (Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, where the fora organise a relevant event of interest for the EU in these countries).
4. Programming document	Asia and the Pacific Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority Area 1.3: Regional Integration and Cooperation South East Asia and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) - Sector 1: Implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership - Policy dialogue and cooperation; Responding to Global Challenges and building back better; Regional integration o Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Providing a platform for continuing and enhancing EU-ASEAN policy dialogues and exchanges of experience in a number of areas, including the ASEAN-EU Dialogue in Science and Technology; and providing support where needed and requested for capacity and institutional strengthening initiatives. o Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Enhanced EU-ASEAN cooperation to build the two regions' resilience

	<p>and preparedness to respond to global challenges, including security threats and risks in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Contributing to regional integration in South East Asia and good, effective and inclusive governance, trade, security, peacebuilding, the protection of human rights and gender equality in line with SDGs 16 and 5, notably the protection of the rights of and promotion of opportunities for women migrant workers in Southeast Asia. <p>Priority Area 1.5: Regional Integration and Cooperation Pan-Asia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Forge international partnerships at continental, intra- and inter-regional levels which are aligned with EU external priorities, principles and values, to facilitate cooperation across policy areas. - Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Promote cultural cooperation between Europe and Asia. - Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): Reinforce security and defence cooperation, inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention, counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism and foster cooperation on cyber security and organised crime, in particular drugs and human and wildlife trafficking. 			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>DAC Code: 998 Unallocated / Unspecified</p> <p>Priority Area 1.3: Regional Integration and Cooperation South East Asia and ASEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sector 1: Implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership - Policy dialogue and cooperation; Responding to Global Challenges and building back better; Regional integration (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17) <p>Priority Area 1.5: Regional Integration and Cooperation Pan-Asia (SDGs 8, 12, 13)</p>			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG (1 only): 17</p> <p>Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 Multisector aid – 100 %			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	<p>Private sector in provider country– 61000</p> <p>International NGO [Asia-Europe Foundation] – 21000</p>			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				

12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020131-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 4 800 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 4 800 000
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant - Procurement

1.2 Summary of the Action

There is a need for the EU to continue and step up its engagement with its Asian partners, in line with the EU's Indo-Pacific Cooperation Strategy, in particular with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and insofar as possible with the Asian members of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)¹ including via the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). While the EU has successfully positioned itself as an economic, political, developmental, and increasingly a security partner at sub-regional and regional, it is still perceived much below its real weight as a geopolitical actor. There is a need to address this as at ASEM, ARF and ASEAN as well as through people-to-people linkages.

The proposed action aims at boosting the EU's influence in the region and to help position the EU in a way that is conducive to advance its interests and values (including human rights and gender equality and women's empowerment) in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geo-political and sustainability challenges.

To contribute to reach this overall objective, the action addresses three main existing fora/organisations, namely ASEM/ASEF, ARF and ASEAN. Here, the action supports diplomatic channels.

This is complemented by working with non-government actors, in particular through the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) of which the activities provide a direct platform for dialogue between the government and civil society, channelling the latter's voice to the former, thus complementing the government-led ASEM process with bottom-up input from civil society. Here, the action supports public diplomacy strongly.

The action will also support advocacy for the EU's potential participation in fora where the EU is not yet present (such as the East Asia Summit² – EAS or the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus – ADMM+).

To achieve the objectives, the action has to focus on proactive factual, clear, understandable, comprehensive and consistent messaging, be responsive to political developments and in particular global crises, and involve the right mix of communication channels to reach decision makers and influencers. This takes on renewed importance in the context of the current need to debunk Russian disinformation and engage in strategic communication about the role of the EU as global actor supporting Southeast Asian countries impacted by Russia's war.

As an action of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027, it contributes to *Priority Area 1.5: Regional Integration and Cooperation Pan-Asia* with its Specific Objectives 1, 3 and 4, in

¹ The ASEM process is currently de facto on standby due to Russia's membership of the forum. Engagement with ASEM on the part of the EU will need to follow the *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*, agreed by CONUN on 16 March (ref: ST 7261/22). Given the importance of designing this action as a flexible instrument for enhancing the EU's role in multilateral fora in Asia, the possibility of engaging directly with ASEM (not only through ASEF) should be left open, in case there should be a transformation in the international political context during the course of action implementation.

² Given that Russia is a member of the EAS, any engagement/participation with the forum on the part of the EU will need to comply with the *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*, agreed by CONUN on 16 March (ref: ST 7261/22).

particular forging international partnerships at continental, intra- and inter-regional levels which are aligned with EU external priorities, principles and values, to facilitate cooperation across policy areas, promoting cultural cooperation between Europe and Asia and reinforcing security and defence cooperation, inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention, counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism and cooperation on cyber security and organised crime, in particular drugs and human and wildlife trafficking. It also contributes to *Priority Area 1.3: Regional Integration and Cooperation South East Asia and ASEAN* with its sectors 1 to 3, in particular the implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership – Policy dialogue and cooperation, responding to Global Challenges, including security threats, and regional integration.

The action contributes to SDGs 17, 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 16 and can contribute to other SDGs, depending on the content of the dialogues and activities foreseen.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

This action is fully in line with the European Commission priority 2019-2024 *A stronger Europe in the world*, the *Global Gateway Communication*, the *Joint Communication on Strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism*, the *Joint Communication on an EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*, in particular its emphasis on reinforcing links with multilateral and regional organisations to promote effective rules-based multilateralism. The action contributes to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and can also contribute to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as well as the Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025.

The Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme (RMIP) for the Asia Pacific region has been designed to be fully complementary and synergetic to the country and thematic MIPs and builds on the strengths consolidated via the well-established EU partnerships with Asia-Pacific to achieve the transformative objectives of the NDICI 2021-2027, as defined by the geopolitical objectives of the European Commission. The proposed action is fully aligned with and implements the regional integration and cooperation priority area of the RMIP. Via its regional support, the EU intends to continue successfully underpin regional integration processes, address crosscutting thematic challenges affecting the whole region, and promote cooperative security engagement, including by enabling policy exchanges on issues of common interest.

