ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027

1. The overall Lines of the EU International Cooperation in the Region

1.1.   Basis for Programming

The Asia-Pacific area spans from the Middle East to the Pacific Island States. It is extremely heterogeneous in terms of human and physical geography, economy, social progress and level of development and democracy, encompassing the full spectrum between highly industrialised to least developed countries. Heterogeneity exists also within the various sub-regions. Notwithstanding this diversity, the region plays a key role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and overarching converging interests and priorities for EU engagement and joined-up actions exist and offer possibilities to maximise impact.

The EU vision, interests and priorities in Asia-Pacific are outlined by various EU strategies for the region, in particular the April 2021 *Council Conclusions on an EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*.[1] These are broad and deep, spanning from profound economic and trade interests with asymmetrically growing interdependences (Europe's future growth and prosperity will increasingly depend on Asia), addressing global challenges (e.g. climate change, just and clean energy transition, pandemics, environment, migration, poverty and inequality), support for multilateralism, promotion of human rights, including labour rights, democracy, social and environmental sustainability, and gender equality, LGBTQI rights as well as peace, security and stability, and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction. Promoting sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based connectivity within the region as well as between Europe and Asia is an EU priority. Synergies and complementarities will therefore be ensured between the connectivity priorities pursued via the Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme and the upcoming Global Gateway communication, in particular with respect to the deployment of EFSD+ modalities.

The EU will also review how to strengthen joined-up approaches with certain regional associations (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations - ASEAN, the Pacific Island Forum – PIF, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation - SAARC, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation - BIMSTEC, Indian Ocean Rim Association - IORA) on continental level and on specific issues (e.g. the COVID-19 response). The aim is to synergise and strengthen partnerships with key actors as well as to promote a European approach.

Pursuing all these interests and priorities will require engaging with government and non-government partners, within the Asia-Pacific region and beyond through public diplomacy to enhance understanding of EU policies, build trust, foster networks, alliances and partnerships with key target audiences and partners (incl. people-to-people contacts) to facilitate bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. Raising public awareness and understanding of the EU's priorities and impact in the region through strategic communication activities, including large-scale campaigns, is crucial to build support and enhance public perception of the EU as a trusted partner. This regional programme is informed by a wide range of bilateral, sub-regional and regional policy documents as listed in Annex 1. It is designed to support the regional priorities and EU interests in full complementarity, coherence and synergy with country and thematic MIPs in the following broad areas:

- **Green Deal:** this includes support to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, socially fair, clean and just transition towards climate neutrality in all its aspects (gas, coal phase out, renewable energy sources including hydrogen, energy efficiency, energy security), climate resilience and circular economy including sustainable connectivity, energy transition, the

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[1] Notably the Council Conclusions on the Indo-Pacific: EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (19 April 2021) and the Joint Communication, the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy (2018), the European Council Conclusions from May 2018 on "Enhancing EU Security Cooperation in and with Asia", as well as the EU Strategy on Central Asia (June 2019), full list of documents in annex.

EU's 'farm-to-fork' strategy and its chemicals strategy for sustainability, sustainable and accessible urbanisation, decent green jobs creation and relevant skills development, sustainable financing (by helping accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions), preservation of biodiversity, including through strengthening global and regional governance and sustainable management of natural resources, on land and in the ocean.

- **Digital agenda**: important avenues for partnership exist in the region, especially concerning the digital economy in line with the EU's human-centric model for digital transformation and connectivity. (including cyber security, digital global governance and recent initiatives such as the Digital Compass Communication and the Global Gateway Communication), information and communication technology, interoperability and standardisation as well as fostering digital skills, digitalisation of businesses, digitalisation of the public services and quality digital infrastructure. Bridging the digital gap is also an important priority for social inclusion, the adaptation of education systems to the digital age, as well as economic growth and diversification. Promotion of a global consensus on a human-centric approach to Artificial Intelligence and the promotion of European values and norms are also key issues.

- **Sustainable jobs and sustainable growth:** this includes ensuring that trade relations contribute to social development, decent work, more sustainable and inclusive growth models and the climate-environment agenda by being aligned with the principles of sustainable development, do no harm and due diligence and inclusivity. Sustainable investment in socio-economic infrastructure can substantially accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and develop more resilient, inclusive and green economies able to create decent employment, if focussed on green investments and environmental sustainability. This entails reinforcing economic, social, cultural and labour rights, as well as ensuring a just transition.

- **Migration, forced displacement and mobility:** Some Asian countries are major areas of origin, transit and/or destination for people on the move, including migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced persons. Three of the major forced displacement situations are in the Asia region, namely the Afghan displacement situation, the displacement situation in Iraq and the displacement of Myanmar populations, including the Rohingya refugee crisis. Conflict, instability, insecurity, climate change and environmental degradation, poverty and inequalities contribute significantly to migration and forced displacement, including international, inter-regional and long-term internal displacement, and impacts on issues of statelessness and citizenship rights. Migrant workers are at high risk of labour rights' violations. Enhancing cooperation on all aspects of migration, mobility and forced displacement, is a key priority to be addressed for the operationalisation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Meanwhile, well orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and human mobility offers considerable development opportunities.

- **Peace and security, governance and rule of law:** The continued threat to security in the region posed by conflict, terrorism, violent extremism, organised crime and cybercrime is acknowledged i.a. in the *Council Conclusions on an EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*[2] and the *Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific* (September 2021), and the May 2018 Council Conclusions on enhanced EU security cooperation in and with Asia.[3] Advancing the rule of law, strengthening judiciary and law enforcement agencies and systems, and promoting the right to a fair trial to ensure accountability and respect for human rights in the administration of justice, as well as promoting regional coordination in this regard, are important elements of the EU's regional action.

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[2] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7914-2021-INIT/en/pdf
[3] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/35456/st09265-re01-en18.pdf

- **Multilateralism**: enhance multilateralism to address global challenges, such as fighting climate change and a just and clean energy transition, pandemics, in line with the *Joint Communication on Strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based multilateralism* and the role of the EU in multilateral and regional fora and political and sectorial dialogues with key partners.

