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

**ANNEX 2**

of the Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Decision C(2022)6137 Final of 23.08.2022 on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (People) for 2022-2024

**Action Document for Engage, Connect and Empower Youth**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

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

# 1 SYNOPSIS

## 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Engage, Connect and Empower Youth OPSYS/CRIS number: ACT-61033; 2022/44175 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Global
<b>4. Programming document</b>	NDICI Global Challenges Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	This action will contribute particularly to the specific objective 4 (Children and youth) of the People's chapter of the Multiannual Indicative Programme on Global Challenges, and specifically to its  Result 1: global outreach on children and youth participation and engagement; and  Result 3: innovative pilot actions are implemented to kick-start the implementation of the youth action plan, including programmes aimed at knowledge sharing, building leadership skills and capacities, and cross-country mentoring opportunities in partnership with the Member States and global youth actors and networks
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	151 Government & Civil Society - General
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions Other significant SDGs: SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 5 – Gender Equality SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

	SDG 10 – Reduce inequalities SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 – Climate Action SDG 15 – Life on Land SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	11231 – Basic life skills for youth 10% 15150 – Democratic participation and civil society 70% 15160 – Human rights 10% 15170 – Women's rights organisations and movements, and government institutions 5% 41081 – Environmental education/training 5%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	20000 - Non-governmental organisation (NGO) and Civil Society 60000 - Private sector institution 41000 – United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BUDGET INFORMATION			
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020240 – Global Challenges People  Total estimated cost: EUR 14 000 000  Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 14 000 000  The contribution is for an amount of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 13 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: procurement  Indirect management with the entities selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The action aims to engage, connect and empower young people to increase their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their communities and societies. The action will serve as a pilot action for the implementation of the Youth Action Plan in EU External Action 2022-2027<sup>1</sup> and will strengthen the youth dimension across the external priorities of the European Commission and contribute to a stronger Europe in the World.

The action is built on the results of a participatory approach, including several rounds of consultations in the context of the preparation of the EU Youth Action Plan, and of this action. The action will develop further youth participation

<sup>1</sup> JOIN(2022) 53 final

mechanisms in the implementation of the action, to ensure that the action adjusts to the needs of young people, increasing the impact and sustainability of the action.

The action will achieve four specific objectives:

**1) Increase impact and sustainability of outreach to and engagement with young people**

While the EU and Member States have put strategies and policies in place and offer opportunities for young people around the world, information about opportunities is not always easy to find for young people. Moreover, young people have raised the need to capitalise on networks and the importance of exchange, peer-learning and mentoring. Therefore, the action aims on the one hand at improving access to information about opportunities offered by the EU and its Member States. On the other hand, it also aims at enabling young people that have been supported by the EU to stay engaged and leverage their positive impact.

**2) Strengthen engagement and participation of young people in policy-making at multilateral fora**

In recent years, there has been increased focus on youth participation within the UN system and other multilateral fora. Young people have been able to convincingly advocate for their important input on global issues and processes. However, there are still barriers to their participation in and contribution to policy-making in multilateral fora. The action will build on these dynamics and strengthen the conditions for effective youth participation in these fora, notably through capacity-building as well as coordination and cooperation opportunities.

**3) Empower young people to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs**

Youth active at the grassroots level are often the motor behind innovative solutions to global challenges. Studies and stakeholder consultations show, however, that funding opportunities targeted to the needs of youth remain limited. The action is designed to support youth-led initiatives that aim at a positive impact in their immediate community and the wider society. Specific attention will be given to support young people's role to increase environmental sustainability, strengthen disaster risk reduction and to contribute to the overall objectives of the external dimension of the European Green Deal, to ensure healthy and resilient societies.

**4) Increase the inclusivity of young people's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs**

Young people face numerous challenges in increasing their role to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, even more so, those in situations of vulnerability, e.g. those affected by poverty and poor health, violence, conflicts, crises or migration, or those from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds. Challenges for young people with disabilities and gender-based discrimination persist and continue to hamper inclusive youth empowerment. The action will specifically support young people in situations of vulnerability and from disadvantaged backgrounds, young people with disabilities and young people that face discrimination based on their gender or sexual orientation in all its components.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

**1. Young People as Actors for Change – the role of young people in today's world**

By 2030, the world's population aged 15-24 will have grown to nearly 1,3 billion, which corresponds to just over 15% of the projected total world population of 8,5 billion.<sup>2</sup> This significant demographic change requires to invest in children and in youth, as key agents for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. With a growing

<sup>2</sup> UN, 'Youth World Report', 2020. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/07/2020-World-Youth-Report-FULL-FINAL.pdf>

global youth population, building partnerships with young people is fundamental to build stronger, more legitimate, inclusive, peaceful, and democratic societies, underpinned by human rights and the rule of law.