The current dynamics in the region have given rise to intense geopolitical competition adding to increasing tensions on trade and supply chains as well as in technological, political and security areas. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally altered the dynamics within ASEM and has further complicated the geopolitical context. The universality of human rights is also being challenged. These developments increasingly threaten the stability and security of the region and beyond, which is a key EU interest. The action is designed to support overcoming internal and external geopolitical frictions and tensions with a focus on issues of shared interest and concern. It should position the EU as a security actor in the region (pro-actively) rather than merely reacting to challenges. Regional integration is a powerful vector for peace, stability, and development and therefore necessary and complementary to national programmes. Engagement with like-minded Asian partners takes on renewed importance in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The action builds on a predecessor grant to ASEF (agreement 2020/417240) and on an action managed by FPI (contract 2016/382947) of which the mid-term evaluation in September 2021 concluded that it was highly relevant in contributing to increasing the EU's voice and position in multilateral fora across many priority areas covering security and connectivity. The proposed action should further strengthen the EU's standing in Asian multilateral fora and processes where the EU is already participating as a member (ASEM/ASEF, ASEF, ARF) or a strategic partner (ASEAN), and support advocacy for the EU's potential participation in fora where the EU is not yet present (such as the EAS and ADMM+). As explained above, any potential direct engagement with ASEM will follow the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*.³ The action will also advance the EU's priorities on sustainable connectivity with and within ASEM. Support to ASEF will confirm the EU's political commitment to underpin dialogue and cooperation between

³ Agreed by CONUN on 16 March (ref: ST 7261/22).

Europe and Asia, and further consolidate the EU's geopolitical role in the region. The EU also works to nurture regional organisations that can act as partners of dialogue in the region-to-region exchanges.

ASEM is an informal forum for dialogue and cooperation at different levels (heads of states or government, ministers, senior officials, experts) that brings together 31 European and 20 Asian-Pacific countries as well as the EU and ASEAN. This action will support ASEM initiatives in EU priority areas such as rapid, just and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery that creates long-term prosperity, sustainable connectivity, climate change, just and clean energy transition, responsible trade, cooperation and achievement of the SDGs, decent work, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, promotion of democracy, the rules-based international order, multilateralism and security, including counter-terrorism, migration, maritime security, non-proliferation and cyber issues. It will promote an enhanced understanding of EU priorities, strategic goals and policies in ASEM and support ASEM-related activities/events to increase people-to-people connectivity, including among civil society organisations (including organisations representing youth, human rights defenders, trade unions and women's voices) and informal exchanges between policy-makers.

ASEF has a de jure monopoly on the promotion of the non-governmental dialogue between Asia and Europe emanating from ASEM decisions. This action will empower ASEF's transition to enhanced people-to-people connectivity, engaging participants more in policy dialogues and exchanges and being an interface between civil society and ASEM governments. The action will support ASEF in partially playing the role of a secretariat of ASEM which does not have a permanent secretariat or other formal structure. It will support publication / distribution of information of EU strategic interest and interact with journalists, editors and media. The action will provide continuation to run the EU-funded ASEM InfoBoard (currently the only ASEM website and repository of documents), supporting the EU emphasis on the importance of sustainability, transparency, and project evaluation. Furthermore, the action will promote EU strategic interests via carefully selected ASEF activities of the ASEF work plans as approved by the Board of Governors, in which the EU is represented. ASEF is the main channel of the action to strengthen social, cultural and educational links between Asia and Europe. So far, the EU has been the largest single donor supporting ASEF's projects and functions.

ARF has 26 countries and the EU as members, is the only security-focused forum in the Asia-Pacific region and has 6 key themes: confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy; counterterrorism and transnational crime; maritime security; humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; cybersecurity; non-proliferation and disarmament). This action will support the EU's role and influence in the ARF and contribute to an effective regional, multilateral security architecture in the Indo-Pacific area in line with EU objectives including peace and security, stability, cooperation, capacity building, and the promotion of human rights, democracy, rule of law, gender equality, and decent work as a means to prevent insecurity caused by social tension. Broader EU engagement in the ARF will also continue to provide a vector through which the EU acts as a global security provider in areas as diverse as maritime security and cybersecurity cooperation, simultaneously supporting both capacity building for those ARF members with greater needs and cooperative approaches engaging all ARF partners. The action will support the implementation of annual ARF work plans. The action enables the EU to advance its priorities and to gain greater visibility by co-chairing and co-hosting ARF meetings. Chairing an Inter-Sessional Meeting gives great visibility and the possibility to steer ARF work in areas of prime importance for the region and the EU's external policies.

ASEAN is an official EU dialogue partner since 1977 and a strategic partner since 2020. This action supports the EU-ASEAN dialogue, including side events and related communication. The action is part of the EU-cooperation with ASEAN and complementary to other EU-funded actions, in particular thematic dialogue instruments:

- This action will support addressing global challenges through political dialogue and cooperation in established fora such EU-ASEAN Senior Officials' Meetings (SOMs), Ministerial Meetings and Summits.
- To raise awareness of and improve the understanding of EU policies in the ASEAN region, the action can support events that bring together civil society and governments from the EU and ASEAN regions in case other actions of the EU-ASEAN cooperation cannot support.
- The action can support communication related to both components.
- In addition, the action can initiate thematic dialogues in areas of EU interest where ASEAN does not express a wish for a dialogue. This represents additional flexibility compared to existing regional dialogue facilities which can only support thematic dialogues that have been requested by the ASEAN Secretariat. This will enable the EU to raise awareness and improve the understanding of EU policies in the ASEAN

region, preparing the ground for possible future dialogues in areas of EU interests. This can be through engagement with ASEAN, its member countries or civil society.

When working with fora where the EU is not yet present, the action will support the EU's objectives in the area of security and defence, including achieving observer status at the ADMM+ format, and its Expert Working Groups on Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, as well as member status at the EAS (any steps taken to formally alter the EU's status in regional fora will of course need to be endorsed at political level and respect EU law).

2.2 Problem Analysis

The EU is the third largest foreign investor and largest trading partner for ASEAN. It has around 20 active thematic dialogues with its strategic partner ASEAN – more than any other ASEAN dialogue partner – and holds regular high-level meetings. The EU is ASEAN's most significant collaborator in development cooperation.

However, perception of the EU in academia/research, business/finance, government, civil society / non-governmental organisations / media, and regional organisations in the ASEAN region is significantly below the real weight of the EU.

The *2021 Survey Report: The State of Southeast Asia* from the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute⁴ reveals that, with 51 %, the EU ranks second, after Japan, in trust. Many view the EU as a reliable champion on issues such as the rule of law, global governance, free trade, sustainability and climate change. However, in the discussion about economic power, political and strategic influence, the EU is only present very marginally.

