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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX II**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Annual Action Plan in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean – part III – for 2024

**Action Document for Supporting Agricultural Green Transition in Argentina**

**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 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>business</b> <b>reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	Supporting Agricultural Green Transition in Argentina OPSYS: ACT-62279 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	TEI - Green Investment and Sustainable Value Chains
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Argentina (specific location of pilot experiences to be defined upon projects presentation and approval).
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027 <sup>1</sup>
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	Areas of work and potential collaboration between the European Union and Argentina linked to this proposal are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promotion of social cohesion, inclusion and social development</li><li>• Climate change, environment and energy</li><li>• Economic, commercial and investment cooperation</li><li>• Human rights and strengthening of civil society</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9356 on 13.12.2021.

PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	311 - Agriculture 122 - Basic Health
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p><b>Main SDGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 2. Zero Hunger: End hunger, <b>achieve food security</b> and improved nutrition <b>and promote sustainable agriculture</b>.</li> <li>SDG 13. Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.</li> </ul> <p>Targets:</p> <p>2.2. end all forms of malnutrition</p> <p><b>2.3. double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers</b>, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment</p> <p><b>2.4 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production</b></p> <p><b>2.5 increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services</b>, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.</p> <p>Other significant SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere</li> <li>SDG 3. Good health and well-being</li> <li>SDG 8. Decent work and economic growth</li> <li>SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production</li> <li>SDG 15: Life on Land: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li> </ul>
8 a) DAC code(s)	31110 Agricultural Policy and administrative management 1240 Basic Nutrition 40010 Environment Policy and administrative management
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	12004 Recipient Government affiliated agency

<b>9. Target</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>

<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<div>digital connectivity</div> <div>digital governance</div> <div>digital entrepreneurship</div> <div>digital skills/literacy</div> <div>digital services</div>	<div>YES</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>	<div>NO</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<div>digital connectivity</div> <div>energy</div> <div>transport</div> <div>health</div> <div>education and research</div>	<div>YES</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div>	<div>NO</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/></div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Total amount of Grant: EUR 3 000 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

A prolonged economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to **food insecurity** in Argentina. In the period 2020-2021 over 11 million people<sup>2</sup> attended soup kitchens – almost a quarter of Argentina’s total population of 46 million. In 2022 and 2023, it is estimated that **between 9 and 10 million people, particularly children, still resort to soup kitchens to satisfy their basic food needs.**

<sup>2</sup> According to government officials, the amount of people currently attending community kitchens has stabilised around 9 million people in 2022.

Food insecurity in Argentina is the result of an inadequate and unsustainable food system, since the country is a major exporter of agricultural products such as soybeans, wheat, and meat. Most agricultural producers in Argentina are **smallholder farmers which account for more than 66% of agricultural productive units - up to 80% in the country's northernmost provinces** - and oftentimes lack the technical, organisational and financial capacity to scale-up and modernise their production. As part of local economies, these smallholders have the potential to **become suppliers of good quality food** (such as fresh vegetables and fruits) **for their communities as well as soup kitchens and** the more vulnerable segments of the population, thus contributing to both food security and healthier diets. Enhancing the production through agroecological approaches will also provide direct benefits to climate mitigation objectives, through reduced transport, food loss and waste and carbon footprint as well as increased carbon storage in soils. Moreover, benefits for resilience/adaptation and biodiversity, including agrobiodiversity, will also result from such approaches.

The action proposed herein aims to introduce innovations in Argentina's food security operations by integrating **principles of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy as well as other policies to facilitate a green agricultural transition and sustainable agricultural practices, including the external dimension of the Green Deal<sup>3</sup>**, as well as to create **a long lasting, scalable and sustainable network of local smallholders and their communities.**

Such changes in Argentina's food system, **requires unprecedented cross-sector coordination by the Government**, necessary to adequately respond to a variety of social and economic constraints. The action will see the implementation of a pilot project that will promote sustainable food-production clusters and lead to a national public policy to improve Argentina's food system.

The government is committed to finance the pilot project, including through a new phase of the Provincial Agricultural Services Programme (PROSAP), which will receive support from Global Gateway Investment Agenda and aims to bring about rural development by financing activities in the areas of climate, energy, digital and transport, via rural infrastructure, connectivity and marketplace platforms.

In this context, the EU seized the opportunity to support this transition to a more sustainable food-production system in a country where the agricultural sector has considerable potential despite the many challenges, social, economic and climate-related. **The long-term goal of the action is to transform local supply agreements between small farmers and soup kitchens into fair trade centres, boosting local, agroecological and sustainable agriculture.**

Effective communication will be an important part of the action. Communication efforts will focus on informing and promoting local culinary culture and traditions<sup>4</sup>.

The **Overall Objective** of this action will be to contribute to the green agricultural transition and the fight against climate change.