## **2. Young People as Partners – EU Policy Framework**

The action is grounded in the wider international and multilateral framework on youth policies, notably the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17) and policy developments such as the UN Secretary-General's report 'Our Common Agenda'<sup>3</sup>.

The action is aligned with the European Consensus on Development and the geopolitical priorities of the European Commission, contributing to 'A Stronger Europe in the World'<sup>4</sup>. With its focus on connecting and engaging young people, the action will accompany the EU's Global Gateway strategy.<sup>5</sup> The Council Conclusions on Youth in External Action of 5 June 2020<sup>6</sup> recognise young people as change makers and essential partners. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 stresses the need to ensure youth's equal, full, effective and meaningful participation in all spheres and levels of public and political life.<sup>7</sup> The action will also support the EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III)<sup>8</sup> aiming at accelerating progress on empowering women and girls. The principles of the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 will underpin the action.<sup>9</sup> The Action furthermore complements the EU's humanitarian work on youth as exemplified in its humanitarian gender policy (2013)<sup>10</sup> and as implemented through its humanitarian gender-age marker (2014)<sup>11</sup> and links with principles for working with youth in humanitarian aid contexts<sup>12</sup>.

The action will support the external dimension of the European Green Deal by empowering young people in areas such as climate change mitigation and adaption, participation in environmental management, circular economy opportunities or actions towards a Just Transition, to act against climate change and its impacts on health and well-being. Thereby, the action will support the role of young people in the implementation of global commitments, for example under the Paris Agreement or the Convention on Biodiversity.

The action is fully in line with the EU Youth Strategy, that is the framework for EU youth policy cooperation for 2019-2027. The action will take into account the EU Youth Strategy's basic principles of engaging, connecting and empowering youth. Synergies will be sought with Erasmus + and the European Solidarity Corps. Finally, it will contribute to the implementation of the upcoming Youth Action Plan in EU External Action.

## **3. Results of youth-related consultations and evidence**

The results of the consultation process for the Youth Action Plan in EU external action show the importance of a comprehensive approach to youth policies, plans and programmes and of ensuring youth participation, inclusion and equality. It highlights the need to take into account the specific and diverse needs of young people in their particular context, which is neither homogenous nor static. The focus on young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, on youth that face challenges related to gender equality and on young people disability, will increase the inclusiveness of the action.

<sup>3</sup> UN, 'Our Common Agenda', 2021. [https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common\\_Agenda\\_Report\\_English.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> European Commission, 'A Stronger Europe in the World'. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world_en)

<sup>5</sup> European Commission, 'The Global Gateway', 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint\\_communication\\_global\\_gateway.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint_communication_global_gateway.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Council of the European Union, 'Youth in external action - Council conclusions 8342/20', 2020, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8629-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>7</sup> European Commission, 'EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024', 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/JOIN\(2020\)5\\_0/de00000000005737?rendition=false](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/JOIN(2020)5_0/de00000000005737?rendition=false)

<sup>8</sup> SWD(2020) 284 final, [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final\\_en.pdf](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> European Commission, 'Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030', 2021. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=8376&furtherPubs=yes>

<sup>10</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender\\_thematic\\_policy\\_document\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_thematic_policy_document_en.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender\\_age\\_marker\\_toolkit.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/gender_age_marker_toolkit.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> IASC, 'With us & for us: Working with and for Young People in Humanitarian and Protracted Crises, UNICEF and NRC for the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action', 2020: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/events/iasc-guidelines-working-and-young-people-humanitarian-and-protracted-crises>

The action's focus on engagement opportunities, for example at multilateral level, takes into account the need expressed by young people to be more involved in policy-making. For example, the #YourVoiceYourFuture report<sup>13</sup>, based on polls run in Africa and Europe with responses of a total of 450 000 young people between the ages of 14 and 35, underlined the following needs and aspirations of young people: 91% of young Africans and Europeans would like to be more involved in political decision-making, but 59% claim that they have no direct access to policy-makers. The same report also shows that 88% of young people in Africa and Europe say that they feel responsible for tackling climate change, while 71% want to play a role in the green transition.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

The following challenges have been identified:

### 1. Limited impact and sustainability of outreach and engagement actions for young people

Outreach and impact of youth actions are often limited and not sufficiently inclusive, partly because information about opportunities are scattered and not easy to find for young people. Moreover youth engagement often stops right at the end of a specific action and does not make use of created networks or mobilise peer-learning or mentoring, thereby limiting the sustainability of the engagement and losing opportunities to create longer-term positive impact. The action thus aims at bridging this gap and increasing the impact and the sustainability of youth engagement and outreach actions.