Women make up slightly over half the population in ASEAN countries and significant progress has been made for women and girls in the region especially on access to education, participation in the labour force, increased quality or reproductive health and widened space to express their voices and exercise their rights. However, numerous challenges impeding the realisation of the full potential of women and girls remain in the region. Therefore, the EU can have an added value in supporting to address these. The action will support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III of the EU-ASEAN priorities [that is currently under development], and the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action.⁵

In the Indo-Pacific region, the EU is the top investor, the leading provider of development cooperation and one of the biggest trading partners. However, policy approaches of partners on key issues either differ from the EU or their complementarity with the EU's could be enhanced. The EU and the Indo-Pacific partners face increasingly similar security challenges and threats. The EU has expanded its security engagement with partners, but there is still a need to further maximise the benefits of being member of ARF and to play a stronger role in the ASEAN security architecture by participating in the ADMM+ structures and the East Asia Summit.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

This action aims to work towards a positioning of the European Union which is conducive to advance its interests in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geo-political changes. It relies on facts and their effective communication through locally tailored narratives to the right target audiences.

Stakeholders with whom the action should engage as target groups for better understanding between governments and citizens of Europe and Asia are the following:

1. think-tanks, the private sector and civil society organisations (including organisations representing youth, human rights defenders, trade unions and women's voices) from the EU, engaged in cooperation activities in the region and/or with the targeted regional organisations and partner countries;

⁴ <https://www.iseas.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-State-of-SEA-2021-v2.pdf>

⁵ [ASEAN-EU Plan of Action \(2018-2022\) - ASEAN](#)

2. national government and state authorities of ASEM, ARF and ASEAN partner countries (duty bearers) as appropriate according to EU guidance as well as government structures at regional level such as ASEAN institutions and mechanisms;
3. relevant non-state actors and national and regional civil society organisations in ASEM, ARF and ASEAN partner countries, engaged in cooperation activities in the region and/or with the targeted regional organisations and partner countries. Principally ASEF, whose activities provide a direct platform for dialogue between the government and civil society, channelling the latter's voice to the former, thus complementing (or as far as possible given its nature and in the current context, substituting) the government-led ASEM process with bottom-up input from civil society;
4. media, journalists and editors.

The action is a platform to give people living in the most vulnerable situations (e. g. women migrant workers in Southeast Asia) a voice, to promote decent work, gender equality and non-discrimination and to address climate change, including its effect on disaster and displacement. It also provides venues at various levels (e. g. ASEAN, ASEM) to address the migration and forced displacement situation originated by the vulnerable environment in Myanmar.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is:

European Union (EU) is positioned conducive to advance its interests and values (including human rights and gender equality and women's empowerment) in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geo-political changes

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are:

1. Understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) among members of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is enhanced, in compliance with the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*
2. EU strategic interests and values are promoted by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in line with its mandate
3. Role of the EU in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF) is more influential
4. Understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) by its strategic partner Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is enhanced
5. EU interest to become a member in fora where the EU is not yet present, is widely known by the participants of the respective fora

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 1.1 EU engagement with ASEM and Asian members of ASEM supported, in compliance with the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*
- 1.2 Initiatives to facilitate Asia-Europe cooperation in EU priority areas supported
- 2.1 ASEF supported to function as a permanent secretariat of ASEM
- 2.2 ASEF supported in distributing or publishing information
- 2.3 ASEF supported in carefully selected activities of EU strategic interests
- 3.1 Functioning of the ARF processes supported
- 3.2 ARF initiatives in EU priority areas supported
- 4.1 Functioning of the official EU-ASEAN dialogue mechanisms supported
- 4.2 ASEAN initiatives in EU priority areas supported
- 5.1 Advocacy for potential EU participation in fora where the EU would have an interest to be present, is promoted within the respective fora.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

- Support the EU's participation in ASEM Regional Coordination Meetings / ASEM Senior Officials' Meetings (SOMs) / ASEM Ministerial Meetings / ASEM Summits / other relevant meetings organised in part as an alternative to the ASEM process, as per EU instructions while considering gender equality and women's empowerment.⁶
- Support the participation of selected members, notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, in ASEM Regional Coordination Meetings / ASEM SOMs / ASEM Ministerial Meetings / ASEM Summits / other relevant meetings organised in part as an alternative to the ASEM process, as per EU instructions while considering gender equality and women's empowerment.⁷
- Support or organise ASEM Regional Coordination Meetings / ASEM SOMs / ASEM Ministerial Meetings / ASEM Summits / other relevant meetings organised in part as an alternative to the ASEM process, as per EU instructions.⁸

Activities related to Output 1.2:

- Support or organise (side) events of EU interest, including with think tanks, civil society organisations (including organisations representing youth, trade unions, human rights defenders and women's voices) and policy-makers, where not covered by ASEF, as per EU instructions while considering gender equality and women's empowerment as one area of main concern
- Support studies on topics of relevance to EU policy in the context of ASEM as per EU while considering gender equality and women's empowerment as one area of main concern
- Publish/Disseminate articles of EU strategic interest

Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Perform functions of a permanent secretariat of ASEM as per the work plans of ASEF

Activities related to Output 2.2:

- Maintain an ASEM information portal (e. g. ASEM InfoBoard which is the only ASEM website and repository of documents) as per the work plans of ASEF
- Publish/distribute information of EU strategic interest (incl. EU policy briefings/papers, contributions from EU-funded initiatives), including for dissemination by media / influencers / social media / at events as per the work plans of ASEF

Activities related to Output 2.3:

- Implement carefully selected activities of EU strategic interests as per the work plans of ASEF (e. g. events involving civil society and ASEM governments or events of people-to-people connectivity: ASEM Cultural Festival; side events to the ASEM Summits / Foreign Ministers' Meetings; ModelASEM to introduces students to the world of international relations, Asia-Europe diplomacy and negotiation; Young Leaders Seminar; Editors Roundtable, Journalists Seminar; Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Seminar, Human Rights Seminar)

Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Support the EU's participation in ARF Workshops / Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter-Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings as per EU instructions
- Support the participation of selected members, notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, in ARF Workshops / Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter-Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings as per EU instructions
- Support or organise Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter-Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings as per EU instructions
- Produce and/or disseminate policy briefings/papers as per EU instructions
- Facilitate contributions from relevant EU-funded actions as per EU instructions
- Coordinate with think-tanks, researchers, the academic sector and other actors of the civil society for contributions of EU interest as per EU instructions