Overall, Asia's sustainable economic growth will depend heavily on sound **infrastructure investments**, which are environmentally sustainable and ensure responsible, transparent and inclusive management of natural resources and land. With the Asian focus on sustainable connectivity, energy transition, circular economy, digitalisation and greening financing. **EFSD+** can play a major role in mobilising capital investments and pursuing EU priorities, including public goods with externalities, cross-cutting a number of aforementioned priorities. Corporate due diligence and the EU adherence to the UN guiding principles on Business and Human Rights will be crucial in private sector investments.

Inequality is a multidimensional problem linked to opportunities and life chances based on i.a. gender, race, religion, age, employment, education, as well as access to social protection and basic services. Inequality is also linked to outcomes, whether they concern economic, social, political or environmental aspects. Inequality can be an obstacle to poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth, democracy, social cohesion, resilient societies and sustainable development outcomes, therefore addressing inequalities by building inclusive and sustainable societies is a priority. This requires putting the fight against inequalities at the centre to ensure that efforts and policies – from youth, gender, education, social protection, democratic and economic governance, Green Deal, and decent work – contribute to reduce poverty and to build fairer, greener and more inclusive societies for all. The COVID pandemic has focused attention on the need for efficient and adequate social protection systems as they can be key to addressing inequalities and poverty. The EU increasingly works with countries to develop or consolidate sustainable and equitable social protection systems to guarantee basic income, prevent relapses into extreme poverty, and build resilience, including through budget support. Adequate social protection levels the playing field and prevents downward pressure on social conditions globally (race to the bottom). It can also contribute to a better commercial balance – one that moves away from exports to stronger domestic consumption. The funding of social protection systems requires fiscal measures and a key response to inequality is to adjust and improve fiscal policies and taxation, public financial management systems and improve domestic resource mobilisation. This can ensure that there is a more equal share of the benefits of growth.

In the Asia-Pacific region the EU prioritises these economic governance issues at national and regional levels. At the national level, budget support programmes will continue to have a strong focus on **improving public financial management systems** and increasing domestic resources in line with the 'Collect More, Spend Better' agenda,[4] through capacity building, exchanges of good practice, information, dialogue and targets. Capacity building support at the national level will continue to be reinforced at the regional level by bringing peers together to share experiences while bringing expertise from the EU and elsewhere. In addition, the establishment of regional and sub-regional platforms will strengthen individual countries' capacities to respond at a national level through shared experiences given the different levels of development of PFM and tax systems.

Human development features prominently in programming in Asia-Pacific. Following the principle of subsidiarity, most of the actions will be addressed through the country MIPs and some at the regional level where relevant (e.g. in **education** as concerns mobility, recognition of qualifications, equivalence and common approaches). Given the significant potential for human development of region, the large

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[4] https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-collect-more-spend-better_en.pdf

proportion of youth among the countries' population, their determination to pursue education, research and collaboration, specific activities will be implemented through an important allocation to the Erasmus+ programme. The activities and domains of intervention are outlined in the dedicated Erasmus+ Multiannual Indicative Programme and will be supported by the geographic pillar of NDICI-Global Europe.

All actions taken under this programming exercise shall comply with EU legislation, in particular EU restrictive measures (sanctions) adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

1.2. Status of Joint Programming

Conducive preconditions for joint programming are absent in the region. The EU will, however, continue to promote common approaches with its Member States and the successful Team Europe response to the COVID-19 pandemic provides important lessons in this respect. The proposed Team Europe Initiatives (see 2.4) will provide further momentum to strengthen a joined-up approach with EU Member States and build avenues for regional cooperation.

1.3. Priority Areas

This programme focuses on three priority areas, namely:
- Regional integration and cooperation (addressed by sub-region as well as by a Pan-Asia component)
- Pursuing EU interests with key partners
- Migration, forced displacement and mobility

1.3.1. Priority Area 1 – Regional Integration and Cooperation

The wider Asia-Pacific region is too diverse to engage with through a single regional framework, which is why this programme pursues a tailor-made geographic approach. All identified sub-regions – Middle East/Gulf, Central Asia, South Asia, South East Asia, and the Pacific – offer unique institutional, political and thematic entry points to tailor specific approaches to their context. However, this does not entail exclusion of other relevant countries in sub-regional initiatives where appropriate, or a Pan-Asian framing, such as cross--regional and cross-border cooperation outside the sub-regional context, whenever warranted.

1.3.1.1. Central Asia

In line with the EU's Central Asia Strategy, this regional programme will focus on resilience and prosperity, taking into account the situation in Afghanistan, which may have a significant negative impact on regional stability. Resilience will cover water and energy, environmental challenges including biodiversity loss, human and labour rights and gender and LGBTQI equality, rule of law and support to civil society, and regional peace and stability, with a focus on migration, providing protection as well as safe and dignified reception conditions for displaced populations, integrated border management, addressing drug-related challenges and combatting irregular migration including by cooperation on return, readmission and reintegration, people smuggling and trafficking of human beings. Prosperity will focus on digital and energy connectivity, decent work and respect for international labour standards, entrepreneurship and regional trade as well as human development, including post-pandemic efforts to build back better. North-South connectivity (notably with South Asia) as well as East-West connectivity are important opportunities for stronger EU engagement.

1.3.1.2. South Asia

In South Asia, a particular focus will be put on addressing regional integration issues and promoting cooperation between the countries of the region to tackle climate change and environmental degradation, enhance connectivity, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security, and strengthen ocean governance (including fisheries). The programme will also promote multilateralism to address global challenges as an alternative way to other actors' positions and to help de-escalate geopolitical tensions, protect and promote human and labour rights, including gender and LGBTQI equality, to consolidate and support democracy and the rule of law, through good, inclusive governance and cooperation for regional security, including on migration and addressing people smuggling and trafficking of human and drug-related challenges. A specific focus on issues such as trade, transport, and digital connectivity will promote policy dialogue and facilitate specific knowledge transfer between the EU and the sub-region as well as within the region.

1.3.1.3. South East Asia

In South East Asia, a particular focus will be put on regional integration and implementing the EU's new Strategic Partnership with ASEAN, notably in the areas of green and inclusive sustainable development, decent work, sustainable connectivity, EU-ASEAN policy dialogue, and good governance, human rights, security, and resilience. The programme should be flexibly conceived: cooperation is foreseen both at regional level with ASEAN and at sub-regional level within South-East Asia, while taking into account ASEAN accession processes, the current agreed *EU-ASEAN Plan of Action* (2018-2022) as well as its successor, and other ASEAN-led mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum. The programme should take account of areas where the EU and ASEAN countries face common challenges: trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation, organised crime, cybercrime and drugs trafficking.