The **Specific Objectives** of this action are:

- 1) To increase agro-ecological production and circular economy practices of smallholders and sustainable food-production clusters.
- 2) To create and strengthen local sustainable food supply networks.
- 3) To formulate a public policy proposal for a national sustainable food system proposed to scale the pilot project to a national level.

The **Outputs** contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- 1.1 Guaranteed supply of fresh and agro-ecological production.

<sup>3</sup> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

<sup>4</sup> Numerous chefs, influencers, artists, musicians have been following the process and have flagged their interest to support the project.

- 1.2 Strengthened capacities (production, organisational, commercial, financial) of local/regional agro-ecological smallholders.
- 1.3 Improved climate and environmental dimension of local food systems (reduced emissions, resilient production).
- 1.4 Strengthened capacities of soup kitchens (planning, management, provisioning of equipment, nutrition).
- 2.1 Constituted local boards with enhanced cross-sector collaboration mechanisms.
- 2.2 Signed supply agreements between sustainable food producers and soup kitchens.
- 2.3 Fostered communication tools that reinforce the transformation proposed by the project.
- 2.4 Improved nutritional intake of persons attending soup kitchens.
- 3.1 Enabled systematisation and aggregated report.
- 3.2 Enhanced capacity at national level to promote the transition to sustainable food systems

This action has a strong link with **SDG 2** (End hunger, achieve **food security** and improved nutrition and **promote sustainable agriculture**), as well as **SDG 15** (Climate action).

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

In 2021 the EU, together with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina launched a technical assistance project funded by DG DEVCO's ASiST programme to contribute to food security in the most vulnerable communities in Argentina. The result was a project design document to **strengthen local primary production** with an emphasis on **family farming and agro ecology** in order to **increase the supply of local healthy food** to community kitchens.

The project was called the **Sustainable Food Supply Network (SFSN) initiative**, and identified a series of shared objectives to be addressed:

- Promote more **sustainable local food systems to foster green and digital transition while fighting food insecurity**.
- Foster **supply agreements** from small farmers to community kitchens in the short run, and to help the **transition of local commercial circuits into regional gastronomic and fair-trade centres** in the middle term.
- Improve **sustainability of small local food producers**, supporting their **integration into shorter** and easier to access **supply chains**.
- Promote sustainable and **socially responsible models**, including **agro-ecological farming**.
- Contribute to the **digitisation** and **financial inclusion** of small farmers, to improve their competitiveness.
- Facilitate access to **healthier food** for community centres and for the local communities in general.
- Reduce **food loss and waste**.
- Contribute to **healthier eating habits**, and to the reduction of **risk factors for health**.
- Support **Argentina's policy on territorial infrastructure and development**.

The conclusions of the project design confirmed the feasibility of a model that would **integrate certain EU Farm to Fork principles** into **Argentina's food security operations**.

In the framework of **Team Europe**, the European Union Delegation and EU's Member States in Argentina participated in a **broad consultation process** to assist the Government of Argentina to identify potential interest and implement a Sustainable Food Supply Network (SFSN) pilot project. The extended exchanges were carried out during the first semester of 2022 and led to an agreement for cross-sector **coordination** between the **different national entities** dealing with food security and related matters.

An **internal agreement at the federal level of government** was reached to support and coordinate the process: the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is committed to leading the inter-institutional coordination; the **National Institute of Technology for Agriculture (INTA)** will lead the project's technical design and implementation; the **National Service of Agri-Food Health and Quality (SENASA)** and the **Ministry of Social Development (MDS)** have stated their intention to join as key partners in a national steering mechanism, yet to be established.

The **Cabinet of Chief of Ministers has committed to finance the SFSN pilot project** in different provinces, based on the DG DEVCO's ASiST project design scheme in order to test the methodology on the ground. When implemented, this commitment will guarantee the sustainability of the project not only in political but also in financial terms. Other public sector entities such as the Ministry of Environment, the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGyP), the National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy (INAES), and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT), have all expressed their interest to join the initiative in the execution phase.

In this context, the EU Delegation to Argentina identified an opportunity to support the pilot action that will lead to the formulation of a nationwide policy that, in a context of climate change and biodiversity loss, will accelerate the green and digital transitions in agriculture to create a more sustainable food system, in line with the EU's Farm to Form strategy, while creating greener jobs and producing healthier food. Furthermore, the action will contribute to ensure food security and a better nutrition, while preserving its affordability, generating fairer economic returns and promoting fair trade. In addition, cultural and communication products are to be designed to accompany the progressive transformation of habits and commercial circuits.