### 2. Lack of engagement and effectiveness of youth participation in multilateral fora

In recent years, there has been increased focus on hearing young people's voices and encouraging their participation at United Nations level and in other multilateral fora. Young people have been able to convincingly advocate for their important input on global issues and processes. However, there are still barriers to their participation in these fora, related to limited capacity-building as well as limited coordination and cooperation opportunities for young people to increase their impact collectively.

### 3. Limitations to the contribution of young people to achieve the SDGs

While youth active at grassroots level are often the motor behind innovative solutions to global challenges, studies and stakeholder consultations show that there is a limitation of low-barrier funding opportunities targeted to the needs of youth. Youth-led initiatives however often face barriers in access to funding of their activities and to scale-up successful initiatives. Thereby the high potential of young people to contribute to SDGs and in particular to areas of their preoccupation, such as environmental sustainability, is hampered.

### 4. Young people in situations of vulnerability and the inclusivity of youth actions

Support to youth often goes to young people that are already established and well educated, whereas those hard to reach or from disadvantages backgrounds do not have access or awareness about such opportunities. Thereby a large potential for youth empowerment and fighting inequalities is missed. Many young people in developing countries that find themselves in situations of vulnerability are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, face discrimination based on gender, discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or challenges related to disability.

Beyond widespread socio-economic barriers to youth engagement and empowerment, young people are e.g. often affected by violent conflicts and experience displacement or migration. In communities affected by deep grievances, young people often find it more difficult to engage in civic and economic activities. Therefore, it is important to establish support led by youth themselves.

While there has been some significant but uneven progress achieved in advancing women's and girls' rights, no country in the world is on track to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030<sup>14</sup>. The UN Youth Stats,

<sup>13</sup> UNICEF, U-Report, 'YourVoiceYourFuture report', 2021, (based on four U-Report polls run in Africa and Europe, in 2020.) [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/yourvoiceyourfuture-young-people-want-more-say-political-decision-making\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/yourvoiceyourfuture-young-people-want-more-say-political-decision-making_en)

<sup>14</sup> European Commission, 'Gender Action Plan – Putting women and girls' rights at the heart of the global recovery for a gender-equal world' Press release, Brussels, 25 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news/gender-action-plan-putting-women-and-girls-rights-heart-global-recovery-gender-equal-world-2020-11-25\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news/gender-action-plan-putting-women-and-girls-rights-heart-global-recovery-gender-equal-world-2020-11-25_en)



for example, show that young women participate less in education, the labour market, technology, decision making in their families, communities and countries<sup>15</sup>.

Young people with disabilities continue to face challenges related to physical barriers, access to information, capacity constraints due to lack of access to education, stigma and discrimination and consequently their potential as key actors for change is not yet mobilised. UN estimates that one in ten children has some form of disability and that on average 15% of world population live with disability<sup>16</sup>.

### **Main stakeholders**

The action will specifically target young people across the world, with specific attention to young people from developing countries:

- All young people, notably from ODA- recipient countries;
- Youth organisations, grassroots youth-led initiatives and informal youth groups;
- Young people in situations of vulnerability or from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds;
- Young people that face discrimination related to their gender or sexual orientation;
- Young people with disabilities, and
- Young people that have already participated in EU actions.

Other stakeholders include:

- CSOs active in the area of youth participation and empowerment as partners and/or implementers, female youth organisation, organisation representing the rights of young people with disabilities;
- EU Member States and their cooperation agencies as well as International Organisations as partners and/or implementers;
- Local youth organisations and educational institutions are partners for outreach and engagement;
- National or sub-national authorities that could contribute to the implementation and sustainability;
- Private sector and philanthropy contributing with additional resources;
- Providers of existing engagement and outreach of activities;
- International Organisations and organisers of multilateral fora, notably entities in the UN System.