⁶ In compliance with the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*

⁷ In compliance with the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*

⁸ In compliance with the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*

Activities related to Output 3.2:

- Support or organise ARF Workshops on topics of EU interest as per EU instructions
- Support or organise side events of EU interest to ARF events as per EU instructions, including with think tanks, civil society organisations and policy-makers
- Support studies about topics of relevance to EU policy as per EU instructions
- Publish/distribute information of EU strategic interest, including meeting outcomes, for dissemination by media / influencers / social media / at events as per EU instructions

Activities related to Output 4.1:

- Support the EU's participation in EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings as per EU instructions while considering gender equality and women's empowerment
- Support the participation of selected members, notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, in EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings as per EU instructions while considering gender equality and women's empowerment
- Support or organise EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings as per EU instructions
- Produce and/or disseminate policy briefings/papers as per EU instructions while considering gender equality and women's empowerment as one area of main concern
- Facilitate contributions from relevant EU-funded actions as per EU instructions
- Coordinate with think-tanks, researchers, the academic sector and other actors of the civil society for contributions of EU interest as per EU instructions

Activities related to Output 4.2:

- Support or organise (side) events bringing together representatives from the civil society (think-tanks, researchers, members of the academic sector, NGOs, trade unions, youth, gender-champions, women migrant workers, chambers of commerce, etc.) from the EU and ASEAN as per EU instructions
- Support or organise (side) events bringing together representatives from the civil society (think-tanks, researchers, members of the academic sector, NGOs, trade unions, youth, gender-champions, women migrant workers, chambers of commerce etc.) from the EU and/or ASEAN with ASEAN public servants / politicians / decision makers on requests from ASEAN supported by the EU
- Support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III of the EU-ASEAN priorities [that is currently under development]
- Providing technical assistance to ASEAN for policy development on requests from ASEAN supported by the EU
- Providing technical assistance to ASEAN for the revision of legal and strategic frameworks on requests from ASEAN supported by the EU
- Support studies about topics of relevance to EU policy in the context of ASEAN as per EU instructions
- Publish/distribute information of EU strategic interest, including meeting outcomes, for dissemination by media / influencers / social media / at events targeting ASEAN

Activities related to Output 5.1:

- Produce supporting material for informal talks with members of fora where the EU is not yet present, but interested to be present supported
- Assist in arranging informal talks with members of fora where the EU is not yet present, but interested to be present supported
- Support studies on topics of relevance to EU policy as per EU instructions
- Support the participation of selected members, notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, in these fora if that can open the door to the EU to become a member

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified this action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

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 at least one explicit gender equality objective backed by at least one gender-specific indicator (see Specific Objective / Outcome 1 and indicator 1.2). One main gender equality objective throughout Specific Objectives / Outcomes 1, 2 and 4 of is discussing gender equality and women's empowerment issues. In the longer run, the Overall Objective / Impact to which this action is contributing should result in more gender equality in public administrations which would, in turn, lead to more gender equality in meetings with representatives of the public sector.

Human Rights

The EU will follow and promote the human rights based approach (HRBA) in its dialogues in ASEM (partly supported by ASEF) and ARF as well as with ASEAN. The HRBA is a methodology that applies five working principles: 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. The HRBA addresses political sensitive issues that in a significant number of members of ASEM/ASEF, ARF and ASEAN are difficult to promote, for example the rights of LGBTIQ persons. This proposed action supports dialogues which are an important tool to find feasible, consensual solutions to the problems identified in the area of human rights.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that this action does not target the promotion of social, economic or political inclusion of persons with disabilities and respect for their inherent dignity in line with Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). However, leaving no one behind is important for ASEAN and for the EU and part of the dialogues and exchanges between the EU and ASEAN. Disability and inclusion are addressed by ASEF when addressing human rights, e. g. in informal ASEM human rights seminars. Events organised with the support of this action will pay attention to be accessible by people with disabilities.

Democracy

Democracy will be promoted in a suitable manner by the EU when working with ASEM, ASEF and ARF and is also emphasised in the dialogue with ASEAN, including a dialogue on human rights.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

By addressing fora like ASEM and ARF, ASEAN as well as ASEF, this action facilitates dialogue on a level playing field, promoting inclusion and peaceful settling of conflicts. The peace and security agenda is also part of the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III. The EU's engagement with member countries in the framework of ASEM, ASEF, ARF and ASEAN will be in line with and adapted to existing EU restrictive measures and EU policies of critical engagement if required (cfr. Russia, DPRK, Myanmar).

Disaster Risk Reduction

This action allows the promotion of EU policies on Disaster Risk Reduction, including EU support to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in ASEM (partly via ASEF), ARF and ASEAN. It will support the EU's objectives in the area of security and defence, including achieving observer status at the ADMM+ format, and its Expert Working Groups on Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.

Other considerations if relevant

This action is a tool to support EU dialogues, but the content of the dialogue has to come from the EU itself that, in turn, leads best by example. This is not different when it comes to cross-cutting and mainstreaming.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Risks related to the external environment	Risk 1: Cooperation at regional and sub-regional level remains hampered by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, long-standing unresolved historical legacies, and mounting geopolitical rivalries.	High	High	Any engagement with multilateral fora in which Russia is a member must comply with the EU's <i>Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine</i> , agreed by CONUN on 16 March (ref: ST 7261/22). Given that the ASEM process is currently on standby mode, attention should be refocussed on other fora/organisations (namely ASEAN, ARF, EAS, ADMM+) or new alternatives. The predecessor actions aimed to consolidate the EU role as a partner for regional integration and cooperation processes and leave well-established partnerships for leverage to achieve the transformative objectives of the geopolitical Commission. That reduces the likelihood of the risk.
Risks related to the external environment	Risk 2: Political/Reputational risk	Low	Low	Manageable through close coordination between the Commission and EU Member States.
Risks related to legality and regularity aspects	Risk 3: Financial risk	Low	Low	Adherence to existing financial procedures and guidelines will be ensured via the Commission's standard operating modalities for actions under direct and indirect management.

Lessons Learnt:

From the mid-term evaluation of the predecessor project working with ASEM, ARF and ASEAN; already considered in the current Action Document:

1. This action will play a role in supporting the **implementation of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific** by leveraging on its efforts with ASEM, EU-ASEAN relations and ARF. The strategy can shape the **engagement approach of the action** particularly with ASEM by focussing on like-minded countries, like its predecessor has done so far, regional blocks like ASEAN and also sub-regional groupings.
2. Physical events conducted were of added value as they provided opportunities for networking which helped EU and Asian stakeholders **deepen engagement**. The action should build on the **importance of networking** from physical events as it transitions to a post-COVID-19 recovery phase where the majority of the events will still be organised online and incorporate such networking opportunities in online events.