As a Team Europe Initiative (TEI), EU Member States, alongside other EU stakeholders, including academia and civil society, are expected to actively support and participate in the action. The eventual contributions from the EU, Members States and/or European financing institutions in Argentina will be integrated when developing the tailored local experiences, as they contribute to social inclusion, digital and green transition, and collaborative multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable territorial development.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

### *Short problem analysis*

Climate change is a fact in Argentina. The volume of water has significantly reduced in the Parana river, a key navigation route for Mercosur. In recent years, record temperatures have been recorded in the Antarctic. Droughts are now common in many parts of the country leading to water stress in over 50% of the country. Similarly, there has been an increase in forest fires contributing to increase carbon emissions and fuelling the process of desertification and biodiversity loss. Smallholders, however, could play an important role in contributing to the reversal of such dire climate trends through the implementation of agro-ecological farming practices that could not only reduce, and capture emissions including through soil management and crop diversification strategies and also help prevent forest fires and reduce water stress by working with nature's ecosystem services.

Most fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, and dairy goods produced in Argentina, end up in large markets and supermarket chains that store, resell and distribute the local production on a nationwide scale which increases retail prices, carbon emissions and food waste.

Access to alternative distribution channels and commercial options is challenging for small landholders as they lack basic infrastructure to increase production, stock goods and distribute fresh food production in short and local supply chains. In addition, more than 40% of rural settings lack internet connection, halting digital and financial inclusion and development. Moreover, the continuous decrease of rural populations affects productive and economic diversification. Sanitary and tax rules are not adapted to a small production scale, therefore they become extremely difficult to comply with for the smaller food producers.

Notwithstanding the above, there is a potential a large market for small producers that is in development. Local communities in general, and soup kitchens as they feed about 9 million people every day. Instead of buying fresh healthy food at a fair price, they end up buying non-perishable food due to budget constraints and long acquired habits. In addition, publicly financed soup kitchens find it difficult to buy from local producers due to administrative and billing constraints. In this end, this situation results in high rates of malnutrition, affecting 42% of the children and youth.

The government has implemented a variety of programs to fight food insecurity, typically through a traditional two-fold approach: **(i)** by providing assistance to the agricultural sector to promote food production; and **(ii)** by supporting food consumption and distribution among households in need. The Provincial Agricultural Services Programme (PROSAP) and *ProHuerta* are some of the long-standing programs that supported production and, *Plan Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria*, *Abordaje Comunitario* and *Plan Argentina contra el Hambre* (Argentina against Hunger), are examples of programs currently executed and related to food consumption.

There is therefore an urgent need to introduce an **innovative approach** to promote the **transition to a more sustainable food system**. A new sustainable food system model requires a long-term strategy and wide institutional agreement to develop local networks and fair trade centres. The EU has wide experience in the inter-jurisdictional, collaborative building of participative schemes for sustainable long-term functioning, and can consequently provide valuable assistance and support during that slow transformation process.

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

***Main stakeholders***

**State authorities:**

● **National level:**

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (MRECIC, by its acronym in Spanish);**
- **National Institute of Technology for Agriculture (INTA, by its acronym in Spanish);**
- **National Service of Agri-Food Health and Quality (SENASA, by its acronym in Spanish);**
- **National Ministry of Social Development (MSD, by its acronym in Spanish);**
- **Office of the Chief of Cabinet, Secretariat of Planning of Development and Federal Competitiveness**

Other Public Sector offices, such as the National Institute of Associativism and Social Economy (INAES, by its acronym in Spanish); areas of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SAGyP); the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT, by its acronym in Spanish); and the Secretariat for Strategic Affairs



(SAE, by its acronym in Spanish) have already expressed their interest in joining the initiative during the implementation phase.

- **Sub-national level:** local governments (provinces and municipalities)

**Non-state actors:** i) **family farm organisations**, such as Unión de Trabajadores de la Tierra (UTT), Federación Rural, Asamblea Campesina e Indígena del Norte Argentino (ACINA), Movimiento Agroecológico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (MAELA), among others; ii) organisations that comprise local governments, such as Red Argentina de Municipios frente al Cambio Climático (RAMCC) and Argentine Network of Municipalities and Communities for Agroecology (RENAMA); and iii) **diverse national or regional community kitchens' networks** such as Caritas Argentina, Red El Encuentro, La Poderosa, among others.

**Some EU Member States and European agencies** have expressed interest in collaborating with the initiative. They are:

- i) National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (**INRAE**) from **France**, through its Agriterris network of researchers based in Argentina;
- ii) **Slow Food International Foundation**, with offices in **Italy** and EU funding to promote local food traditions;
- iii) a **University of Parma's** research project linked to Argentina's organic farming plan and districts; and
- iv) a **German** non-profit foundation which offered training tools for financial inclusion of small farmers.

***Mandates, potential roles, and capacities:***

**1. MRECIC**

- a. Mandate. To coordinate the Public Sector agencies' dialogue with the EU during the project design process.
- b. Potential role. Project follow-up within the EU-Argentinean cooperation framework.