## **3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs**

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to increase the contribution of young people in their diversity to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

1. Improve access for young people in their diversity to EU youth engagement and empowerment opportunities.
2. Strengthen effectiveness and inclusivity of young people's participation in multilateral policy-making.
3. Increase the contribution of young people in their diversity to the sustainable development of their communities and societies.

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

- 1.1. Strengthened inclusive outreach and engagement mechanisms for young people in EU action.
- 2.1. Increased opportunities for inclusive participation of young people in multilateral policy-making.
- 2.2. Enhanced capacities of young people to participate effectively in multilateral policy-making.

<sup>15</sup> Diverse statistics are available at: <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/young-women-girls/>

<sup>16</sup> UNICEF, 'Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities' Publication, January 2022. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021/>

- 3.1. Enhanced capacity of young people to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and societies.
- 3.2. Enhanced capacity of young people to raise awareness, mobilise support groups and implement activities related to environmental sustainability.
- 3.3. Enhanced capacity of initiatives led by or benefiting young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality.

## 3.2 Indicative Activities

### Indicative activities related to Output 1.1

- Gather, translate, curate and present information on opportunities targeting young people;
- Provide support to young people in partner countries to benefit from the EU and Member States actions (e.g. through online learning opportunities, a help desk or peer-exchange possibilities);
- Establish partnerships with relevant actors, local partner organisations (youth organisations, universities etc.) to promote opportunities among youth;
- Develop and implement youth engagement actions (e.g. consultations, youth champions/ambassador programmes, back to school/university schemes or support to youth-led alumni initiatives);
- Support community management (e.g. through follow-up activities for alumni, including webinars, trainings, provision of information);
- Outreach, engagement and follow-up activities, e.g. mentoring, peer-learning or networking activities, targeted to underrepresented or marginalised groups, notably young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality;
- Provision of reasonable accommodation, inclusive communication, and support in order to facilitate accessibility and participation of youth with disabilities.

### Indicative activities related to Output 2.1:

- Provide support to young people's participation in multilateral fora (e.g. opportunities, logistics etc.);
- Provide specific support for the participation of underrepresented or marginalised groups, notably young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality.

### Indicative activities related to Output 2.2:

- Provide capacity-building and coordination activities to increase effectiveness of youth participation;
- Organise cooperation and networking activities to increase sustainability and to create strong networks of young people involved in multilateral policy-making;
- Provide specific support for underrepresented or marginalised groups, notably young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality.

### Indicative activities related to Output 3.1:

- Support to youth initiatives in areas contributing to the SDGs, including youth-led community development (e.g. artistic, cultural, educational) or needs assessment;
- Provide training and help desk type of services etc.;
- Establish partnerships with local stakeholders and maintain dialogue with EU Delegations;
- Develop youth-friendly ways of promotion, submission and assessment of project proposals;
- Crowd in additional funding and increase the offer (e.g. pro bono activities) through partnerships with philanthropy, foundations, private sector, other donors, alumni of EU programmes, etc.;
- Accelerator-type support to impactful initiatives (trainings, peer-learning, mentoring, networking).

### Indicative activities related to Output 3.2:

- Youth-led activities to support environmental sustainability (climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, circular economy, disaster risk reduction, water, agriculture, etc.);



- Youth-led environmental awareness raising and education activities;
- Youth-led activities to mobilise young people, groups, local authorities and the local business environment to work together to solve environmental problems.

Indicative activities related to Output 3.3.

Support youth initiatives led by or with benefits for underrepresented or marginalised groups, notably young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

Climate change is key to the action as part of its objectives and outputs, notably for the action to support young initiatives in implementing climate mitigation and adaptation activities. As per OECD DAC Rio markers for climate this action is labelled as RM 1. This implies that climate change is a significant objective even though not the principal objective of the action (which is youth empowerment, engagement and participation) and will also be mainstreamed throughout the action and promoted at all levels. A specific output is formulated for the action to support young initiatives in implementing actions for environmental sustainability, for example on climate change adaptation or biodiversity.

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

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

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

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C.

**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.

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is a significant objective. The equal participation in the action's activities of young women and men in all their diversity is foreseen. The action will support initiatives that aim at increasing gender equality and women empowerment, as well as initiatives led by young people that face discrimination related to gender or sexual orientation. The action will have an intersectional approach, considering young people in all their diversity.