3. The need for **printed material** will dramatically reduce as a result of COVID-19 and new forms of work that have been mainstreamed. As a result new and more **engaging digital content** can take precedence and digital channels will be supported.
4. The Facebook video featuring musician and composer Nguyen Le received over **25,000 views**. This experience, demonstrates the **added value of the use of artists** as social media influencers and contemporary work to enhance visibility amongst a wider audience. This approach should be incorporated in communication and public diplomacy effort.
5. A study conducted contributed to the definition of **sustainable connectivity** at ASEM. This in turn has enabled the replication of this definition to guide connectivity partnerships between the EU and Asia including between EU and ASEAN. The strategic support provided has helped advance the EU agenda.
6. **Culture** is an important **partnership building tool** to deepen engagement and collaboration between EU and Asia. Cultural activities enable official and diplomatic concepts to reach a wider public audience. The powerful and subtle role of **culture in influencing perceptions** should be given importance and considered for major events.
7. The value of **collaboration**, towards mutual goals, such as organising a joint event, is an important approach to **build trust** between the EU and Asian stakeholders involved. This was evident in the collaboration for the ASEM Cultural Festivals and the hosting of events by countries such as Indonesia, Japan and Vietnam.
8. **Regular and targeted facilities** like the action to support the ASEM process, the EU-ASEAN strategic partnership and the EU's role within the ARF are important to build **confidence and trust** in the EU as a reliable and credible partner. Such tools should be continued for the foreseeable future to maintain and enhance this trust and to strengthen the relationships established.
9. Youth engagement is a **long-term low-cost investment** that has shown a lot of interest and potential. Strategic and continuous youth engagement activities/programmes will contribute towards positive visibility and benefit the EU agenda.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that its impact will position the EU conductively to advance its interests and values (including human rights, decent work and gender equality and women's empowerment) in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geo-political changes, exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. IF the activities are undertaken AND the assumptions hold true, THEN the Outputs will be produced. IF Outputs are delivered AND the assumptions at the level of Outputs hold true, THEN the Outcomes will be realised, BECAUSE the trust built between persons from the EU and Asia European during the joint activities and the exchanges measured at Output level will have led to an enhanced understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) among ASEM members (insofar as possible), to a promotion of EU strategic interests and values by ASEF) to a more influential role of the EU in ARF, to an enhanced understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) by its strategic partner ASEAN and to members in fora where the EU is not yet present, but interested to be present, widely knowing the EU interest to become a member. This intervention logic is supported by the lessons learnt resulting from the mid-term evaluation of the predecessor action working with ASEM, ARF and ASEAN. IF the Outcomes are achieved AND the assumptions at this level hold true, THEN the action will contribute to the desired Impact. This is BECAUSE better understanding of EU objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment), paired with stronger EU presence and interaction, will position the EU conductively to advance its interests in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geo-political changes.

Key assumptions are:

- There is no further degradation of the political and economic situation in Europe and Asia.
- The EU is able to maintain engagement with multilateral Asia.
- The ASEF Board of Governors, which is constituted by representatives nominated by ASEM partner governments, will ensure the adequate planning and execution of ASEF activities.

The action supports diplomacy and combines it with public diplomacy to reach its objectives. As such, it should be aligned to overarching regional and country specific strategic plans to ensure complementarity of activities. The action uses platforms for dialogue at various levels to address global challenges like climate change and migration and forced displacement as well as EU priorities like gender equality and women's empowerment and (re)building in a more resilient way to contribute to several SDGs.

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.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

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	European Union (EU) is positioned conductively to advance its interests and values (including human rights and gender equality and women's empowerment) in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geo-political changes	1. Number of policies related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced *** 2. Number of policies related gender equality and women's empowerment which have been influenced	1. 0 2. 0	1. 3 2. 1	1. Ex-post evaluation 2. Ex-post evaluation	Not applicable

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
Outcome 1	1. Understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) among members of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is enhanced	1.1 Extent to which ASEM members are aware of can name EU policies, objectives, interests and/or values 1.2 Extent to which ASEM members can name are aware of gender equality and women's empowerment as EU policy, objective, interest and/or value	1.1 no data [baseline required] 1.2 no data [baseline required]	1.1 no data [target to be set after baseline is known] 1.2 no data [target to be set after baseline is known]	1.1 Surveys/Interviews 1.2 Surveys/Interviews	1.1 High-level meetings also provide room for surveys/interviews 1.2 High-level meetings also provide room for surveys/interviews
Outcome 2	2. EU strategic interests and values are promoted by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in line with its mandate	2.1 Extent to which the participants (male/female/other) in activities recall EU strategic interests/priorities	2.1 no data [baseline required]	2.1 no data [target to be set after baseline is known]	2.1 Surveys/Interviews	2.1 It is assumed that the ASEF Board of Governors, which is constituted by representatives nominated by ASEM partner governments, will ensure the adequate planning and execution of ASEF activities by the ASEF staff and their

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
						alignment with the overall government- led ASEM process.
Outcome 3	3. Role of the EU in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF) is more influential	3.1 Extent to which the official meeting reports reflect EU policies in the area of confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy 3.2 Extent to which the official meeting reports reflect EU policies in the area of counterterrorism and transnational crime 3.3 Extent to which the official meeting reports reflect EU policies in the area of maritime security 3.4 Extent to which the official meeting reports reflect EU policies in the area of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief 3.5 Extent to which the official meeting reports reflect EU	3.1 no data [baseline required] 3.2 no data [baseline required] 3.3 no data [baseline required] 3.4 no data [baseline required] 3.5 no data [baseline required] 3.6 no data [baseline required]	3.1 no data [target to be set after baseline is known] 3.2 no data [target to be set after baseline is known] 3.3 no data [target to be set after baseline is known] 3.4 no data [target to be set after baseline is known] 3.5 no data [target to be set after baseline is known] 3.6 no data [target to be set after	3.1 Information from the EEAS Desk 3.2 Information from the EEAS Desk 3.3 Information from the EEAS Desk 3.4 Information from the EEAS Desk 3.5 Information from the EEAS Desk 3.6 Information from the EEAS Desk	3.1 EU provides information 3.2 EU provides information 3.3 EU provides information 3.4 EU provides information 3.5 EU provides information 3.6 EU provides information