**2. INTA**

- a. Mandate. As the national research institute for global agro-technological development, work closely with landholders to achieve competitiveness, social and economic sustainability, prioritising environmental sustainability. In this particular project, it leads the Public Sector technical dialogue with the EU.
- b. Potential role. To be the Technical Implementing Unit responsible for project's planning, technical implementation, monitoring and evaluation. ArgenINTA Foundation will serve as Administrative Implementation Unit as part of their institutional regular practice and agreement. They both will join a National Technical Committee.
- c. Capacities
  - i. INTA is a decentralised agency established in 1956. Widely recognised within the scientific-technical and academic sector, also for its close ties with labour unions and rural organisations. INTA has wide territorial coverage -more than 400 local offices in the 24 Provinces of Argentina- and has been implementing programs related to small landholders and rural development for more than 30 years, such as the ProHuerta Program (together with MDS) and Rural Change Program (together with SAGyP).

- ii. ArgenINTA. It is a non-profit foundation created by INTA to manage resources from local or external financial sources and to support the execution of INTA's research and development activities.

### **3. SENASA**

- a. Mandate. To execute national policies on health, animal and plant quality and food safety, as well as to verify compliance with current regulations on the matter.
- b. Potential role. To bring technical assistance and identify current regulations that, due to its complexity and technology requirements, are difficult for small landholders to comply with. It will also be involved in adapting protocols to the sector, surveilling an adequate level of health protection. Likewise, it will provide training on good practices. It will join a National Technical Committee.
- c. Capacities. Decentralised agency, with economic-financial and technical-administrative autarky, allocated at SAGyP. As INTA, it has wide territorial coverage and currently works closely with the rest of the organisations that will join a National Technical Committee.

### **4. MDS**

- a. Mandate. Agency responsible for designing, planning and implementing social policies to fight food insecurity at the national level.
- b. Potential role. To identify, together with INTA, adequate community kitchens to join the pilot experience. During implementation, will provide training, technical and financial assistance within its own institution framework and programmes. It will join a National Technical Committee.
- c. Capacities. Currently providing technical and financial assistance to 4.100 community kitchens.

### **5. Secretariat of Planning of Development and Federal Competitiveness**

- a. Mandate. To strengthen the competitiveness and development of the country's productive structures; and, to conduct analysis, studies and strategies to promote local economies.
- b. Potential Role. To identify the resources within the national budget to finance a pilot stage that could lead to a nationwide public policy.
- c. Capacities. Participates in the operational and administrative execution, budgetary and financial-accounting management processes related to programs, projects, technical cooperation, donations and technical assistance with external financing related to its mandate.

It is expected that these stakeholders work within a National and/or Local/Regional Technical Boards.

As the action is carried out in the framework of Team Europe, the EU Delegation in Argentina and the Embassies of EU Member States in the country will be engaged in the follow-up of the action, which will be open to integrate the support and eventual additional sources of collaboration (e.g. other EU-related stakeholders, academic or research programmes, etc.) that might contribute to fulfil its objectives.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action will be to contribute to the green agricultural transition and the fight against climate change.

The **Specific Objectives** of this action are:

- 1) To increase agro-ecological production and circular economy practices of smallholders and sustainable food-production clusters.
- 2) To create and strengthen local sustainable food supply networks.
- 3) To formulate a public policy proposal for a national sustainable food system proposed to scale the pilot project to a national level.

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

##### 1.1 Contributing to **Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)**

- 1.1.1 Guaranteed supply of fresh and agro ecological production from small landholders to local soup kitchens in the pilot project experiences.
- 1.1.2 Strengthened local/regional agro-ecological and small landholders' capacities to plan production and conduct associative business, equipment provision, logistics and authorisations, access to finance and good agro-ecological production practices.
- 1.1.3 Strengthened soup kitchens capacities, including planning and management skills, provision of equipment and implementation of healthy nutrition practices.
- 1.1.4 Improved climate and environmental dimension of local food systems

##### 2.1 Contributing to **Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)**

- 2.1.1 Constituted local boards with enhanced skills and long-term strategy to promote the transition from food supply agreements to fair trade and gastronomic centres and enhanced cross-sector collaboration mechanisms.
- 2.1.2 Signed supply agreements between sustainable food producers and soup kitchens.
- 2.1.3 Fostered communication tools that reinforce the transformation proposed by the project.
- 2.1.4 Improved nutritional intake of persons attending soup kitchens.

##### 3.1 contributing to **Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3)**

- 3.1.1 Enabled aggregated systematisation report, including a section to analyse the feasibility of implementing digital transition initiatives for specific issues -such as transactions carried out during the pilot experience- and the possibility of developing new or adjusting existing technologies.
- 3.1.2 Enhanced capacity at national level to promote the transition to sustainable food systems

#### 3.2 Indicative Activities

##### **Activities related to Output 1.1**

**Activity 1. Technical Assistance to SFSN stakeholders to comply with Supply Agreements and transition to fair trade model**

- Regarding technical, productive, logistics and marketing areas for producers.
- Aiming to develop/adjust platforms or tools to promote local/regional commerce.
- Regarding procedures to create, formalise or regularise authorisations (e.g., legal issues, tax registration, leases and/or land tenure, sanitary food and health authorisations and access to public services, among others).
- Related to management and nutritional issues for community kitchens.
- Strengthening local boards capacities in management and logistics, fair trade, agroecology, food security, short commercial circuits, healthy habits, project formulation and management, inter-institutional articulation and conflict resolution, communication to local communities, among others.