1.3.1.4. Pacific

Taking into account the unique features and challenges of the Pacific region, the EU will support enhanced regional integration by building on the track-record and lessons learned from regional programmes previously financed by the European Development Fund (EDF). EU support will strengthen the Green-Blue Alliance between the EU and the Pacific region, based on the shared priorities of the European Green Deal, including ocean governance, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the new post-Cotonou Pacific Regional Protocol.

1.3.1.5. Pan-Asia

The Pan-Asia component covers all Asia-Pacific countries and their maritime spaces. It will mainly aim to ensure complementarity with country and sub-regional actions:

- Priorities more effectively addressed at continental level, e.g. on specific areas within the green deal, connectivity and security that substantively benefit from continental dialogue and realise considerable synergies. This could include participating in actions under the Global Challenges programme where relevant for the Asia Pacific region;
- Cross-regional priorities, such as cooperation on plastics pollution, the Himalaya, intra-regional cooperation between South and South East Asia or South and Central Asia and inter-regional cooperation between Asia, Africa and the Neighbourhood;
- Priorities related to Asia's regional integration and the promotion of relations between the EU and Asia. This would address the overall perception of the EU in Asia and the intercultural ties between the societies;

- Other types of intra-regional cooperation which are not covered by the above, in line with the EU regional agenda and strategies.

While most of the EU priorities for the region have cross-border dimensions only a few can effectively be addressed at a continental level given the diversity and the lack of matching counterpart structures for dialogue and pursuit of international partnerships. Some areas provide economies of scope and scale, and valuable experience, such as sustainable consumption and production, where continental approaches have synergized and complemented bilateral interventions through a joint framework, focusing regional programmes on bilateral demands and actions. Such potential also exist in the Green Deal as well as in the areas of energy, transport, digital and human connectivity, decent work, trade and economic integration, human development, sustaining peace and building resilience, health, research/technology, security cooperation, ocean governance, reinforcing and diversifying supply chains, and digital governance.

1.3.2. Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners

This priority area focuses on engagement with China, India, the Gulf countries and High Income Countries (HICs).

1.3.2.1. China

In line with the Joint Communication *EU-China: A Strategic Outlook* of March 2019, the EU pursues a multi-faceted approach towards China. The EU-China relationship is one of the most important but also one of the most challenging that the EU has. Reflecting this complexity, based on a pragmatic and principled engagement, the EU is dealing with this unique strategic partner simultaneously as a negotiating partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival.[5] This relationship is sustained through annual summits, regular high-level (strategic, economic and trade, digital, research and innovation, climate/energy/environment and people-to-people) meetings and over seventy different sectoral dialogues.[6] The regional MIP will promote and support the EU agenda in its relation with China.

1.3.2.2. India

The *EU Strategy on India* of 2018 set the target to make this strategic partnership take a quantum leap, based on converging interests (notably in defending the rules-based system of world governance) and upholding democratic values. The strategy prioritises India's sustainable modernisation as a key objective thereby engaging more actively with India on these issues to secure an effective global approach. The Roadmap 2025 adopted at the 2020 EU-India Summit highlighted a joint commitment to increased cooperation on a wide range of key bilateral and multilateral issues. The comprehensive *Connectivity Partnership with India* will support the principles of social, environmental, economic and fiscal sustainability and a level playing field. It will also reinforce bilateral cooperation on digital, energy, transport and human connectivity, including through cooperation on research and innovation, both in terms of the application of global norms and standards and the promotion of sound infrastructure projects. The EU is a partner organisation to the International Solar Alliance and a Member of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, both international flagship initiatives launched by India. These two initiatives can prove instrumental in the promotion of the Green Deal and post COVID-19 recovery. India is also key for the success of regional integration in South Asia. The 8 May 2021 EU-India Leaders Meeting agreed on an ambitious trade and investment package including the resumption of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement and the launch of negotiations for an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications.

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[5] Joint Communication *EU-China – A Strategic Outlook, March 2019*
[6] To be framed under a strategic cooperation agenda 2025 currently under negotiations.

The regional MIP will promote and support the EU agenda in its relation with India and notably the implementation of the 2025 roadmap.

1.3.2.3. Gulf

The region encompasses members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrein, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates), Yemen, Iraq and Iran. Given the heterogeneous nature of the region, there is no single political cooperation framework with the EU in place. The EU will pursue a flexible geographic and thematic approach with the overarching objective of easing regional tension, preventing conflict and mitigating risks, and supporting social transformation. The EU will support a stronger partnership through policy and political dialogue at national and regional level with the Gulf in furtherance of the EU's external priorities, stronger regional integration, through dialogue and cooperation, as well as with neighbouring regions, diversified economies through greener and more sustainable consumption and production and more open and inclusive societies. Engagement on the global agenda will also be reinforced. All this will be reflected in the Joint Communication *A Partnership with the Gulf* planned for adoption in the spring of 2022, which will in turn inform the implementation of the programmed cooperation.

1.3.2.4. High Income Countries and Other Key Partners

The Asia-Pacific region hosts some of the most important and influential High Income Countries (HICs) and territories (see also section 1.4.7). The following geopolitical overarching framework has been considered for programming action with HICs in the region:

- In a multipolar world, reinforced cooperation with HICs is crucial to promote multilateralism, in particular a democracy-driven type of multilateralism (*partnerships for multilateralism*).
- Cooperation with HICs in Asia is crucial for shaping the international debate on values, global governance and global challenges beyond mere rhetoric. Action can be at bilateral level, multi-country among HICs or multi-country involving HICs and other selected countries in the region, but gravitating around the HICs, given their role as regional powers and influencers. Promoting EU standards, policies and values in Asia requires the EU to act in collaboration and alliance with the Asian HICs (*alliance diplomacy*).
- Based on the April 2021 *Council Conclusions on an EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*, the EU will deepen its engagement in particular with those partners that have already announced Indo-Pacific approaches of their own, and will seek synergies with the aim of creating a comprehensive European policy of regional cooperation.

