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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX II

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the individual measure
in favour of the Pacific region for 2024

**Action Document for Technical Cooperation Facility for Pacific Civil Society Organisations
and Youth**

ANNUAL MEASURE

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Technical Cooperation Facility for Pacific Civil Society Organisations and Youth OPSYS number: ACT-62698 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Pacific region (this can encompass 13 Pacific Island Countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu).
4. Programming document	Pacific Multi-Country Multi-Annual Indicative Programming for the period 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority area 3 ‘Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security’ Falling under the specific objective to “strengthen the functioning of democratic institutions, electoral processes, access to justice, the rule of law, and protection of human rights”, this action aims at contributing to the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– PICs have strengthened, accountable and transparent institutions, inclusive, transparent and credible elections and a pluralist democratic system;#– Continued promotion of the universal values of human rights for all, including support for an enabling space for civil society;– Supported PICs eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and children.

PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 17 – Partnerships to achieve the Goal; Other significant SDGs: 16 – Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions; 5 – Gender equality; 13 – Climate Action.			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15150: Democratic participation and civil society: 100%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	60000: Private sector institutions 61000 Private sector in provider country			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input 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"/>
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Digitalisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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): 14 02 01 32 The Pacific Total estimated cost: EUR 700 000,00 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 700 000,00			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Procurement			
14. Type of measure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The EU has a long-standing partnership with civil society and youth and acknowledges their essential contribution to democracy, the rule of law and, ultimately, to a sustainable and inclusive development. This Technical Cooperation Facility aims to support the EU's partnership with CSOs in the Pacific region by promoting an enabling environment for civil society and ensuring that targeted technical support is provided to CSOs (whether linked to advocacy, monitoring of civic space or contract management and implementation). Moreover, it will strengthen EU's engagement with young people in the Pacific by creating a structured framework for collaboration with youth in the form of a Pacific Youth Sounding Board.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in the following countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

¹ For more information, please consult: The European Commission inequality marker - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu) and Inequality Marker – Complementary Guidelines Application of the I-Marker to SSC fiches and Action Documents | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The EU recognizes the crucial role of civil society organisations (CSOs) and youth in promoting democracy, good governance and sustainable development. The proposed action aligns with the EU's commitment to civil society, as outlined in the 2012 Communication “The roots of democracy and sustainable development” that identifies three major areas of support in interactions with civil society: enabling environment, capacity building and CSO dialogue with public authorities. Moreover, the European Consensus on Development, ‘Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future’, aligns EU policies and actions with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda on SDGs and stresses that good governance, democracy and rule of law are vital to sustainable development. It also acknowledges the multiple roles that CSOs play in this context “as promoters of democracy, defenders of rights holders and of the rule of law, social justice and human rights”.

Moreover, under NDICI-Global Europe, involving civil society, among other stakeholders, is a cross-cutting priority that is meant to be applied systematically in international partnership actions. Meaningful engagement with local civil society is sought out in all EU priority areas of cooperation and in policy dialogues with the partner governments.

This Technical Cooperation Facility is also aligned with the strategic objectives for engagement with civil society identified in the EU CSO Roadmap for the Pacific which places a big emphasis on the need to complement financial assistance with capacity-building and support for an enabling environment that can allow CSOs to flourish. It is also in line with the Youth Action Plan (YAP) in External Action that focuses on three core areas of action: engage (increasing the voice of young people in policy and decision-making at all levels), empower (addressing inequalities and providing young people with the skills and resources they need to take charge of their own lives) and connect (providing cross-border mobility and networking opportunities). Moreover, taking into account the recommendations of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III², the Facility will pay particular attention to the inclusion of CSOs defending women’s rights in its activities and will promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in its various initiatives. It directly addresses SDGs 17 (Partnerships to achieve the Goal) and 16 (Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions).