### **Activity 2. Training to strengthen specific capacities**

- For producers, in topics such as agro-ecological production, substitution of external inputs, circular economy, production of bio-inputs, community production of seedlings and other strategic supplies, etc.
- For soup kitchens, in topics such as nutritional recommendations, including recipes that include smallholders fresh food supplies, as well as in the management of community organisations.
- For participant organisations, in formalisation, management and administration of non-profit organisations.
- For participants in local/regional boards, in issues such as: i) permits and qualifications, logistics and supply, formation and/or associative regularisation and fiscal formalisation; and ii) leadership (specially for young members and women) and management of community organisations.
- For all stakeholders, in digital transition.
- Development of training material.

### **Activity 3. Delivery of financial support for local small-landholders and community kitchens to comply with Supply Arrangements**

- Delivery of financial support will target:
  - territorial infrastructures for collective use, necessary to sustain direct local supply (logistics, cold chain, packaging, transport, storage, renewable energy, etc.)
  - tools and/or basic infrastructure to increase production necessary to attend local kitchens' demand.
  - kitchen utensils and/or basic infrastructure to elaborate meals based on fresh food supply (storage, fridges, bigger stoves and ovens, electrical connection to grid, etc.)
- Support and/or creation of Revolving Funds (RF) or another financial set-up to administrate resources that guarantee sustained procurement for producers and kitchens.

### **Activities related to Output 2.1**

#### **Activity 4. Institutional strengthening for smallholders, kitchens and local boards**

- Within institutions, technical assistance to promote joining the local/regional boards.
- For local communities, to learn about the sustainable food supply network's actions and results in particular and about the benefits of healthy nutrition based on local and agroecological products elaborated by small landholders.

- For kitchens and producers, to sign agreements for differentiated separation of waste for composting purposes.

### Activities related to Output 3.1

- Systematisation of each local experience of food supply to community kitchens, evaluation of its impact/effect indicators, and dissemination of final results to all stakeholders and local communities.
- Elaboration of a final report on SFNN project implementation and recommendations for a nationwide public policy proposal delivered, including: i) identification of main findings, lessons learned, areas for improvement, and preparation of technical recommendations for sustainability and scaling up, ii) guidelines to adapt and/or create new regulations, policies and/or programs at municipal/provincial level to boost local production and, iii) a green and digital transition strategy.
- Delivery of a public policy proposal document to scale the SFNN model.

In addition, and as a part of a **Team Europe Initiative (TEI)**, the EU Delegation also conducted consultations with EU-Member State Embassies in Argentina to explore potential synergies with their actions in the country, and identified the following potential activities:

- systematisation of SSN local experiences, through collaboration with the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE) from France, which carries out activities in Argentina under their *Agriterris* project network.
- promotion of communication campaigns on local food traditions, together with Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity;
- collaboration with the Horizon Europe-funded project “Urbane” on *One Health approaches to support Agroecological transformation of Peri-urban Farming*<sup>5</sup>;
- training for small landholders on financial inclusion, a proposal by a German non-profit organisation linked to the German Sparkasse savings banks.

## 3.3 Mainstreaming

### Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The action can play an important role in contributing to the reversal of dire climate trends that are currently affecting Argentina from increased forest fires, water stress and biodiversity loss, to mention but three. Through the implementation of agro-ecological sustainable farming practices, the action could not only reduce, and capture emissions including through soil management and crop diversification strategies and also help prevent forest fires and reduce water stress by working with nature’s ecosystem services. The shift away from harmful agrichemicals and other inputs, such as plastics will also be implemented.

### 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. The promotion of locally-based markets and agro-ecological approaches for food production and transformation will lead to positive impacts as regards GHG emissions reduction (through reduced transportation distances, reduced use of external inputs and reduced food loss and waste), increased storage of carbon and organic matters in soils (through agroecological practices), enhanced resilience and adaptation to climate change (through diversified production and sustainable

<sup>5</sup> <https://urbane-project.eu/wp-urbane>

management of natural resources) as well as to biodiversity (reduced contamination, higher agrobiodiversity, preservation of ecosystem services).

**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 the action as Category C (no need for further assessment). The options to work for local markets through agro-ecological approaches brings positive contribution to the environment.

**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)

### **Human Rights**

This proposal will contribute to a more sustainable living for small farmers across the territory and help achieve a fairer access to healthier and more affordable food.