#### **Human Rights**

The action adopts a rights-based approach and includes support to applying all rights equally, leaving no one behind, increased accountability and transparency, as well as inclusiveness, non-discrimination and participation. Inclusiveness is addressed throughout the intervention logic. Synergies with existing mechanisms such as the EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism will be sought.

#### **Disability**

This action is labelled as D1. This implies that young people with disability are targeted significantly in this action. The action aims to empower youth with disability to participate actively in the SDGs achievement. Reasonable accommodation, accessibility and support will be provided to make sure youth with disabilities are able to participate in all project outputs and activities.

#### **Democracy**

The action will contribute to the empowerment of young people for their active participation in society. The action will strengthen young people's role in civil society. Moreover, the action will strengthen the role of young people in the positive development of their community.

#### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

A conflict analysis or a conflict sensitivity assessment has not been carried out, as the action is planned globally. However, the action will take conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience into account in the implementation phase. In accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, young people are seen as key actors in ensuring peace and security, not least because their lives are most affected by the impact of conflicts and insecurity. Indicative activities under specific objective/outcome 1 include activities aiming to empower these young people. Specific consideration will be given to the fact that youth in fragile and conflict areas might need specific outreach mechanisms and support actions adapted to context.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Although the action does not specifically target disaster risk reduction, the youth-led projects implemented under Outcome 3 could include activities to reduce the risks of disasters or to contribute to disaster management.

### **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>
2 - Planning, processes and systems	There is a risk of duplication and overlaps with existing programmes by other actors and with EU and Member States or too little synergies with national, regional and other global actions.	Medium	Low	Synergies and complementarities with major national, regional initiatives and with other global programmes have been identified and will continue to be sought in the implementation phase. The inclusion of stakeholders in the formulation phase and during the implementation contributes to ensuring complementarity.
2 - Planning, processes and systems	Without appropriate mitigating measures, the action risks to exclude young people in situations of vulnerability, from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds or those confronted with specific challenges related to gender equality or disability.	High	High	A specific outcome is introduced in the intervention logic. The risk will therefore not only be mitigated by involving young people throughout the formulation and implementation of the action (e.g. Youth Sounding Board) and by creating partnerships with local partners, but also through specific actions to reach, engage and empower youth from less favourable backgrounds. Reasonable accommodation and means of inclusive communication will be used to ensure the access and participation of those with disabilities throughout the activities.
2 - Planning, processes and systems	The support of grass-root youth initiatives might create a risk of irregularities in projects management or the non-	High	Low	Beneficiaries will have access to basic training, e.g. on minimum standards on project management. The monitoring arrangements should also include the verification of projects, including innovative tools such as peer-monitoring and mentoring.

	alignment with EU values.			
2 Planning, processes and systems / 5 Communication and information	There is a risk that the engagement and outreach activities are neither sufficiently promoted, incentivised nor accessible, nor meet the needs and interests of young people, especially of those living in more disadvantages situations, and will not reach the adequate level of participation and critical mass to make a transformative impact.	Medium	High	This risk will be mitigated by (a) involving young people throughout the formulation and implementation of the action, (b) by curating the content and activities, active outreach and ensuring its relevance and accessibility for young people and (c) promoting the use of existing engagement tools (EU Youth Portal and EU alumni platform) among stakeholders. Partnerships with organisations that have a large potential to reach out to relevant target groups are foreseen under the indicative activities.

### Lessons Learnt

Young people express the need for participation and the need for inclusive spaces for genuine, regular input from young people into policy and decision-making. The action is based on the result of participative approach and large consultation of young people and youth organisations in different structures. Needs and aspirations of young people are taken into account, and should continue to be taken into account in the implementation of the action.

Partnerships with local organisations as partners (youth led organisations, universities etc.) seem to have been successful in promoting opportunities among young people. Good practice actions shared by donors and other stakeholders indicate that proximity to the target group or community is key in quality actions for youth. Micro-grants are proven to work better and have the potential to enable young people to create concrete impact despite small financial allocations. This means less money for each initiative but funding more initiatives.

Young people are exposed to a large volume of information, therefore it is important to communicate via channels that are already popular with young people and accessible for them.

The success of engagement activities depends on whether young people have a concrete benefit of it, e.g. linked to opportunities for funding, training or mobility.

The sustainability of engagement with young people can be increased by in-person and youth-led activities, for example through former beneficiaries serving as coordinator for a country or a region.