1.3.3. Priority area 3 – Migration, Forced Displacement and Mobility

To complement actions implemented at national level, the EU will establish a comprehensive regional programme addressing migration and human mobility in Asia and the Pacific, covering the wide range of migration related issues.

1.4. Justification and Context

This regional programme for Asia and the Pacific reflects the overall EU priorities and EU interests and takes into account the great sub-regional diversity, as well as the subsidiarity principle. It will build on previous experience and relevant tools to further the EU's strategic interests and strengthen partnerships with strategic partners in Asia.

The Asia-Pacific region is the most populated area in the world and Asia is the fastest urbanising continent. While development levels are very uneven, there is a continued, probably irreversible, shift

towards Asia becoming the global economic centre. Studies estimate that China and India will be the largest world economies by 2050 (and ASEAN fourth, before the EU). The region is at the same time still home to almost half of the world's poorest people with significant inequalities, including energy poverty, and labour markets dominated by informal work where respect of labour rights and access to social protection remain a challenge. It is widely exposed to the impact of climate change (to which it is also a major contributor), requiring a turnaround of its energy systems and energy mixes toward clean and sustainable energy, all types of natural disasters, and faces huge environmental challenges, including pollution, deforestation and rapid biodiversity/ecosystem loss due to human activity, including land-use change, unsustainable logging and fishing, and wildlife trafficking. Several states are fragile, with a recent history of violent conflict, forced displacement and, in some cases, terrorism and violent extremism, or indeed autocratic and undemocratic regimes. Human rights and democracy face therefore constant challenges. Gender inequality and child labour are still common in many countries. The region is also a major source, destination and transit area of migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced persons.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic and social crisis pose additional enormous imminent challenges for the wider region. Whereas the pandemic itself has transformed health into a global priority, the social and economic crises underpin the need for initiatives in the region to contribute to sustainable and inclusive recovery. Prospects for the immediate future remain uncertain but a return to high growth and ensuring that it is more inclusive growth will require the right policies to reduce "scarring". The policy choices facing the countries of the region are serious and are likely to involve trade-offs. Economic growth alone will not be enough.

Overall, the future of Asia, Pacific and the Middle East will heavily impact, for good or bad, on the welfare of the world's population, and thus the prosperity of Europe. The spectrum of EU interests is inevitably broad and deep, spanning from profound economic and trade interests with asymmetrically growing interdependences (Europe's future growth and prosperity will increasingly depend on Asia), to addressing global challenges (e.g. climate change, environment, clean energy transition, migration), support for multilateralism, promotion of human rights and democracy, as well as peace, security and stability. The current dynamics in the region have given rise to intense geopolitical competition adding to increasing tensions on trade and supply chains as well as in technological, political and security areas. The universality of human rights is also being challenged. These developments increasingly threaten the stability and security of the region and beyond, directly impacting on the EU's interests.

Whereas the identified sub-regions offer unique institutional, political and thematic entry points with tailor-made approaches, sub-regional programmes may also include other relevant countries where appropriate. Regional and multi-country actions under this MIP will be complemented by actions financed under the country and thematic MIPs and, if required, the rapid response pillar.

1.4.1. Central Asia

Central Asia, which comprises Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, is a diverse region of nearly 72 million inhabitants. It remains among the least integrated regions in the world, despite recent efforts. It has a large infrastructure gap regarding digital, transport and energy connectivity. The region's largely undiversified economies are vulnerable to economic downturns, environmental degradation and the effects of climate change, threatening to undo the gains made in poverty reduction in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant strain on public health systems and has had an unprecedented social and economic impact, which threatens to jeopardise recent development gains. Security presents an additional challenge to the region, including the destabilising repercussions of developments in Afghanistan (e.g. migration),[7] terrorism and radicalisation as well as the reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their families.

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[7] Cf. section 2.3.

The *EU Strategy on Central Asia* of June 2019, aims to forge a stronger, modern and non-exclusive partnership with the countries of Central Asia to enable the more sustainable, resilient, prosperous and closely interconnected economic and political development of the region. The *EU Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia* of September 2018 aims at promoting cooperation on sustainable connectivity (transport, energy, digital, and people-to-people) with the EU and within the region itself. The promotion of regional cooperation will be a cross-cutting priority. Climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity preservation, green, sustainable growth; decent work; peace, migration, and security; human rights; gender equality; and focus on youth, including most marginalised groups of young people, are also prioritised. Moreover, each sector will be based on fundamental principles including leaving no one behind and, in light of the post-COVID-19 recovery, the need to build back better, i.e. more just, inclusive and accessible, and build back green.

1.4.2. South Asia

In recent years, South Asia has seen rapid economic growth. However, the region faces a number of developmental and integration challenges, and its economic outlook has deteriorated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. South Asia remains one of the least integrated regions in the world (intra-regional trade is at 5%, compared to 30% within ASEAN). Improved connectivity could bring economic dividends and foster growth. The EU's longstanding partnership in the region needs to take into account the challenges and opportunities that South Asia's countries share, i.e. their vulnerability to climate change and their common environmental, social, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, migration and security challenges, as well as the need for promoting integration including trade and connectivity, while ensuring sustainable management of natural resources on land and in the ocean.

1.4.3. India

The *EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025*, endorsed at the 15th EU-India Summit held in July 2020 and the *EU Strategy on India* of 2018, and the *EU-India Connectivity Partnership* of May 2021, are the main guiding policy documents. Cooperation will fall under three key pillars: Green Deal, sustainable growth and jobs, and governance, people, peace and security.