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
		<p>policies in the area of cybersecurity</p> <p>3.6 Extent to which the official meeting reports reflect EU policies in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament</p>		baseline is known]		
Outcome 4	4. Understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) by its strategic partner Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is enhanced	<p>4.1 Number of thematic areas with active EU-ASEAN dialogues, reflecting the understanding of the EU approach to address common challenges together</p> <p>Number of thematic areas addressing gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>Number of areas where the EU supports, but there is no active dialogue yet</p> <p>4.2 Level of EU influence perceived in ASEAN</p>	<p>4.1 20</p> <p>4.2 0</p> <p>4.3 1</p> <p>4.4 Low as per the 2021 Survey Report: The State of Southeast Asia from the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute</p>	<p>4.1 21</p> <p>4.2 1</p> <p>4.3 0</p> <p>4.4 Moderate as per the 2025 Survey Report: The State of Southeast Asia from the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute</p>	<p>4.1 Information from the EEAS Desk and the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN</p> <p>4.2 Information from the EEAS Desk and the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN</p> <p>4.3 Information from the EEAS Desk and the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN</p>	<p>4.1 EU provides information</p> <p>4.2 EU provides information</p> <p>4.3 EU provides information</p> <p>4.4 2024 Survey Report: The State of Southeast Asia from the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute will be published and include relevant information about the EU</p>

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
					4.4 2024 Survey Report: The State of Southeast Asia from the ASEAN Studies Centre at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute	
Outcome 5	5. EU interest to become a member in fora where the EU is not yet present, is widely known by the participants of the respective fora	<p>5.1 Extent to which Defence Ministers/Secretaries of ASEAN member countries know the EU interest to become a member of the ADMM+</p> <p>5.2 Extent to which Defence Ministers/Secretaries of ASEAN member countries know what the EU can offer as a member of the ADMM+</p> <p>5.3 Extent to which Defence Ministers/Secretaries of ASEAN member countries know the EU interest to become a member of the EAS</p> <p>5.4 Extent to which Defence</p>	<p>4.1 no data [baseline required]</p> <p>4.2 no data [baseline required]</p> <p>4.3 no data [baseline required]</p> <p>4.4 no data [baseline required]</p> <p>4.5 0</p> <p>4.6 0</p>	<p>5.1 10</p> <p>5.2 10</p> <p>5.3 10</p> <p>5.4 10</p> <p>5.5 0</p> <p>5.6 0</p>	<p>5.1 Information from the EEAS Desk, summarising the outcome of demarches</p> <p>5.2 Information from the EEAS Desk, summarising the outcome of demarches</p> <p>5.3 Information from the EEAS Desk, summarising the outcome of demarches</p> <p>5.4 Information from the EEAS Desk, summarising the outcome of demarches</p>	<p>5.1 EU does demarches and provides information</p> <p>5.2 EU does demarches and provides information</p> <p>5.3 EU does demarches and provides information</p> <p>5.4 EU does demarches and provides information</p> <p>5.5 No EU requests for action</p> <p>5.6 No EU requests for action</p>

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
		<p>Ministers/Secretaries of ASEAN member countries know what the EU can offer as a member of the EAS</p> <p>5.5 Extent to which member of other fora know the EU interest to become a member of the respective forum</p> <p>5.6 Extent to which member of other fora know what the EU can offer as a member of the respective forum</p>			<p>5.5 Information from the EEAS Desk, summarising the outcome of demarches</p> <p>5.6 Information from the EEAS Desk, summarising the outcome of demarches</p>	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Functioning of the ASEM processes supported EU engagement with ASEM and Asian members of ASEM supported, in compliance with the EU's <i>Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine</i>	<p>1.1.1 The ASEM process is effectively kept on standby</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of ASEM events organised without the participation of Russia</p> <p>1.1.3 Number of EU representatives (male/female/other) supported to participate in ASEM meetings, organised without the</p>	<p>1.1.1 ASEM process still in existence</p> <p>1.1.2 0</p> <p>1.1.3 0</p> <p>1.1.4 0</p> <p>1.1.5 0</p>	<p>1.1.1 ASEM process still in existence</p> <p>1.1.2 To be defined in inception report</p> <p>1.1.3 To be defined in inception report</p> <p>1.1.4 To be defined</p>	<p>1.1.1 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.1.2 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.1.3 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.1.4 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.1.5 Reports of the action</p>	<p>1.1.1 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.1.2 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.1.3 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.1.4 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.1.5 EU makes requests</p>

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
		<p>1.1.4 participation of Russia Number of selected members (male/female/other), notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, supported to participate in ASEM meetings, organised without the participation of Russia</p> <p>1.1.5 Number of events supported by this action and organised in part as an alternative to the ASEM process</p>		<p>in inception report</p> <p>1.1.5 To be defined in inception report</p>		
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Initiatives to facilitate Asia-Europe cooperation in EU priority areas supported	<p>1.2.1 Number of (side) events of EU interest supported, where not covered by ASEF</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of (side) events on gender equality and women's empowerment supported, including with think tanks, civil society organisations and policy-makers, where not covered by ASEF.</p>	<p>1.2.1 0</p> <p>1.2.2 0</p> <p>1.2.3 0</p> <p>1.2.4 0</p> <p>1.2.5 0</p> <p>1.2.6 0</p> <p>1.2.7 0</p>	<p>1.2.1 12</p> <p>1.2.2 1</p> <p>1.2.3 6</p> <p>1.2.4 1</p> <p>1.2.5 6</p> <p>1.2.6 1</p> <p>1.2.7 10,000</p>	<p>1.2.1 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.2.2 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.2.3 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.2.4 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.2.5 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.2.6 Reports of the action</p> <p>1.2.7 Reports of the action</p>	<p>1.2.1 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.2.2 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.2.3 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.2.4 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.2.5 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.2.6 EU makes requests</p> <p>1.2.7 EU makes requests</p>