The effectiveness of participation of young people in multilateral fora does not only depend on travel opportunities, but also on capacity-building and can be further leveraged through coordination and cooperation among young people.

Young people expressed the need to be engaged and empowered, not only related to the traditional 'youth specific' sectors (education, leisure, employment), but to allow young people to choose the most relevant objectives and activities for them and their communities.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

If young people are interested to participate in engagement activities, they act upon the opportunities offered and the inclusive outreach and engagement mechanisms for young people in EU action are increased, then the access to EU engagement and empowerment activities for young people in their diversity is improved.

If young people are interested and able to participate in multilateral policy-making, the EU and other actors promote youth participation in these fora, and if there are more opportunities for the participation of young people to multilateral fora and the capacities of young people's participation in multilateral fora are enhanced, then the contribution of young people to multilateral fora is strengthened and more effective.

Under the assumption that young people are interested to get engaged in promoting sustainable development and there are sufficient youth-led initiatives that can be supported, the following intervention logic is foreseen: If youth-led initiatives have enhanced capacities to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and societies, if youth-led initiatives use their enhanced capacities to raise awareness, to mobilise support and to implement activities related to environmental sustainability and if youth initiatives are led by or for the benefit of young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality, then the action increases the contribution of young people in their diversity to the sustainable development of their communities and societies.

The intervention logic is based on the assumptions that young people are willing to engage but lacking the information, means and opportunities to do it; that multilateral fora foresee spaces for meaningful youth participation and that young people are interested and capable themselves to bring positive change in light of the SDGs and in respect of human rights and EU values. If outreach and engagement mechanisms are improved, if effectiveness and inclusivity of young people's participation in multilateral policy-making is strengthened and if young people in their diversity are empowered to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and societies, then the contribution of young people to the implementation of the SDGs is enhanced.

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

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

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

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

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

Results	Results chain (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To increase the contribution of young people in their diversity to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of members of young people reporting trust in the EU and MS actions regarding sustainable development (disaggregated by sex and population group; e.g. religion, ethnicity)</li> <li>Interest in politics, level of political participation and social activism of young people towards sustainable development goals</li> <li>Level of young people's satisfaction with their capacity to influence positively the sustainable development of their communities, with disaggregation of data by: age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tbc</li> <li>tbc</li> <li>tbc</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tbc</li> <li>tbc</li> <li>tbc</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</li> <li>Barometer surveys such as World Value Survey, Latinobarómetro or Afrobarometer</li> <li>Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</li> </ol>	Not applicable
Outcome 1	Improved access for young people in their diversity to EU youth engagement and empowerment actions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Level of interest of young people in partner countries about EU funded opportunities and activities for young people, e.g. applications to opportunities; disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</li> <li>Number of young people staying continuously engaged with the EU e.g. alumni initiatives, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants;</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tbc</li> <li>tbc</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tbc</li> <li>tbc</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</li> <li>Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</li> </ol>	<p>EU will support other activities for youth empowerment, engagement and participation on which the action will build.</p> <p>Young people are interested and willing to get engaged and benefit from opportunities offered.</p>

		refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.				
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Strengthened effectiveness and inclusivity of young people's participation in multilateral policy-making.	<p>2.1. Level of participation of young people in development of multilateral policies supported by the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>2.2. Number of multilateral policies developed or revised with young people participation through EU support.</p>	<p>2.1. tbc</p> <p>2.2. tbc</p>	<p>2.1. tbc</p> <p>2.2. tbc</p>	<p>2.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p>	<i>Multilateral fora foresee spaces for meaningful youth participation.</i>
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Increased contribution of young people in their diversity to the sustainable development of their communities and societies.	<p>3.1. Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support (GERF)</p> <p>3.2. Level of interest of young people to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and societies, e.g. applications for funds, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>3.3. Number of initiatives continued, replicated or scaled up after 3 year from the start</p>	<p>3.1. tbc</p> <p>3.2. tbc</p> <p>3.3. tbc</p>	<p>3.1. tbc</p> <p>3.2. tbc</p> <p>3.3. tbc</p>	<p>3.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.3. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the</p>	<i>Young people are interested and capable to bring positive change in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and environmental sustainability, in respect of human rights and EU values.</i>