1.4.4. South East Asia

South East Asia[8] is one of the world's most dynamic regions economically and demographically. Home to approx. 700 million people, ASEAN countries are jointly the fifth-largest trading partners of the EU, which is in turn the third largest trading partner to ASEAN countries. The EU and ASEAN's relations were lifted to the level of Strategic Partnership in December 2020: this new status recognises long-standing and wide cooperation as regional organisations. The specificities of the EU and ASEAN are reflected in the priority areas for cooperation under this programme. South East Asia is among the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters and a hotspot for biodiversity loss, deforestation and pollution. It is a significant emitter of greenhouse gases and faces challenges of persistent high poverty rates inequalities, informal labour and violations of labour rights, including in particular freedom of association and child labour, and growing energy needs which are currently still mostly met by fossil fuels, in particular coal, as well as challenges on good governance rule of law and human rights. The EU will reinforce its engagement on green cooperation with ASEAN/South East Asia in view of implementing the external dimension of all aspects/sectors of the European Green Deal including decent jobs creation and skills' development. Building on the work on the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT), forest partnerships will be explored with key countries and regional efforts, particularly in the ASEAN

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[8] Access to the South East Asia regional component may be considered for Timor Leste in line with the country's geographical location.

framework will be promoted. The EU will also reinforcing digital cooperation focussing on the pillars of the EU's Digital Compass (digital skills, digitalisation of the public sector, digitalisation of businesses and digital infrastructure). Advancing and protecting key EU interests such as in trade and investment, with a particular emphasis on tackling persisting market access barriers and further levelling the playing field will ensure a successful stronger Europe. Considering the significant potential of research and innovation to contribute to economic growth and tackling of societal challenges, synergies will be sought with the EU Research Programme Horizon Europe. The EU can build on its very strong relationship with ASEAN. The EU-ASEAN Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity of 1 December 2020 reaffirmed the commitment to "promote connectivity within and between ASEAN and the EU" and the EU intends to give priority to the broad topic of sustainable connectivity with ASEAN.

1.4.5. China

China is an indispensable and unique partner for the EU. China's trade and investment practices will be crucial to underpin the global recovery, including in the EU, and influence sustainable growth and development pathways in partner countries. Advancing and protecting key EU interests such as in trade and investment, on rebalancing research and technological cooperation, on tackling persisting market access barriers and further levelling the playing field including in the field of sustainable development, will ensure a successful stronger Europe. At the same time, China's growing assertiveness in its neighbourhood is increasingly challenging the EU's interests and values. China's domestic and international action on climate change, just energy transition, biodiversity and environmental protection will have considerable impact on the external dimension of the European Green Deal. China, as the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter with the largest coal power plant fleet (and pipeline) will have a pivotal role for achieving the Paris Agreement targets. China's fast-growing science and technology sector is set to influence, but must not dominate digital, science, technology and innovation and standard setting in frontier technologies. China's role as a global creditor and an emerging donor will influence the international development landscape at global and local levels. And China's approaches to governance, peace and security have the potential to challenge global norms, standards and reshape multilateralism. In addition, EU visibility in China is a key challenge to address.

1.4.6. Pacific

For the purpose of this document, the Pacific region consists of 13 Small Pacific Island Countries (PICs), as well as Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. [9] The EU's political partnership with the Pacific region is based on the envisaged Partnership Agreement with its Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partners and its Pacific Protocol. The Pacific is home to around 12 million people, including over 500,000 European citizens. The PICs cover Exclusive Economic Zones that extend to over 30 million km^2, hence they are often referred to as "large ocean states". Despite differences in geography, size, history, culture, economic and political systems, all PICs face similar challenges of ensuring economic growth and progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets, of a continuously increasing vulnerability due to escalating occurrence and severity of natural hazards and of other effects of climate change (economic, social and humanitarian). The Pacific has a high incidence of violence against women and girls whereas women and vulnerable groups are the most affected by climate change and natural disasters. The Pacific region is also home to extensive and globally important marine and terrestrial biodiversity and natural resources. A large number of marine species rely heavily on the Pacific for their breeding grounds and food resources. The partnership between the EU and the Pacific region builds on the shared commitment towards a zero carbon and resilient economy by 2050. There is also increasing geopolitical rivalry in the region.

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[9] The French Overseas Countries and Territories of New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna are covered by a separate EU assistance framework and are therefore not discussed in this document.

1.4.7. Gulf

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is the EU's sixth largest export market and the EU is the second biggest trading partner of the GCC countries. The Gulf is widely exposed to the impact of climate change and facing serious environmental challenges, upholding human rights is also an issue of big concern. Moreover, fostering peace and security in the Gulf, including de-escalation of tensions between countries, support to dialogue and confidence building measures paving the way for long-term regional solutions,[10] is a priority for the EU.

Over the past years, some GCC countries (notably UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait) asserted their roles as important providers of concessional finance for development (and humanitarian assistance as well). Some countries of the region have signalled interest in diversifying their economies away from hydrocarbons overdependence as well as embarking in social transformation reforms for more open and inclusive societies while at the same time addressing the challenges posed by climate change (which has had important role to play regarding). Ambitious projects to promote renewable energies were launched (notably in the UAE and in Saudi Arabia) which have potential synergies with the EU ambitions towards climate neutrality. Fostering peace and security in the Gulf, including de-escalation of tensions between countries, support to dialogue and confidence building measures paving the way for long-term regional solutions, is also a priority. Yemen, the poorest country of the region, is labelled the world's worse humanitarian and developmental crisis by the UN. Peacebuilding, stabilisation and conflict-sensitive interventions will be key. Yemen, the poorest country of the region, is labelled the world's worse humanitarian and developmental crisis by the UN. Peacebuilding, stabilisation and conflict-sensitive interventions will be key.

1.4.8. High Income Countries[11] and Other Key Partners

The relationship between the European Union and Asia is of global significance. Europe and Asia together can be the engines of a more cooperative approach to world politics, rules-based multilateralism, global stability, economic prosperity and global action on climate change, a just and clean energy transition and environment. The Indo-Pacific region hosts some of the most important and influential HICs and territories.[12] Cooperation and reinforced alliances with HICs as key influencers in the region in seven priority areas established by the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific[13] is crucial for the EU to promote dialogues in the wider Indo-Pacific on values, global governance and global challenges.

The EU is pursuing a multifaceted strategy vis-à-vis China, dealing with this unique strategic partner simultaneously as a negotiating partner for cooperation, an economic competitor and a systemic rival. At the same time, the EU is scaling up its relations with the rest of Asia, especially with like-minded partners. In addition to China, the EU entered into strategic partnerships also with Japan, India, the Republic of Korea and the ASEAN, while continuously strengthening its ties with Australia and New Zealand and complementing the traditionally strong economic and trade relations with more cooperation on foreign and security policy.