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and youth in the Pacific have considerable potential to drive positive change in the region, but also encounter multifaceted challenges that hinder their effective engagement in development initiatives. With regards to CSOs for example, there is a limited human resource capacity that is almost chronic (inability to retain high quality staff resulting in high staff turnover, little awareness of the policy cycles and entry points for engagement) and the unavailability of stable funding remains a challenge, especially for small, local CSOs that often lack the basic capacities to access funds from foreign donors. Restrictions in their operating environment, weak governance structures and insufficient transparency undermine the effectiveness of advocacy efforts, while climate change and environmental degradation exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. Social and cultural barriers, including gender inequalities and marginalization, further hinder inclusivity and participation, particularly among marginalized groups. Regarding youth, they face high unemployment rates, limited access to education and training opportunities and a lack of meaningful engagement platforms, hindering their empowerment and contribution to sustainable development. Moreover, although young activists in the Pacific can be quite enthusiastic, their action can be rather limited in traditional societies that emphasize the central role of the elderly and of established customs. Therefore, in order for civil society and youth to contribute to EU and national development policies and programmes, they need to receive support to build adequate capacities, to operate in an enabling and

² The Gender Action Plan III is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through EU Presidency Conclusions of 16 December 2020 endorsed by 24 Member States.

accessible environment and to be allowed to participate in policy-making processes in a meaningful and structured way.

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

The direct beneficiaries of this action are the civil society and youth organisations and their networks or platforms.

In line with the overarching priorities of the Pacific MIP and the CSO Thematic Programme 2021-2027, priority will be given to national CSOs, women and youth organizations, including those representing the most marginalised voices.

Other stakeholders include government departments that play a crucial role in legislation and policy formulation and resource allocation and may struggle with coordination and transparency and meaningful public consultations. Moreover, international donors and development agencies can provide essential support, but must make an effort to align priorities with local needs and avoid overlapping and ensure sustainability of their interventions. This action therefore requires a coordinated approach that fosters collaboration, enhances capacity and promotes inclusivity not only among CSO and youth organisations, but also among various stakeholders in the Pacific.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

Drawing on the overarching objectives of the CSO Thematic Programme and the Youth Action Plan in EU External Action, the Overall Objective of this Action is *to strengthen civil society, gender equality and youth organisations as independent actors of governance and development in their own right.*

The Specific Objectives of this action are:

1. *Support the development of an inclusive, participatory, empowered and independent civil society and democratic space in the Pacific partner countries;*
2. *Support the development of an inclusive and open dialogue with young people and youth organisations, while strengthening their capacities for civic engagement;*

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

1.1 Improved capacity and ability of civil society partners to uphold and promote an enabling environment in their respective countries (linked to Specific Objective 1);

1.2 Improved technical and financial capacities of civil society partners to conduct their core activities in view of influencing decision-making processes at national level and in the EU focal areas of cooperation (linked to Specific Objective 1);

2.1 Setting up of a Pacific Youth Sounding Board (PYSB) as a platform for youth capacity building and dialogue with the EU (linked to Specific Objective 2);

2.2 Provision of technical and administrative assistance to the PYSB to efficiently and effectively implement its role and fulfil its mandate (linked to Specific Objective 2).

In a nutshell, this Facility aims to support the EU's partnership with civil society and young people in the Pacific region. It seeks to promote a more enabling environment for civil society in the region by enhancing their capacity to analyse and keep track of legislative changes that have an impact on fundamental rights and freedoms and, more broadly, on civic space. It also works on providing technical and financial capacity-building for CSOs to improve their participation in national and EU programming and policies.

In addition, the Facility aims to strengthen capacities of young people and youth organisations in the Pacific, with a view of increasing their civic participation and involvement in decision-making processes. It establishes a Youth Sounding Board, serving as a crucial platform for meaningful consultations between the European Union and Pacific youth. The Pacific Youth Sounding Board will be designed to be a truly representative platform that reflects the diversity of the Pacific region. Recognizing the vast geographical variations across the 13 Pacific Island States, the Board will ensure balanced representation by selecting youth

members from each state. Special attention will also be given to addressing the urban/rural divide, acknowledging the unique perspectives that arise from different living environments. In addition, the Board will actively seek participation from marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including women, LGBTI and other underrepresented communities. Through this inclusive approach, the EU Delegation aims to create a dynamic and comprehensive dialogue that captures the diversity and richness of Pacific youth experiences and aspirations, leading to a collaborative and equitable dialogue process.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Output 1.1 can include, but is not limited to, activities contributing to:

- support to the capacity of CSOs to analyse and keep track of legislative changes that have an impact on fundamental rights and freedoms and to monitor the enabling environment for civil society in the region;
- targeted CSO capacity development on key skills related to advocacy and policy engagement in the area of fundamental rights and freedoms;
- evaluation of the EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society in the Pacific.

