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ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on Support Measures and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2021

Action Document for Support Measures and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2021

ANNUAL

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and an action plan in the sense of Article 24(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Support Measures and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2021 CRIS number: NDICI ASIA/2021/043-620 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (inter alia) TEI.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the following countries, but is open to all countries in the region. Middle East and Central Asia Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan*, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan*, Uzbekistan, Yemen South and East Asia Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia*, Laos, Malaysia*, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand*, Vietnam The Pacific¹ Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

¹ The EU and Pacific States are implementing an EPA, and have undertaken to promote trade in a way that meets internationally recognized labour standards, as well as safeguards on environment and the management of natural resources. The Parties are developing joint instruments on trade and sustainable development, whose rolling out need to be promoted and supported.

	Countries marked with a • have a country programming entirely devoted to a cooperation facility subject of a specific decision. These countries and countries without a bilateral MIP can only benefit from the present action through the regional programming funds.
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) of all countries of the region, as well as the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific.
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	This action is linked to the Support measures and Cooperation facility objectives of all the MIPs concerned.

PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 17 (Partnerships for the goals)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multi-sector aid			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	50000 – Other			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. 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 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 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	☒	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of inequalities	☒	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	☒	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget lines: 14 02 01 30 Middle East and Central Asia EUR 2,489,000 14 02 01 31 South and East Asia EUR 5,563,000 14 02 01 32 The Pacific EUR 1,848,000 Total estimated cost: EUR 9,900,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 9,900,000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants (section 3.2 d), below) - Twinning and TAIEX grants (section 3.2 a), below) - Procurement			
14. Type of measure	☒ Cooperation facility ☒ Measures in favour of Civil Society			

1.2. Summary of the Action

The Support Measures and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2021 provides the European Commission the possibility to finance small-scale activities that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) in those regions.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The EU's current vision, interests and priorities in Asia-Pacific are outlined by various EU strategies, including the September 2021 Joint Communication on the EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy as well as the Political and Security Committee recommendations on the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council relations. They are broad and deep, spanning from profound economic and trade interests with asymmetrically growing interdependences, addressing global challenges

such as climate change and environmental degradation, support for multilateralism, promotion of human rights, democracy and gender equality as well as peace, security and stability, reducing inequalities, and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction. Promoting sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity and addressing challenges of migrants and displaced people are EU priorities as is strengthening joined-up approaches to tackle shared challenges with regional associations.

These strategies will be implemented in the years to come through the various programmes, both at national or regional level. Their implementation require support measures, which will help in different ways the European action on the ground.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Support measures are needed to reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of the programmes' implementation, as well as ensure synergy between the development cooperation and policy objectives. They could allow studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts; research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof; expenditure related to the provision of information and communication actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication and visibility of the political priorities of the Union. In particular, these measures will also support strategic and inclusive communication designed to increase public awareness and understanding of the EU and its role in the country, as well as public diplomacy activities designed to build, strengthen and connect networks. All strategic communication and public diplomacy activities will be based on a strategic plan drawn up at Delegation level.

This cooperation facility is also an important tool which will be used to ensure that a human right based approach and a gender equality perspective are applied throughout EU programmes, in line notably with GAP III requirements.

The end beneficiaries are citizens of the eligible countries, as projects will be better prepared (including consultations with civil society organisations), monitored (gender and human rights sensitive), followed-up and communicated.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The main objective of this action is to facilitate the implementation of national and regional programmes by providing funding for all necessary support operations. The expected outputs of this action are directly linked to those of the main actions that it supports.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Based on Article 24(2) of the NDICI Global Europe Regulation, the Support Measures and Cooperation Facility for Asia and the Pacific 2021 may cover studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts; research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof; expenditure related to the provision of information and communication actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication and visibility of the political priorities of the Union.

Those measures may cover:

- a) Support to capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise, such as TAIEX and Twinning.
- b) Support to policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, surveys, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders, as well as information sharing, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices;
- c) Research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof;
- d) Actions to support the participation of the country in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies and Civil Society Organisations, where relevant.
- e) Other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts, including to facilitate Joint Programming / Team Europe / GAP III commitments coordination at country level;

- f) Strategic communication activities to raise awareness and understanding of the EU's values, policies and priorities, as well as public diplomacy activities designed to build, maintain and strengthen networks. Actions to tackle disinformation may also be undertaken as according to the objective(s) specified in the strategic plan. Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities should also promote the Team Europe approach and specific initiatives. Attention is paid that communication activities are accessible to wide population including women, older persons and persons with disabilities.
- g) Support to the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation, ensuring the mainstreaming of gender and LGBTQI issues and human rights sensitivity.

3.3. Mainstreaming

The NDICI-Global Europe Regulation Article 8.8 specifies that "Programmes and actions under this Regulation shall mainstream the fight against climate change, environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction and shall address interlinkages between SDGs, to promote integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way."