The EU has therefore significant interests in ensuring that the regional architecture in the Indo-Pacific remains open and rules-based. Only through intensified ties and co-ordination with all partners will

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[10] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2020/01/10/
[11] The designation High Income Countries refers to countries and territories as well as to other key partners.
[12] Japan (G7, G20, ASEM), Republic of Korea (G20, ASEM, OECD), Australia (G20, ASEM, OECD), New Zealand (ASEM, OECD), Singapore (ASEAN, ASEM, OECD), Hong Kong/Macao, Taiwan. This list is subject to changes, as other countries may be upgraded to HIC status. Brunei (ASEAN) and Pacific Islands (Nauru and Palau) are also eligible in principle.
[13] Sustainable and inclusive prosperity (including trade); green transition; ocean governance; digital governance and partnerships (including research and innovation); connectivity; security and defence; and human security.

the EU be able to address major global issues. Cooperation with key partners will therefore support the implementation of the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

The EU is also eager to enhance fair and free trade and investment links with this fast-developing region as well as to open more channels for genuine cooperation, with countries and regional organisations to advance its values, interests and priorities. These include the green deal, a just and clean energy transition, digital agenda, promotion of multilateralism, industrial policies, research and innovation, regulatory cooperation, sustainable growth and jobs, mobility and migration, security and defence, etc.

The EU is also a major global trade actor and the Asia-Pacific region is the largest destination of Foreign Direct Investments in the world. The Asian region is a powerhouse for global trade including with emerging economies. The programme will provide targeted support to facilitate trade negotiations and the ratification and implementation of EU trade agreements and associated commitments of the Parties to effectively implement international labour and environmental conventions.

There is a growing demand for EU action in the field of global security, both inside the EU and by partners abroad. In this context, the EU engagement will support the implementation of the EU Security Strategy in and with Asia, by promoting an open and rules-based regional security architecture and by broadening the EU partnerships to address security challenges. Actions will respond to the demand by the EU's partners for greater engagement complementing those undertaken under the Peace, Stability and Conflict Programme. They will also contribute to developing joint efforts with partners for peace and stability in other parts of the world, for example peacekeeping in Africa and the Middle East, and to agreeing on common approaches at the global level, for example norm building and standard setting in the area of cybersecurity and data protection rights of consumers and workers.

Similarly, the EU will take a pro-active stance and use connectivity as a foreign policy tool for the projection of a strong Europe, promote EU interests and values, boost the strategic sovereignty and resilience of partner countries, support European businesses, and promote the EU vision of governance and regulatory frameworks and social sustainable value chains. This comes in addition to the support of other EU priorities, notably Green Deal, digital and industrial policies.

The EU will continue to combat disinformation and influence operations. Actions in this field will include support to independent content for media outlets, to counter the influence of state-controlled foreign media spreading tendentious narratives.

1.4.9. Migration, Forced Displacement and Mobility

In line with the 'policy first' approach, the programme will contribute to implementing EU policy priorities, in particular the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. As foreseen in the Pact, attention will be given to developing tailor-made, comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial partnerships between the EU and partner countries. A special focus will be given to key countries of origin, transit and destination as per the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration for which interventions can be financed under the flexible-incentive approach. Given the transboundary nature of migration and forced displacement, this regional programme will facilitate a coordinated approach, allowing to maximise synergies, economies of scale in the delivery, and ensure the necessary flexibility in line with the EU's commitments. In line with a Team Europe approach, actions will be designed and implemented where possible in coordination with EU Member States and their development agencies and European financial institutions. All aspects of migration, mobility and forced displacement, including migration management, prevention of irregular migration and forced displacement, supporting border management, countering migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, cooperation on return, readmission and support to the sustainable reintegration of returnees, supporting legal migration, and

international protection, will be addressed. In line with the renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025)[14], Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships could also be envisaged aiming at strengthening legal, policy, operational and strategic frameworks in partner countries.

Migration-related actions under this regional programme will be carefully coordinated with those at bilateral and global level, and with migration-related policies and programmes, including the EU Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF). The humanitarian, development and peace nexus, coordination and building of synergies with related activities and stakeholders will be ensured, as well as compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law related to forced displacement and people seeking asylum, and due regard to gender sensitivity. A strong gender focus should be part of all actions funded, in line with the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III). Moreover, where relevant, migration and displacement will be mainstreamed in other priority areas.

1.5. Duration and Option of Synchronisation

This regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme has a duration of seven years, aligned with the length of the 2021-2027 Multi-annual Financial Framework. It will be subject to a Mid-Term Review in 2024.

2. EU Support per Priority Area and Proposals of Team Europe Initiatives

2.1. Priority Area 1 – Regional Integration and Cooperation

Regional integration and cooperation are critical drivers for sustainable development, economic growth, stability and peace. They are potent vehicles to strengthen the EU's international partnerships and for the EU to lead by example as an integration champion, sharing success stories of effective regional solutions including on connectivity, green economies, solidarity and sustainability. The sub-regions mentioned in this section are understood with a flexible geographical scope, including the possibility to include whenever it is deemed necessary, additional countries, notably neighbouring countries.

2.1.1. Central Asia

The sub-regional programme for Central Asia, including potentially other neighbouring countries whenever this is relevant, will focus on partnering for resilience and partnering for prosperity.

Sector 1: Partnering for Resilience (SDGs 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 16)

This sector consists of the following components:

- **Environment, water and energy** will address the environmental challenges of the region, in particular water scarcity exacerbated by climate change, with the potential for causing conflict, risks to biodiversity and disaster risk reduction as well as transitioning from hydrocarbons to renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and regional energy connectivity. Transboundary environmental governance will be promoted, while fostering knowledge-based decision-making.
- **Human rights (including labour rights), women's and youth empowerment, LGBTQI, rule of law and support to civil society** will complement activities at country level and focus, in particular, on freedom of expression and freedom of association, including freedom of the media, and gender equality, including empowerment of the most marginalised women, such as women and girls with

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[14] COM(2021)591 final

disabilities, and will support exchanges between civil society organisations of different countries within the region.