### **Reduction of inequalities**

The initiative will improve the economic and social insertion of small landholders, and at the same time the quality of food provided for beneficiaries of the soup kitchens in the most vulnerable social sectors

### **Democracy**

This topic is central to the proposed intervention strategy, since it is based on local and regional boards, and articulation at the federal level, overall a network in which the different stakeholders will participate in a broad democratic exercise.

## 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Political uncertainty since a national election will be held next October 2023.	Replacement of government officials involved in counterpart stakeholders during implementation.	Medium	Medium	INTA, the selected Technical Implementation Unit, is a decentralised institution with operational and funding autonomy. The extensive consultations on which this project was designed provide a wide network of technical agencies that would expectedly provide continued support to its urgent objectives.

Complex implementation scheme due to a large number of public agencies and stakeholders involved.	Lack of proper coordination between main stakeholders.	Medium	Medium	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship facilitates Public Sector internal coordination, and a technical articulation is foreseen between INTA, SENASA and MDS at a national level during project implementation.
Economic crisis, annual inflation index up to more than 105% expected for 2023.	Lack of sufficient economic incentives to change producing/consuming habits and practices for both, food producers and soup kitchens.	High	Medium	Local stakeholders will be selected based on current interactions and strong bonds with local farmers and soup kitchens. The participation in the new networks should create new opportunities of commercialisation (for food producers) and savings (for soup kitchens) that will reinforce the incentives to join, and progressively even increase participation.
Basic needs and infrastructure limitations in social actors	Constrained impact and scope due to the large extent of the problem. Funding will not be enough to address all budget limitations.	High	Medium	Pilot initiatives will be selected based on local current capacities to work both with local small landholders and soup kitchens. When selecting pilot experiences, potential scope of the intervention will be taken into consideration to maximise impact of the EU financial contribution.
Climate risks	Forest fires, drought, water stress.	High	High	Risks, if materialised could undermine pilot initiatives. Pilot initiatives will be selected based on local current climate risks. Smallholders will be

				trained to identify and mitigate climate risks.
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### Lessons Learned

Efficient climate-smart agricultural development is one of the most powerful tools to fight extreme poverty and food insecurity. A World Bank's Report<sup>6</sup> shows that growth in the agriculture sector is two to four times more effective in raising incomes among the poorest compared to other sectors. In 2019, agriculture accounted for 4.27%<sup>7</sup> of global gross domestic product (GDP) and in some least developing countries, such as in Argentina, it did for 25% of GDP.

Based on INTA's experience in local project implementation, the following criteria will be followed in order to boost climate-smart agriculture experiences and guarantee sustainable food supply networks:

- i) Graduality: actions should be proposed and applied from lesser to greater complexity schemes.
- ii) Accessibility: the general SFNN proposal should be adjusted to available producers and institutions in the territory at the local level. Moreover, technical assistance, training and financial inclusion strategies should be socially and culturally appropriate for local small producers, besides being geographically close, easy to administer and adaptable to family farming and soup kitchens standards.
- iii) Institutionality: organisational processes and legitimization mechanisms should be promoted to consolidate local supply experiences. Producers/soup kitchens are to be recognised as valid social stakeholders through local decision-making instances.
- iv) Sustainability: the proposal will seek to generate/support local networks that have the potential to scale and incorporate new local producers and supply kitchens according to sustainable practices. In addition, projects that aim to finance raw materials and supplies will be requested to present a sustainability plan for further autonomous procurement (e.g., through the organisation of revolving funds, bank of supplies, among others).
- v) Articulation: due to the complexity of local supply networks, proposals will be chosen considering available institutional, technical and administrative capacities. Tight bonds within stakeholders will be highly rated, not only in a geographical but also in a cultural sense.

<sup>6</sup> Townsend, Robert. *Ending poverty and hunger by 2030: an agenda for the global food system*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/700061468334490682/Ending-poverty-and-hunger-by-2030-an-agenda-for-the-global-food-system>

<sup>7</sup> FAOSTAT Analytical Brief 23. 2019. *Gross domestic product and agriculture value added 1970–2019. Global and regional trends*. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb4651en/cb4651en.pdf>



### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is based on the premise that a **long lasting, scalable and sustainable network** between **local small landholders and soup kitchens** will have an impact in boosting local fresh and agro-ecological production while promoting a slow transition to a more sustainable food-production system and fighting food insecurity in Argentina.

The proposal is also based on the premise that supplying fresh agro-ecological production to local soup kitchens requires strengthening the local smallholder's capacity to increase production, stock and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables that are mostly produced in line with agro-ecological practices. Also soup kitchens need to be strengthened in their planning and management capacities, equipment provision and infrastructure, and education to consumers on the benefits of healthy habits. Focus is also driven to promote **short commercial circuits**.