					EU-funded intervention	
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.1. Strengthened inclusive outreach and engagement mechanisms for young people in EU action.	<p>1.1.1. Number of young people reached in the promotion of opportunities for youth, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>1.1.2. Number of participants to youth engagement and follow-up activities for young people, e.g. alumni initiatives, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>1.1.3. Number of youth-led engagement and follow-up activities, e.g. alumni initiatives, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>1.1.4. Number of specific outreach and engagement activities for underrepresented or marginalised target groups, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty</p>	<p>1.1.1. tbc</p> <p>1.1.2. 0</p> <p>1.1.3. 0</p> <p>1.1.4. 0</p>	<p>1.1.1. tbc</p> <p>1.1.2. tbc</p> <p>1.1.3. tbc</p> <p>1.1.4. 0</p>	<p>1.1.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>1.1.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>1.1.3. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>1.1.4. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p>	<p><i>Youth acts upon the opportunities provided.</i></p> <p><i>Young people will be able and interested to participate in engagement activities.</i></p>
<b>Output 1</b>	2.1. Increased opportunities for inclusive	2.1.1. Number of young people supported to participate in multilateral for a, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural,	<p>2.1.1. tbc</p> <p>2.1.2. tbc</p>	2.1.1. tbc	2.1.1. Baseline and endline surveys	<i>The EU, MS and other relevant actors will promote the</i>

<b>related to Outcome 2</b>	participation of young people in multilateral policy-making.	<p>persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.,</p> <p>2.1.2. Extent to which mechanisms for ensuring consultation and participation of young people in multilateral policy-making have been strengthened with support of the EU-funded intervention</p>		2.1.2. tbc	<p>conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>2.1.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p>	<i>participation of young people in multilateral fora.</i>
<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 2</b>	2.2. Enhanced capacities of young people to participate effectively in multilateral policy-making.	<p>2.2.1. Number of young people trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or skills to participate in multilateral policy-making, with disaggregation of data by: age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>2.2.2. Number of participants to coordination and cooperation activities, disaggregated by: age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p>	<p>2.2.1. 0</p> <p>2.2.2. 0</p>	<p>2.2.1. tbc</p> <p>2.2.2. tbc</p>	<p>2.2.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>2.2.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p>	<i>Young people are interested and willing to participate in multilateral policy-making</i>
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 3</b>	3.1. Enhanced capacity of young people to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities and societies	<p>3.1.1. Number of youth-led initiatives/young people benefiting from financial support and training to strengthen their capacity</p> <p>3.1.2. Number of people benefitting from youth initiatives (disaggregated by age/sex).</p>	<p>3.1.1. tbc</p> <p>3.1.2. tbc</p>	<p>3.1.1. tbc</p> <p>3.1.2. tbc</p>	<p>3.1.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>3.1.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and</p>	<i>There are sufficient youth-led initiatives that can be supported by the action.</i>

					budgeted by the EU-funded	
<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 3</b>	3.2. Enhanced capacity of young people to raise awareness, mobilise support groups and implement activities related to environmental sustainability.	<p>3.2.1. Number of youth-led initiatives/ young people supported, out of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- climate change mitigation</li> <li>- climate change adaptation</li> <li>- biodiversity</li> <li>- disaster risk reduction</li> </ul> <p>3.2.2. Number of people benefitting from youth initiatives (disaggregated by age/sex), out of which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- climate change mitigation</li> <li>- climate change adaptation</li> <li>- biodiversity</li> <li>- disaster risk reduction</li> </ul>	<p>3.2.1. tbc</p> <p>3.2.2. tbc</p>	<p>3.2.1. tbc</p> <p>3.2.2. tbc</p>	<p>3.2.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>3.2.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p>	<p><i>Young people are interested to get engaged in environmental sustainability activities.</i></p> <p><i>There are sufficient youth-led initiatives that can be supported by the action.</i></p>
<b>Output 3 Related to Outcome 3</b>	3.3. Enhanced capacity of young people from or engaged for the benefit of young people in situations of vulnerability or from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with disabilities or those facing challenges related to gender equality.	<p>3.3.1. Number of target group-led initiatives/young people benefiting from financial support and training to strengthen their capacity, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p> <p>3.3.2. Number of youth-led initiatives benefitting the target group, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, urban/rural, persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities; migrants; refugees, asylum-seekers and Internally Displaced People; young people living in extreme poverty.</p>	<p>3.3.1. tbc</p> <p>3.3.2. tbc</p>	<p>3.3.1. tbc</p> <p>3.3.2. tbc</p>	<p>3.3.1. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>3.3.2. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p>	<p><i>There are sufficient youth-led initiatives that can be supported by the action.</i></p>

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with 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 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

### 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including the protection of the EU's financial interests, review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>17</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieve the specific objectives 1 and 2.