- Integrated approach to peace and stability will build on existing policy and programmes in the region and act in complementarity with the thematic programmes, with a non-exclusive focus on providing protection as well as safe and dignified reception conditions for displaced population, integrated border management, conflict prevention, drug-related challenges, women, youth, peace and security, migration, preventing, combatting and operational cooperation on people smuggling and trafficking of human beings, community resilience, participation, combatting terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism.
- Transition to green economy will continue to promote sustainable production and consumption patterns, decoupling economy growth from use of natural resources, green jobs and effective supply chains.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Support for regional cooperation on environmental challenges and for a sustainable energy transition and improved regional energy connectivity based on state-of the art research and promoting sustainable development and a green, zero pollution and inclusive growth mode.
- SO 2 – Support for cross-country cooperation, preparedness and planning for disaster risk reduction and support to partner countries to fulfil their commitments on climate change, eco-system and biodiversity conservation and remediation.
- SO 3 – Promotion of gender equality, including women's economic empowerment and the fight against gender-based violence, as well as protection of the rights of minorities, persons with disabilities and other discriminated groups.
- SO 4 – Support for freedom of expression media freedom and freedom of association, in particular continued support for civil society organisations and the social partners, by promotion of exchanges and cross-country peer-to-peer learning at regional level, including the implementation of the women, youth, peace and security agenda and strengthening public participation in environmental assessments, or rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.
- SO 5 – Continued cooperation on integrated border management, the fight against drugs trafficking and drug demand reduction.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Improved structured cooperation in the framework of regional organisations, such as the International Fund for the Aral Sea.
- ER 1.2: Strengthened public capacities and knowledge for the joint governance, management and use of water, including the automatisation of river water intake data, in line with EU best practices.
- ER 1.3: Strengthened public capacities and knowledge for energy governance, policy design and regulatory framework with a focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment, in line with EU best practices and improved capacities for the effective management of intra-regional electricity connectivity and trade.
- ER 2: Increased effectiveness of disaster risk management systems, ecosystems and biodiversity conservation systems.
- ER 3: Reduced gender-based violence, with attention to preventive activities, education, intersectional discrimination, and gender norms and better protected rights of minorities, including of persons with disabilities, and structural drivers of inequality reduced.
- ER 4.1: Increased people-to-people contacts among Central Asian states, including effective freedom of association and reinforced capacities of civil society organisations through mutual support and peer-to-peer learning to enhance community resilience. Increased capacity of civil society organisations and the social partners to take part in public consultations and policymaking.

- ER 4.2: Increased capacity of civil society organisations and the social partners to take part in public consultations and policymaking, with the inclusion of women's organizations, youth, remote populations, persons with disabilities and marginalised minorities.
- ER 5: Finding common solutions to cross-border threats, including through information sharing and best practices.

Sector 2: Partnering for Prosperity (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)

This sector comprises three components:

- **Digital connectivity** will support the region to link up and with other parts of the world, in particular with Europe. Cooperation will include support for the establishment of solid regulatory frameworks for personal data protection and cybersecurity, exporting the best of EU institutions' and Member States' expertise in these areas.
- Entrepreneurship and regional trade will support intra-regional trade and the improvement of the regulatory environment (also via supporting intra-regional harmonisation of selected import requirements) and investment climate for decent work, economic development. It will help businesses, including MSMEs to increase their competitiveness in line with social, environmental and international labour standards and will help women's economic empowerment.
- **Human development** will build on support for the Covid-19 response to address the lack of crisis preparedness in the health sector in Central Asia. It will also support collaboration and common approaches in inclusive technical and vocational education and training in the region as a basis for increasing employment for all in line with economic diversification, the green transition, accessible digital transformation and post-pandemic efforts to build back better.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Promotion of digital connectivity in the region and with other parts of the world, in particular with Europe and enhanced cooperation for the digital economy in all its aspects
- SO 2 – Support for entrepreneurship and decent employment, through better application of international environment and labour standards
- SO 3 – Enhancement of intra-regional trade (also via supporting intra-regional harmonisation of selected import requirements), business dialogue and business-government dialogue at regional and inter-regional levels. Support for cooperative solutions to cross-border challenges and better economic and people-to-people connections among border areas.
- SO 4 – Support for health crisis preparedness response and recovery in the health sector.
- SO 5 – Support for inclusive and accessible education and training with a focus on TVET and skills development in support of improved employability for young people in line with economic diversification, the green transition and digitalisation, including the recognition of qualifications, equivalence and common approaches.
- SO 6 – Support for Central Asian countries to promote higher education and TVET learning mobility and provision of educational opportunities in the region for Afghans, in particular girls and women.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Increased digital skills and capacities of Central Asian populations, in particular women, youth, people with disabilities, people living in rural areas and minority groups, in view of integration in the global digital economy.
- ER 1.2: Strong regulatory frameworks, including on data protection and cybersecurity, in line with EU standards, allowing for increased and improved service provision through digital means.

- ER 2.1: Employment generated and quality of jobs improved in line with international labour standards.
- ER 2.2: Economic and social empowerment of youth and women supported through business opportunities and improved livelihoods.
- ER 3: Increased trade in goods and services between Central Asian countries and between Central Asian countries and the wider region. Increased income-generating activities and improved livelihoods in border areas.
- ER 4.1: Resilient health systems, able to tackle future possible shocks/pandemics through enhanced preparedness and response capacities.
- ER 4.2: Future-proofed, equitable and accessible resilient national immunization systems.
- ER 5.1: Enhanced employability of women and men in Central Asia through regional cooperation on skills and qualifications in a lifelong learning perspective.
- ER 5.2: Increased regional cooperation, convergence and exchange in the TVET and skills development sector among Central Asian countries.
- ER 6.1: Women from Afghanistan, especially those more marginalised, such as refugees, women from minority groups, young women, women with disabilities, among others, empowered through training received in Central Asian countries.
- ER 6.2: Stability of the Central Asian region is bolstered through adaptation of programmes to address the repercussions of the situation in Afghanistan with an eventual perspective of supporting greater integration of Afghanistan into Central Asia depending on political developments in that country, leading to enhanced stability and shared prosperity.