The proposal also places strong emphasis on the **coordination** and joint work with **Argentine State agencies and family farming organisations that already provide support to small landholders and food assistance at the local and national level**. In this sense, this **Team Europe Initiative** will not imply a new action to be implemented with local stakeholders, but rather a **supporting and complementing initiative** that will **build on the already existing range of local efforts** that address these urgent challenges (including the integration of eventual support from EU Embassies and programmes already active in the country).

It is based on **generating local network experiences** that comprise local producers, soup kitchens, government officials at local and national level, and private and third sector parties in order **to implement tailored solutions for each local institutional and productive context**. The implementation scheme is designed to combine local or regional pilot-experiences with a National Technical Committee framework. **INTA local branches have a central role in this Project because of its wide territorial coverage and its expertise and technical capacity** to work with local teams and bring support to family farmers, soup kitchens and local institutions for this project.

The implementation scheme is organised to ensure articulated work between national Public Sector agencies and local/regional boards in which formulation, support and evaluation of proposals are to be identified in order to implement these main action lines:

- i) Technical Assistance
- ii) Training
- iii) Investment and access to financial aid
- iv) Institutional strengthening of stakeholders (small landholders/organisations and soup kitchens/social organisations)
- v) Systematisation and communication
- vi) Elaboration of regulatory proposals and nationwide public policy based on the pilot experience

**Pilot experiences will be conducted in selected territories that will be pre-identified by INTA, and will be defined after a closed call among them based on objective criteria to be defined by all counterparts.** It is expected that **at least 10 pilot experiences will be carried out during implementation;** the final number of pilots will be given by the project's own budgetary restrictions.

In sum, the proposal seeks, through articulated and sustained support, to **promote experiences where local fresh and agroecological food is delivered, and its production is expected to scale over time**. If pilot experiences prove effective, a **long lasting nationwide public policy will be discussed at the highest political level** with EU support to complement the initiative through financial and technical assistance.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources of data
<b>Impact</b>	To contribute to the green agricultural transition and the fight against climate change.	Number of forest fires. Number of instances of water stress. Biodiversity trends.	To be defined	To be defined	Reports by National Cabinet on Climate Change
<b>Outcome 1</b>	To increase agro-ecological production and circular economy practices of smallholders and sustainable food-production clusters.	GERF 2.2 Areas of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)  GERF 2.1 Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land  [NDICI-Global Europe] [SP]	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices.
<b>Outcome 2</b>	To create and strengthen local sustainable food supply networks.	Number of supply agreements signed.	2023: 0	2027: 1	Signed supply agreements.
<b>Outcome 3</b>	To formulate a public policy proposal for a national sustainable food system.	Public policy proposal formulated	2023: 0	2027: 1	Public policy proposal document
<b>Output 1.1</b> (Outcome 1)	Guaranteed supply of fresh and agro-ecological production.	% of increase of agro-ecological production	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices.
<b>Output 1.2</b> (Outcome 1)	Improved climate and environmental dimension of local food systems (reduced emissions, resilient production).	Number of emissions captured, emissions reductions. Number agrichemicals reductions.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices.
<b>Output 1.3</b> (Outcome 1)	Strengthened capacities (production, organisational, commercial, financial)	Number of smallholders trained.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices

Results	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources of data
	of local/regional agro-ecological smallholders.	% of participant smallholders associations that received: i) funds to improve infrastructure and basic equipment, ii) technical assistance, and/or iii) training.			
<b>Output 1.4</b> (Outcome 1)	Strengthened capacities of soup kitchens (planning, management, provisioning of equipment, nutrition).	Number of soup kitchens participating in action. Number of persons in soup kitchens trained.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices
<b>Output 2.1</b> (Outcome 2)	Constituted local boards with enhanced skills and long-term strategy to promote the transition from food supply agreements to fair trade and gastronomic centres and enhanced cross-sector collaboration mechanisms.	Number local boards constituted.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices
<b>Output 2.2</b> (Outcome 2)	Signed supply agreements between sustainable food producers and soup kitchens.	Number of <b>signed supply agreements</b> between sustainable food producers and community kitchens, per pilot experience.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices
<b>Output 2.3</b> (Outcome 2)	Fostered communication tools that reinforce the transformation proposed by the project.	Number communication pieces per pilot experience that disseminate information on the progress and benefits of the SFSN model.	To be defined	To be defined	Local/ regional media.
<b>Output 2.4</b> (Outcome 2)	Improved nutritional intake of persons attending soup kitchens.	Calories intake of persons attending soup kitchens.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices
<b>Output 3.1</b> (Outcome 3)	Enabled systematisation and aggregated report.	Number of systematisation reports on each SFSN pilot.  <b>Final report</b> on SFSN project implementation and recommendations for a nationwide public policy proposal delivered, including: i) guidelines to adapt and/or create new regulations, policies and/or programs	2023: 0 2023: 0	2024: 10 2024: 1	Systematisation reports.  Final document on SFSN project implementation and recommendations.