Output 1.2 can include, but is not limited to, activities contributing to:

- targeted CSO capacity development on key technical skills related to advocacy and campaigning (e.g. evidence-based research and advocacy, coalition building, influencing, policy and budget analysis);
- networking events for CSOs benefitting from EU funding as well as capacity-building workshops adapted to their needs (including on aspects linked to EU financial rules and procedures, grant contract management and implementation);
- trainings on fundraising, designed to equip CSOs with the necessary knowledge and skills to secure financial resources for their projects and initiatives (grant writing, donor research, financial planning, digital fundraising);
- capacity building for CSOs on advocacy, including provision of small grants for CSOs for advocacy work (research, developing an advocacy strategy, developing targeted campaigns);
- capacity-building workshops focused on integrating gender equality and gender mainstreaming in CSOs' and youth organizations' initiatives;
- support for regional CSO events and policy seminars to facilitate policy dialogue.

Output 2.1 can include, but is not limited to, activities contributing to:

- developing a competitive, inclusive and open process for the selection of the PYSB;
- launching a Call for applications, assessing the applications and providing a shortlist to the Delegation for the final selection of members of the PYSB;
- implementing and managing all logistical and administrative processes related to the selection process;
- developing and delivering an induction training for the PYSB;
- creating a network of alumni and making recommendations on how it will interact with the next PYSB and the EU.

Output 2.2 can include, but is not limited to, activities contributing to:

- carrying out a capacity needs assessment of the PYSB for the gaps in capacity related to the implementation of their mandate and recommending trainings including team-building activities;
- delivering training workshops for the PYSB members in line with their needs including a Leadership training, mentoring/ coaching;
- providing technical support to the PYSB members for their respective thematic areas;
- empowering the PYSB to have more knowledge and influence on issues to do with youth, including being pro-active and innovative on engagement with the EU and reaching out to other young people;
- planning of field visits, meetings, workshops and other PYSB events ensuring that members are fully involved and empowered to participate including in the production of reports and follow-up actions;
- supporting the PYSB in managing their budget in line with their work plan and EU financial rules and procedures.

Particular attention will be paid to support CSOs and youth representing or amplifying the voices of marginalised segments of the population, such as women, youth, people with disabilities, people residing in rural areas or on outer islands, or ethnic, linguistic and sexual minorities whenever such support is not already provided by larger scale projects. Coordination will be ensured especially with the Pacific Partnership to Ending Violence against Women and Girls that offers targeted support to CSOs dealing with gender-based violence and women's rights.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Adequate consideration for environment protection and sustainable management of natural resources will be ensured in the activities of this Cooperation Facility.

Moreover, as climate change and environmental protection are a top priority of the EU in the Pacific, partnerships have already been established with CSOs active in this area and they will receive further targeted support through this Facility. In addition, youth activists from the Pacific have been enthusiastically advocating for climate justice and will be encouraged to continue to do so in the framework of the Pacific Youth Sounding Board.

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. Gender equality is a significant objective of the Action. This will be attained by taking into account the objectives of the third EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III³), with a specific focus on strengthening strategic dialogue with and support to CSOs dealing with gender equality, women's empowerment and the prevention of gender-based violence.

Human Rights/ Democracy

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are vital to the attainment of human rights and democracy in all EU partner countries and their contribution to these areas is a core pillar of EU's partnerships with CSOs in external action. This Cooperation Facility will adhere in full to the implementation of the **Rights-Based Approach (RBA)** to development, as well as to EU's commitment to promote and protect human rights and democracy as enshrined in the **Joint Communication and EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024**. Specific rights of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, as well as minorities should be carefully considered.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1.

Civil society is a vital actor in **promoting and defending the rights of marginalized people** facing particularly harsh discrimination. In line with the EU Strategy of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030), the EU will continue to support CSOs to ensure that representatives of persons with disabilities can participate in all relevant processes through specific and inclusive structured dialogues at EU and national level.

Reduction of inequalities

This action will provide targeted support for youth participation in the Pacific, taking into account that at least half the region's population is aged under 23. Despite representing such a large proportion of the population, young people often have difficulties in accessing relevant education, training and employment opportunities and are excluded from policy and decision-making processes on issues that affect them and their future.

³ ibid

Youth unemployment has been estimated at around 23% across the region with countries like Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands reaching almost 50%⁴. This is even more worrying when compared to the world average for young people in unemployment of around 13%.

The voice of young people in decision-making is very limited both at national level and at the traditional, community levels. Young people experience strong opposition from especially around sensitive issues that could push the rules and boundaries of social order.