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Given the experience from similar support measures since 2006², it is assumed that there is a genuine need for this instrument that allows Commission Headquarters and Delegations to plan cooperation-related activities in a flexible way. Due the specificity of this measure there are no major risks and assumptions. However fully successful implementation will depend on:

- willingness of the partner countries to continuing the process of improvement of their institutions;
- keeping and improving of the political, social and economic stability, as well as the commitments to human rights, gender equality, democracy, inequalities and peacebuilding;
- successful mitigation and management of climate-induced risks and natural disasters which can alter the development agenda and immediate needs of the countries involved;
- good use of this instrument by EU Delegations and Headquarters, which shall maintain the leading role in preparation and implementation of cooperation programmes and policy dialogue with the countries' governments;
- provision of assistance to the Delegations interested in the tool;
- good EU internal co-ordination;
- good management of the various contracts;
- high quality of experts supplied;
- full involvement and support of beneficiary countries and related stakeholders in the implementation of the activities.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The utilisation of the support measure funds by the EU Delegations in the NDICI Global Europe countries mentioned above as well as Commission services depends on management needs arising in the programme/project cycle, follow-up and monitoring needs, information and communication activities and organisation of meetings and training activities arising throughout the year. Each beneficiary Delegation and Commission service makes its initial annual plan for using the support measure funds in the beginning of each year at the latest, and the plan is updated throughout the year when need occurs.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

² C(2006) 5407 of 15.11.2006, C(2006) 5555 of 23.11.2006, C(2007) 2507 of 18.06.2007, C(2007) 6486 of 20.12.2007, C(2008) 2977 of 25.06.2008, C(2008) 5933 of 16.10.2008, C(2009) 2033 of 24.03.2009, C(2009)5957 of 03.08.2009, C(2010) 3926 of 01.07.2010, C(2010) 6047 of 13.10.2010, C(2010) 7241 of 26.10.2010, C(2011) 5486 of 03.08.2011, C(2012) 2717 of 27.04.2012, C(2013) 2988 of 24.05.2013, C(2013) 4075 of 04.07.2013, C(2014) 5598 of 08.08.2014, C(2014) 9161 of 05.12.2014, C(2014) 9773 of 17.12.2014, C(2017) 759 of 08.02.2017.

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 36 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. Budget Support – NOT APPLICABLE

4.4. Implementation Modalities

The programme will be implemented through direct management using procurement contracts or grants in the case of TAIEX or Twinning operations.

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 measures³.

4.4.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants may be awarded in the case of a TAIEX or Twinning operation.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Public administrations of EU Member States relevant to TAIEX or Twinning beneficiaries.

4.4.2. Direct Management (Prize(s)) – NOT APPLICABLE

4.4.3. Direct Management (Procurement)

It is expected that procurement of service contracts will represent the biggest implementation modality.

4.5. 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).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Budget line 14 02 01 30 Middle East and Central Asia composed of	2 489 000

³ 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.

Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	124 450
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	2 364 550
Budget line 14 02 01 31 South and East Asia composed of	5 563 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	278 150
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	5 284 850
Budget line 14 02 01 32 The Pacific composed of	1 848 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	92 400
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3	1 755 600
Grants total envelope under section 4.4.1	495 000
Procurement total envelope under section 4.4.3	9 405 000
TOTAL	9 900 000

4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Following the adoption of this Commission Decision, the EU Delegations and Commission services benefiting from this support measure will prepare an initial plan for the utilisation of the funds and they are responsible for their contracting. These activities will be identified on a country-by-country basis by the EU Delegations and/or by the Commission Headquarters in consultation with the EU Delegations in the region. Detailed terms of reference will be prepared and attached to each activity.

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.

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).

Key indicators for measuring the performance of this operation will be:

- short-term technical assistance activities delivered;
- study and reports submitted;
- identification and formulation missions funded;
- meetings, specific events and trainings carried out;
- people reached and engaged via strategic communication activities.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex when relevant. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights based approach and gender equality.

Key indicators for measuring the performance of this operation will be derived from the Contractor Assessment Form to be completed at the end of the assignments covering performance of the contractor, performance of experts and overall performance.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

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 has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources, consolidating them in Cooperation Facilities established by Support Measures Action Documents. This will allow Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national and regional scale.

To that end, Delegations will develop 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 plans will be endorsed by a coordination mechanism comprised of the EEAS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI, and will be reviewed, modified and extended as appropriate as part of the MTR process. The strategic plan will include key administrative information (timeline, budget and the programme manager responsible for implementation) and cover the following:

1. audiences targeted;
2. for each group targeted, the principal communication objective, couched in terms of measurable outcomes;
3. the core narrative, formulated in terms not of what we do in the country concerned, but why we do it;
4. preliminary suggestions for content (messages, straplines, hashtags), partnerships (influencers) and channels, plan for inclusiveness of communication.

All outreach activities share the objective of supporting the achievement of EU policy priorities and will do so via some complementary strands of work: i) inform relevant publics about key policies and priorities via timely campaigns and strategic communication initiatives; ii) strengthen bi/multi-lateral relations by engaging with key audiences and partners over the long term to build trust, foster people-to-people contacts, grow and mobilise networks via public diplomacy actions; and iii) tackle disinformation and information manipulation and enhance the resilience of the information environment via dedicated initiatives.

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 materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation applies 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.

APPENDIX COMMISSION DECISION

Action Document	Annex Commission Decision
1. SYNOPSIS	
1.1. Action Summary Table	Yes
1.2. Summary of the Action	Yes
2. RATIONALE	
2.1. Context	Yes
2.2. Problem Analysis	Yes
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION	
3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs	Yes
3.2. Indicative Activities	Yes
3.3. Mainstreaming	Yes

Action Document	Annex Commission Decision
3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt	Yes
3.5. Logical Framework Matrix	Yes
4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	
4.1. Financing Agreement	Yes
4.2. Indicative Implementation Period	Yes
4.3. Implementation Modalities	Yes
4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants	Yes
4.5. Indicative Budget	Yes
4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities	Yes
5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT	
5.1. Monitoring and Reporting	Yes
5.2. Evaluation	Yes
5.3. Audit and Verifications	Yes
6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY	
6. Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy	Yes