Results	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources of data
		at municipal/provincial level to boost local production and, ii) a green and digital transition strategy.			
<b>Output 3.2</b> (Outcome 3)	Enhanced capacity at national level to promote the transition to sustainable food systems	Number of persons trained.	To be defined	To be defined	Field reports issued by INTA's Extension local offices

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 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 12 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 Direct Management (Grants)

**Grants: (direct management)** Direct award to INTA/ArgenINTA foundation based on their institutional and technical capacities and territorial coverage (more than 400 rural-extension offices).

#### (a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the grant is to support the national Public Sector to implement a SFNN project pilot experience between community kitchens and agricultural farming, on aspects specially related to social inclusion, digital and green transition.

#### (b) Type of applicants targeted

N/A

#### (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 INTA.

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 of INTA's broad experience in agro-technological development, and also due to its nationwide interaction to local landholders, labour unions and rural organisations. In addition, INTA is a decentralised agency widely recognised within the scientific-technical and academic sector that has been implementing programs related to small landholders and rural development with most of the institutional stakeholders that will join the initiative through the National Technical Committee and the local/regional boards.

INTA will carry out a close call between pre-identified stakeholders which have already implemented some level of coordination between local family farmers and community kitchens, on the basis of objective criteria agreed by all counterparts.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined above (recognised high scientific and technical expertise).

#### 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 subject to the following provisions.

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).

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
Development/strengthening of local/regional sustainable supply networks (SSN).	2.25 M	0.33 M
Collaboration between local boards and other social and political stakeholders to impact local communities beyond farming and kitchens organisations.	0.375 M	
Systematisation of pilot experiences and elaboration of a nationwide public policy proposal.	0.375 M	
<b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.3	3 M	0.33 M
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3 M</b>	<b>0.33 M</b>

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

For the implementation of the activities foreseen in this Action Plan, it is expected that both the Delegation of the EU in Argentina and other members of Team Europe will participate in the monitoring of the activities. Specifically, the participation of the Delegation is foreseen as member of the steering committee of the project. Additionally, the monitoring of the project's activities will be part of Team Europe regular meetings.

**Project Implementation Unit.** INTA will be responsible for the project's technical implementation. As part of INTA's regular practices and agreements, the ArgenINTA Foundation will serve as Administrative Implementation Unit for funds transferred to INTA in the SFNN framework. Budget execution will be carried out through the INTA local units, once local proposals and supply agreements are approved.

##### **Organisational set-up**

**National level.** INTA, together with SENASA and MDS, will join a Technical Coordination Committee at the national level. The main function of this board will be: i) to carry out the program's technical execution, ii) to participate in ex-ante evaluation of pilot proposals; and iii) to support and coordinate the design, planification and implementation of pilot projects. For specific topics, other agencies of the Public Sector may be opportunely invited to participate.

**Local/regional level.** Local INTA's extension offices will promote and coordinate local/regional boards. Local representatives of SENASA and MDS (if any) may join, and at least one local organisation or institution is expected to be invited (producers associations, municipalities, NGOs). Local/regional boards will formulate sustainable agreement proposals and execute pilot projects within their territory.

It is also expected that Regional Technical Coordination Boards will comprise local representatives of INTA, SENASA and MDS, plus representatives of participating producers, community kitchens, and other national organisations with local/national representation, civil social organisations and/or local municipalities. These boards will serve as a wider space to address implementation progress, analyse obstacles, and agree strategies to strengthen, scale and disseminate the experience.

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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

**Also, communication will be an essential part of the strategy. Numerous chefs, influencers, artists, musicians** have been following the process and have flagged their availability to support the project. **Priority will be given to visibilisation and acknowledgment of local recipes and gastronomy based on regional, sustainable and healthier ingredients as part of local culture and tradition.**

#### 4.7 Pre-conditions

As pre-condition to the signature of grant contract, the Government of Argentina will identify the financing source for the implementation of at least 10 pilot projects for the SFSN initiative. This is required as the EU financing will complement that of the Government of Argentina.

In case the Government of Argentina does not present a financing proposal for the pilot stage prior to the signature of the contract, the project may not be executed and therefore funds may be de-committed.

## 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, INTA 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 log frame matrix.

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 will follow these guidelines:

- INTA will collect data sets according to the indicators provided in the Logical Framework -and other sets that will be duly determined- through its local extension offices. Aggregated reports will be elaborated by INTA and periodically presented to all stakeholders.
- For EU members joining this project under the Team Europe Initiative, a monitoring system will be agreed with each counterpart during implementation and its findings included in aggregated reports elaborated by INTA.

## 5.2 Evaluation<sup>8</sup>

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation(s) 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 will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)“, 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.

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<sup>8</sup> In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner



## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

<b>Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action: OPSYS: ACT-62279
<b>Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	
<b>Contract level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Direct Grant
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	
	(...)	
<b>Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	