This Action seeks to support youth organizations capacities and participation, as well as the capacities for youth inclusion of CSO partners at large, in a gender sensitive and responsive way, taking into account the different barriers and obstacles for male and female youth. It will also pay particular attention to youth coming from different backgrounds e.g. young persons with disabilities and young LGBTI . It will provide opportunities for youth engagement in policy dialogue with the EU, through the creation of a platform dedicate to structural dialogue with youth.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The action focuses on strengthening the capacities of CSOs, gender equality and youth organisations to participate in decision-making processes and to bring forth the voices and needs of the communities they represent. As such, it indirectly addresses societal, political and environmental fragilities of people in Pacific communities.

Moreover, given the fact the climate change is a top priority for the EU in the Pacific, an important share of the supported CSOs will likely work directly on building resilience at community and individual level.

The action supports the development of an inclusive and participatory democratic space in the Pacific partner countries and sets up a representative platform for consultations with youth. As such, promoting dialogue, peace and inclusion are part of its core activities.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Support and capacity-building will be provided to Pacific CSOs, out of which a large share focus their work on addressing the adverse effects of climate change, building resilience at community level or promoting environmental protection and sustainable agricultural practices. Therefore, the action is likely to have an indirect positive impact on the environment and the development of sustainability and resilience.

The action will not result in significant emissions. Moreover, it will also provide support to CSOs dealing with climate change and environmental issues, including those working on the sustainable management of carbon sinks

The potential climate change risks that may affect the achievement of the project objectives include delays in implementation due to natural hazards. Mitigation measures will be included in the conception phase of the programme.

Other considerations if relevant

NA

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures
		(High/ Medium/	(High/ Medium/	

⁴ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-document/204441/45328-001-dpta-01.pdf>

		Low)	Low)	
1.External environment;	Security risks (i.e. violence, harassment and online harassment, retaliation) for CSOs, Networks, Platforms and their partners who are participating in dialogue and implementation of activities under the Action, with particular regard to those working on the enabling environment or other sensitive issues.	Medium	Medium	<p>EU Delegation to provide capacity building initiatives for CSOs and/or specific trainings on how to work on the enabling environment.</p> <p>Apply conflict sensitivity assessments when required, mitigating the risk of exacerbating tensions and divisions as well as protecting the security and safety of CSOs representatives.</p> <p>EU political dialogue with relevant actors to underline the vital role of civil society.</p>
2.External environment;	Environment not conducive for CSOs working on gender equality and human rights issues; Weak capacity of women's organisations and restricted possibility to engage in dialogue on human rights and gender equality with public authorities; limited financial capacities of women's organisations.	Medium	Medium	Support CSO awareness raising towards general public and authorities on gender equality and human rights issues and the importance of supporting women's organisations and CSOs working on gender equality and human rights.
3.Planning, processes and systems;	<p>i) Weak organizational capacity and uneven engagement of CSOs and youth organisations with this initiative.</p> <p>ii) imbalance between the voice of</p>	Medium	Medium	EU Delegation to organise demand-driven capacity development training in favour of CSOs and youth in order to improve their organisational capacities, their project cycle management capacities and their advocacy and public engagement capacities.

	the elderly and the youth	Medium	Medium	In the frame of the demand-driven capacity development training organised by the EU, CSOs and Youth will be reminded of the importance to respect all voices and concerns coming from different stakeholders, regardless of sex, age and religious background.
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Lessons Learnt:

- *There is a need to adapt to increasing challenges and to focus more on supporting an enabling environment for civil society.*

Democracy is facing serious challenges all over the world, often leading to democratic backsliding and a deterioration of the rule of law. Both old and young democracies are experiencing a shrinking civic space, with declines in civil liberties, attacks on civil society, and restrictions on freedom of expression⁵. Against this general backdrop, there is also increasing evidence globally that governments have been exploiting the pandemic to further encroach on democratic freedoms and liberties, close civic space and criminalise criticism and dissent. It is therefore essential that, in complementarity with the Human Rights and Democracy Programme, this Action integrates this increasing challenge and the constraints it entails by contributing to creating and maintaining an enabling operating environment for CSOs in all partner countries.