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
		1.2.3 Number of (side) events of EU interest organised, including with think tanks, civil society organisations and policy-makers, where not covered by ASEF 1.2.4 Number of (side) events on gender equality and women's empowerment organised, including with think tanks, civil society organisations and policy-makers, where not covered by ASEF 1.2.5 Number of studies on topics of relevance to EU policy in the context of ASEM supported 1.2.6 Number of studies on gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of ASEM supported 1.2.7 Persons (male/female/other) reached by articles of EU strategic interest				
Output 1	2.1 ASEF supported to function as a permanent secretariat of ASEM	2.1.1 Functions of a permanent secretariat of ASEM as per the	2.1.1 1 (performed)	2.1.1 1 (performed)	2.1.1 Reports of the action	2.1.1 In ASEF work plans

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
related to Outcome 2		work plans of ASEF performed				
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 ASEF supported in distributing or publishing information	2.2.1 ASEM information portal maintained 2.2.2 Persons reached by articles of EU strategic interest (incl. EU policy briefings/papers, contributions from EU-funded initiatives)	2.2.1 1 2.2.2 0	2.2.1 1 2.2.2 10,000	2.2.1 Reports of the action 2.2.2 Reports of the action	2.2.1 In ASEF work plans 2.2.2 In ASEF work plans
Output 3 related to Outcome 2	2.3 ASEF supported in carefully selected activities of EU strategic interests	2.3.1 Number of carefully selected activities of EU strategic interests as per the work plans of ASEF implemented	2.3.1 0	2.3.1 12	2.3.1 Reports of the action	2.3.1 In ASEF work plans
Output 1 related to Outcome 3	3.1 Functioning of the ARF processes supported	3.1.1 Number of EU representatives (male/female/other) supported to participate in ARF Workshops / Inter- Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter- Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings 3.1.2 Number of selected members (male/female/other),	3.1.1 0 3.1.2 0 3.1.3 0 3.1.4 0 3.1.5 0 3.1.6 0 3.1.7 0 3.1.8 0 3.1.9 0	3.1.1 72 3.1.2 160 3.1.3 12 3.1.4 3 3.1.5 30 3.1.6 30 3.1.7 60 3.1.8 60 3.1.9 3	3.1.1 Reports of the action 3.1.2 Reports of the action 3.1.3 Reports of the action 3.1.4 Reports of the action 3.1.5 Reports of the action 3.1.6 Reports of the action 3.1.7 Reports of the action	3.1.1 EU makes requests 3.1.2 EU makes requests 3.1.3 EU makes requests 3.1.4 EU makes requests 3.1.5 EU makes requests 3.1.6 EU makes requests 3.1.7 Relevant EU-funded actions are

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
		<p>notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, supported to participate in ARF Workshops / Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter-Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings</p> <p>3.1.3 Number of Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter-Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings supported</p> <p>3.1.4 Number of Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISMs) / Inter-Sessional Support Groups (ISGs) / ARF SOMs / ARF Ministerial Meetings organised</p> <p>3.1.5 Number of policy briefings/papers produced</p> <p>3.1.6 Number of policy briefings/papers disseminated</p> <p>3.1.7 Number of contributions from</p>			<p>3.1.8 Reports of the action</p> <p>3.1.9 Reports of the action</p>	<p>mapped by the EU and cooperate</p> <p>3.1.8 EU gives directions</p> <p>3.1.9 EU makes requests</p>

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
		<p>relevant EU-funded projects received</p> <p>3.1.8 Number of contributions of EU interest from think-tanks, researchers, the academic sector and other actors of the civil society received</p> <p>3.1.9 Number of occasions where other form of support to the implementation of annual ARF work plans was provided</p>				
Output 2 related to Outcome 3	3.2 ARF initiatives in EU priority areas supported	<p>3.2.1 Number of ARF Workshops on topics of EU interest supported</p> <p>3.2.2 Number of ARF Workshops on topics of EU interest organised</p> <p>3.2.3 Number of side events of EU interest to ARF events supported, including with think tanks, civil society organisations and policy-makers</p> <p>3.2.4 Number of side events of EU interest to ARF events organised, including with think tanks, civil</p>	<p>3.2.1 0</p> <p>3.2.2 0</p> <p>3.2.3 0</p> <p>3.2.4 0</p> <p>3.2.5 0</p> <p>3.2.6 0</p>	<p>3.2.1 6</p> <p>3.2.2 6</p> <p>3.2.3 6</p> <p>3.2.4 6</p> <p>3.2.5 9</p> <p>3.2.6 10,000</p>	<p>3.2.1 Reports of the action</p> <p>3.2.2 Reports of the action</p> <p>3.2.3 Reports of the action</p> <p>3.2.4 Reports of the action</p> <p>3.2.5 Reports of the action</p> <p>3.2.6 Reports of the action</p>	<p>3.2.1 EU makes request</p> <p>3.2.2 EU makes request</p> <p>3.2.3 EU makes request</p> <p>3.2.4 EU makes request</p> <p>3.2.5 EU makes request</p> <p>3.2.6 -</p>

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
		3.2.5 society organisations and policy-makers Number of studies about topics of relevance to EU policy supported 3.2.6 Persons reached by articles of EU strategic interest				
Output 1 related to Outcome 4	4.1 Functioning of the official EU-ASEAN dialogue mechanisms supported	4.1.1 Number of EU representatives (female/male/other) supported to participate in EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings as per EU instructions 4.1.2 Number of selected members (female/male/other), notably from officials of less developed countries or presenters, supported to participate in EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings as per EU instruction	4.1.1 0 4.1.2 0 4.1.3 0 4.1.4 0 4.1.5 0 4.1.6 0 4.1.7 0 4.1.8 0 4.1.9 0 4.1.10 0	4.1.1 9 4.1.2 27 4.1.3 9 4.1.4 9 4.1.5 9 4.1.6 1 4.1.7 9 4.1.8 1 4.1.9 18 4.1.10 18	4.1.1 Reports of the action 4.1.2 Reports of the action 4.1.3 Reports of the action 4.1.4 Reports of the action 4.1.5 Reports of the action 4.1.6 Reports of the action 4.1.7 Reports of the action 4.1.8 Reports of the action 4.1.9 Reports of the action 4.1.10 Reports of the action	4.1.1 EU makes requests 4.1.2 EU makes requests 4.1.3 EU makes requests 4.1.4 EU makes requests 4.1.5 EU makes requests 4.1.6 EU makes requests 4.1.7 Relevant EU-funded actions are mapped by the EU and cooperate 4.1.8 EU gives directions 4.1.9 EU gives directions 4.1.10 EU gives directions