#### 4.3.2. Indirect Management with entrusted organisations

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: role of the actor in multilateral policy-making; ability to promote youth participation in multilateral policy-making; ability to offer capacity-building and training for young people contributing to multilateral policy-making; experience in youth engagement and empowerment programmes.

The implementation by this entity entails the activities identified under outcome 2 and output 2.1 and 2.2. of the action.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: capacity of youth outreach, youth engagement and empowerment at global and country level, experience and capacity to manage small grants and/or funds, awareness of local contexts.

The implementation by this entity entails the activities identified under outcome 3, output 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3.

#### 4.3.3. Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

In case the above implementation modalities of indirect management cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, direct management through the award of grants contracts and/or service contracts will be applied for the activities related to outcome 2 and 3.

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<sup>17</sup> EU Sanctions Map, 2022. [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

#### 4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3	
<b>Objective 1</b> composed of	2 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	2 000 000
<b>Objective 2</b> composed of	2 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	1 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted organisation – cf. section 4.3.2	1 000 000
<b>Objective 3</b> composed of	10 000 000
Indirect management with an entrusted organisation – cf. section 4.3.2	10 000 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
<b>Totals</b>	14 000 000

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action might foresee a Steering Committee to guide the action, including members of the European Commission and the project implementers.

Participation mechanisms for young people, notably those currently benefitting from actions or from former beneficiaries (alumni) will be explored. Building on the objectives three and four of the action, participation of young people in situations of vulnerability or from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds or those that face disadvantages related to gender equality and young people with disabilities will equally be explored.

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

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

#### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall

establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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

Indicators shall be disaggregated by age, at least from 15-35 with intervals of five years.

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:

- Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring will be established within the implementing partner organisation.
- Quarterly reports will be presented summarising the main activities and the values of outputs' and direct/intermediate Outcomes' indicators.
- Stakeholders, notably youth, will be consulted regularly by the implementer. Innovative features such as youth-led monitoring or reporting might be foreseen.
- Reporting of beneficiaries shall be adapted to the needs and capacities of young people, taking into account diverse realities and overall youth-friendliness of reporting mechanisms.

## 5.2 Evaluation

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

A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that youth actions generate long term results and short term results are visible as opportunities for development, rather than statistical improvements in the situation of young people. Recommended methodologies for the evaluation could be Theory Based Impact Evaluation methodologies, especially the Realist Evaluation, as well as 'transformative evaluation' or other types of participatory, qualitative impact evaluation methods.

For the final evaluation, a focus should be on access to opportunities that open new possibilities for youth development and transitions, rather than short term results regarding young people competences that can narrow the path to future developments<sup>18</sup>. Moreover, the use of participative evaluation methods, qualitative approaches and storytelling is recommended, as the evaluation itself can contribute to youth learning and empowerment.<sup>19</sup>

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

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

<sup>18</sup> See Ord, Jon (2012). "Planning: for opportunities not outcomes". In J. Ord (Ed.), *Critical Issues in Youth Work Management*, Routledge, Oxon and Morciano, Daniele (2015), "Evaluating outcomes and mechanisms of non-formal education in youth centres". In *Italian Journal of Sociology of Education*, Vol. 7, No. 1: 67-96, doi:10.14658/PUPJ-IJSE-2015-1-4

<sup>19</sup> see as a good practice: Ord, Jon, Marc Carletti, Susan Cooper, Christophe Dansac, Daniele Morciano, Lasse Siurala and Marti Taru (2018) *The Impact of Youth Work in Europe: A Study of Five European Countries*, Humak University of Applied Sciences Publications, Helsinki.

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.

### 5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

## 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

Action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned.

However, in line with Article 46 and subject to Article 47 of the NDICI Regulation, all entities implementing EU-funded external actions shall take all reasonable measures to publicise the European Union support. 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.

Considering its focus on global outreach to children and youth and the objective to foster youth leadership and networks, this initiative has a strong Public Diplomacy dimension. As such the action will seek to build synergies with Public Diplomacy initiatives engaging youth organised in HQ and in EU Delegations.



## Appendix - REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

The present Action identifies as

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