- *There is a need to focus more on reaching and supporting national and local CSOs, as well as women's and youth organisations.*

Given the heavy requirements linked to EU funding, support to national and local (grass-root) civil society organisations is rather limited and cooperation remains centred on international CSOs. Moreover, funding does not seem to be sufficiently reaching youth and women's organisations, despite the fact that their areas of work are considered priorities for the EU. While this Cooperation Facility will support a broad range of CSO actors, efforts will be made to provide support and ensure an inclusive and accessible dialogue for and with national and local CSOs, as well as with women's and youth organizations in all partner countries.

- *There is a need to broaden the definition of and support for CSO capacity building.*

EU's support so far, focused on project funding and implementation, has been weaker on supporting CSO's internal governance, research and advocacy skills, and in sector-specific technical capacity building. This should be addressed by adhering to a broader and more comprehensive definition of capacity building, one that includes institutional and operational capacities in the areas of governance, accountability, programme, project and financial management, research and analysis, advocacy, sector-specific capacity building and access to funding.

⁵ <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/global-state-of-democracy-2019>, p.x

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is as follows:

An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system. CSOs have the power to give voice to the otherwise voiceless segments of society, advocate for social change and empower local communities to act, thus facilitating a greater inclusion of the needs of citizens in policy and decision-making. They also stimulate enhanced transparency, accountability and effectiveness of public institutions by monitoring their policies and holding them accountable for their commitments. The EU acknowledges the multiple roles that CSOs play in society as well as their essential contribution to processes of good governance, democracy, rule of law and, ultimately, to the creation of sustainable development.

This Facility aims to support the EU's partnership with civil society and young people in the Pacific region. The EU is already providing financial assistance to CSOs via the CSO Thematic programme or via regional programmes that closely work with CSOs on topics such as climate change and environmental protection, food security or gender-based violence. It also mainstreams youth in its projects, particularly those implemented by CSOs, ensuring that young people are also part of EU initiatives and benefit from EU funding. This Facility seeks to complement such financial assistance by focusing on providing capacity-building to CSOs in view of better influencing decision-making processes at national and EU level. It also adds a specific focus on strengthening CSO capacities to uphold and promote an enabling environment in their respective countries. With regards to youth, the Facility will create the Pacific Youth Sounding Board (PYSB) as a platform for youth capacity building and dialogue with the EU. The PYSB will seek to empower young voices in shaping policies and programs, ensuring their unique perspectives and aspirations are integrated into the development and decision-making processes. By fostering a two-way dialogue, the Cooperation Facility aims to build stronger relationships and foster mutual understanding between the EU and the vibrant youth of the Pacific, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and effective cooperation.

A core assumption for the implementation of this action and for the attainment of its subsequent outcomes is that relevant civil society and youth organisations, networks and platforms, that through their respective activities contribute to the EU's priorities, such as the reduction of inequalities, the human rights and democracy, the social inclusion and the human development, are willing and able to engage with the EU and to benefit from the support of this Cooperation Facility. Moreover, it is assumed that civil society in partner countries are invited to contribute to policy dialogue on development and to the implementation and monitoring of development plans and initiatives at partner country level, not least through active EU engagement and support for such participation.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this Action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required at Action level.

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.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

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

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The programme will be implemented through direct management using procurement contracts.

Both specific objectives (the development of an inclusive, participatory, empowered and independent civil society and democratic space in the Pacific and the development of an inclusive and open dialogue with young people and youth organisations) will be achieved through procurement contracts.

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, 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).

4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Specific objective 1 composed of	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	300 000
Specific objective 2 composed of	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.3.1.3	400 000
Total	700 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The EU Delegation will directly manage all procurement procedures linked to the implementation of this Cooperation Facility. Based on its regular rules and procedures, detailed Terms of Reference will be prepared by the operational section, in collaboration with the finance & contracts section, in order to achieve the proposed objectives. If needed, a Steering Committee can be set up, chaired by the EU Delegation, for the management of the Pacific Youth Sounding Board.

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.

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Implementing partners should include in their offers a strategy for monitoring and evaluating their action, including for data collection and the provision of sex-disaggregated indicators. As the various components under this action will directly benefit civil society and youth organisations, surveys on beneficiaries' satisfaction would need to be carried out by the implementing organisation and be part of their evaluation process.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this Cooperation Facility or its components via independent consultants.

It would be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the Pacific Youth Sounding Board is a pilot initiative in the region, but should become a structured mechanism for youth engagement with EU policies in programmes in the long run.

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

The financing of the evaluation 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

It is envisaged that a contract for communication and visibility may be contracted under a framework contract.

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;

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action