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
		<p>4.1.3 Number of EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings supported</p> <p>4.1.4 Number of EU-ASEAN SOMs / EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meetings / EU-ASEAN Summits and preparatory meetings organised</p> <p>4.1.5 Number of policy briefings/papers produced</p> <p>4.1.6 Number of policy briefings/papers on gender equality and women's empowerment produced</p> <p>4.1.7 Number of policy briefings/papers disseminated</p> <p>4.1.8 Number of policy briefings/papers on gender equality and women's empowerment disseminated</p> <p>4.1.9 Number of contributions from relevant EU-funded actions facilitated</p>				

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
		4.1.10 Number of contributions of EU interest from think-tanks, researchers, the academic sector and other actors of the civil society received				
Output 2 related to Outcome 4	4.2 ASEAN initiatives in EU priority areas supported	4.2.1 Number of EU-ASEAN meetings supported 4.2.2 Number of EU-ASEAN meetings organised with the support of this action for facilitating EU's policy dialogue* 4.2.3 Percentage of actions of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III of the EU-ASEAN priorities implemented 4.2.4 Days of technical assistance provided to ASEAN for policy	4.2.1 0 4.2.2 0 4.2.3 0 4.2.4 0 4.2.5 0 4.2.6 0 4.2.7 0	4.2.1 1 4.2.2 9 4.2.3 75 % of the GAP III of EU-ASEAN priorities 4.2.4 6 4.2.5 30 4.2.6 6 4.2.7 20,000	4.2.1 Reports of the action 4.2.2 Reports of the action 4.2.3 Reports of the action 4.2.4 Reports of the action 4.2.5 Reports of the action 4.2.6 Reports of the action 4.2.7 Reports of the action	4.2.1 ASEAN maintains its interest in dialogue 4.2.2 ASEAN maintains its interest in dialogue 4.2.3 GAP III of the EU-ASEAN priorities is finalised before the start of the action 4.2.4 ASEAN makes requests 4.2.5 ASEAN makes requests 4.2.6 Room for studies left which is not covered by other EU-ASEAN actions

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
		<p>development on requests from ASEAN</p> <p>4.2.5 Days of technical assistance provided to ASEAN for the revision of legal and strategic frameworks on requests from ASEAN</p> <p>4.2.6 Number of studies about topics of relevance to EU policy in the context of ASEAN supported</p> <p>4.2.7 Persons reached by articles/reports of EU strategic interest, including meeting outcomes, published / distributed for dissemination by media /</p>				4.2.7 -

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
		influencers / social media / at events targeting ASEAN				
Output 1 related to Outcome 5	5.1 Advocacy for potential EU membership in fora where the EU is not yet present, but interested to be present supported	5.1.1 Number of supported approaches to ADMM+ 5.1.2 Number of supported approaches to EAS 5.1.3 Number of supported approaches to other fora	5.1.1 0 5.1.2 0 5.1.3 0	5.1.1 3 5.1.2 3 5.1.3 0	5.1.1 Reports of the action 5.1.2 Reports of the action 5.1.3 Reports of the action	5.1.1 EU makes requests 5.1.2 EU makes requests 5.1.3 No EU request for action

* from the Multiannual Indicative Programme (exact wording: “Number of EU-ASEAN meetings organised with the support of the EU’s policy dialogue facilitation instrument”)

*** from Annex VI of NIDCI Regulation: List of Key Performance Indicators

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement.

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 48 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 measures⁹.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Specific Objective / Outcome:

2. EU strategic interests and values promoted by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in line with its mandate

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), in accordance with the provisions of article 195 (c) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1049.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has a de jure monopoly on the promotion of the non-governmental dialogue between Asia and Europe emanating from Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) decisions.

4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Specific Objectives / Outcomes:

1. Understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) among members of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is enhanced, in compliance with the EU's *Principles regarding Russia and Belarus in multilateral fora following the Russian aggression against Ukraine*
3. Role of the EU in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum (ARF) is more influential

⁹ 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. Understanding of EU policies, objectives, interests and values (including on gender equality and women's empowerment) by its strategic partner Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is enhanced
5. EU interest to become a member in fora where the EU is not yet present, is widely known by the participants of the respective fora.

Due to the need to ensure continuity of EU support to the targeted fora, it will be necessary to launch a call for tenders with a suspensive clause before the adoption of the Commission Decision. The current phase of EU support to the targeted fora will end in January 2023. The call for tenders may be launched as of June 2022. This will enable implementation of this proposed phase of support to begin immediately after the ongoing phase ends.

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 realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: Singapore and Brunei.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Specific Objectives / Outcomes 1, 3, 4 and 5 composed of	3 300 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2.	
Specific Objective / Outcome 2 composed of	1 500 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1.	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	will be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Totals	4 800 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Specific Objective / Outcome 2 (ASEF) will be steered by the ASEF Board of Governors, in which the EU is represented, through work plans and the monitoring of their implementation. Regular reporting to the European Commission will also allow for appropriate steering.

Specific Objectives / Outcomes 1, 3, 4 and 5 (ASEM, ARF, ASEAN and other fora where the EU is interested to become a member) will be steered by a committee to be set up at the beginning of the intervention. The Steering Committee should be chaired by the Delegation of the European Union to ASEAN and should comprise of representatives from DG INTPA of the European Commission and the European External Action Service. Other DGs of the European Commission, Agencies of the European Union, the ASEAN Secretariat, representatives from ASEAN member countries, ARF participants and members of ASEM can be invited. For the best coordination with Specific Objective / Outcome 2, ASEF can participate in discussions of the Steering Committee too. The Steering Committee can create thematic Sub-Steering Committees.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 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 partner 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. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex (where applicable). All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and gender equality.

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 logframe matrix indicates the data for which a baseline is necessary. Such a baseline will be undertaken by ASEF for Specific Objective / Outcome 2 and by the implementing partner for the remaining data at the beginning of the action. Indicators will be measured aggregated and, if possible, in addition on a country-by-country basis.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via (an) implementing partner(s). It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the appropriate mix of activities and outputs for achieving the objectives.

An ex-post evaluation may be carried out of this action or its components contracted by the Commission. It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that it will not be possible to measure the impact during the action and that an ex-post evaluation could focus on the impact of the action.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month 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.

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

The financing of the evaluation 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 COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain 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 materials 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.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities under the present action will be integrated into and aligned with the Delegation's strategic plan. The HQ-level strategic communication and public diplomacy Coordination Mechanism of EEAS-INTPA-FPI-NEAR should be informed of the activities to be carried out under this action in order to ensure complementarity with other ongoing or foreseen actions in the region.