2.1.2 South Asia

Sector 1: Sustainable and Resilient Environment (SDGs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

The main objective is to promote impactful and inclusive regional cooperation at all levels, in tackling climate change, environmental and biodiversity protection and promoting sustainable natural resource management and to contribute to regional stability.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Support in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, as well as raising ambition in updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through coordinated action and joint initiatives that promote resilience and reduce climate risk and greenhouse gas emissions.
- SO 2 – Effective support for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystems, marine ecosystems and ocean resources and prevent pollution.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Joint regional coordination on COP and other fora on raising NDCs ambition through cross-border initiatives, policies, sharing of practices, technologies, and infrastructure.
- ER 1.2: Coordinated development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and adaptation plans at regional level.
- ER 2.1: Enhanced and coordinated cooperation for the protection, conservation and management of land, environment forests, biodiversity, wildlife, and transboundary water management, in a participatory and consultative manner in decision-making processes.
- ER 2.2: Strengthen regional cooperation and coordination on ocean governance, with regard to the conservation and sustainable management of marine living resources at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels as well as the adoption and implementation of international agreements.

Sector 2: Trade, Energy and Digital Connectivity (SDGs 5, 7, 8, 10)

South Asia is the least integrated region in Asia. Intra-regional trade has been limited by several factors, including protective tariffs, nontariff barriers, and poor infrastructure. Improving digital connectivity will help to bridge the digital trade policy divide (e.g. rural, gender equality) whereas the vast renewable energy potential can be leveraged through a more effective, intra- and inter-regional energy trade structure.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Facilitate regional trade, innovation and entrepreneurship, and sustainable and resilient supply chains through a reduction to barriers to trade.
- SO 2 – Promote intra-regional energy connections, networks and dialogue on energy management.
- SO 3 – Promote sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based digital connectivity.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Increased regional and cross-border trade and investment and increased cooperation for the effective reduction of trade barriers.
- ER 1.2: Enhanced regional cooperation on innovation focusing on green technologies and resilient supply chains by connecting innovative SMEs and start-ups to speed up solutions.
- ER 1.3: Increased entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for women and youth.
- ER 2.1: Improved regional integration for energy focusing on the production and distribution of renewable energy, and progressive phasing out of fossil fuels, including bringing smart solutions through start-up matchmaking.
- ER 3.1: Development of digital technology promoting market access, entrepreneurship and social outcomes and to reduce rural-urban and gender digital divides.
- ER 3.2: Improved regulatory practices on digital cooperation, including on cyber security.

Sector 3: Integrated Approach for Regional Stability, Security and Conflict Prevention

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Facilitate inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention.
- SO 2 – Promote cooperation for regional security, on land and at sea, notably on counter terrorism (including money laundering), prevention of violent extremism, cyber security and organised crime (including drugs and trafficking in human beings).

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Regular regional dialogue and exchanges on conflict resolution and prevention, based on an inclusive participatory approach.
- ER 1.2: Conflicts addressed via inclusive, gender sensitive and coordinated mediation mechanisms and/or through international legal instruments and regional arrangements.
- ER 2.1: Improved regional coordination and information sharing on transboundary security issues.
- ER 2.2: Joint and cooperative analysis of security incidents.

2.1.3 South East Asia and ASEAN

Sector 1: Implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17)

This sector will include a mix of policy dialogue and specific programmes to support the Strategic Partnership as follows:[15]

- **Policy dialogue and cooperation** in areas of mutual interest as part of a whole-of-EU approach (notably providing a platform for dialogue in the full range of areas of EU and ASEAN mutual interest such as environment, fisheries, energy transition, trade, decent work, , digital connectivity, transport, etc.) including cooperation with EU Member States and support to capacity-building where relevant.
- **Responding to Global Challenges and building back better:** ASEAN and the EU face major environmental, social and health challenges, and existing/emerging security (including energy and cybersecurity) threats, which require building resilience and preparedness.
- **Regional integration,** with a focus on good, effective and inclusive governance, security, peacebuilding, human rights and gender equality, in particular through ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Providing a platform for continuing and enhancing EU-ASEAN policy dialogues and exchanges of experience in a number of areas, including the ASEAN-EU Dialogue in Science and Technology; and providing support where needed and requested for capacity and institutional strengthening initiatives.
- SO 2 – Enhanced EU-ASEAN cooperation to build the two regions' resilience and preparedness to respond to global challenges, including security threats and risks in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner.
- SO 3 – Contributing to regional integration in South East Asia and good, effective and inclusive governance, trade, security, peacebuilding.
- SO 4 – Promoting decent work and labour rights, in particular for vulnerable groups and those most severely impacted by the pandemic.

Expected Results

- ER 1: EU-ASEAN policy dialogue is enhanced in a range of sectors, the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership is implemented and strengthened, and where needed and requested, the capacities of ASEAN regional institutions are strengthened.
- ER 2: Cooperation to build the two regions' resilience and preparedness to for global challenges, including security threats and risks, is enhanced. Resilience and a sustainable approach to development and crisis recovery is put at the centre of EU-ASEAN cooperation.
- ER 3: Regional integration and good, effective and inclusive governance, security, peacebuilding, the protection of human rights and gender equality are enhanced, notably the protection of the rights of and promotion of opportunities for women migrant workers in South-East Asia.
- ER 4: Improved protection of labour rights, notably the protection of the rights of and promotion of opportunities for the vulnerable and in particular women migrant workers in South-East Asia.

Sector 2: Green and Inclusive Sustainable Development (SDGs 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15)

This sector will aim to reinforce green cooperation, mutual learning and capacity-building between the EU and ASEAN/South East Asia in line with the external dimension of the European Green Deal and taking into account South-East Asian policy frameworks. It will address issues which are best

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[15] At the time of writing, the political situation in Myanmar is highly volatile. The crisis from which the country is suffering could have spill over effects throughout the region, which will be taken into account in the formulation of the EU action in the region.

tackled at the regional, sub-regional, and/or multi-country level(s). The EU will also support regional and/or sub-regional disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian response efforts and capacity-building.

<u>Specific Objectives</u>

- SO 1 – Promote sustainable development and a green, zero pollution and inclusive growth model while tackling poverty, in line with the 2030 Agenda, creating decent jobs and developing necessary skills including in the Mekong sub-region.
- SO 2 – In line with the Paris Agreement, promoting dialogue, cooperation and capacity-building for a clean and just energy y and resource-efficient, climate-neutral, knowledge-based, circular and climate resilient economies.
- SO 3 – Support adaptation to the impact of climate change on environment, by protecting the region's exceptionally rich biodiversity and ecosystems on land and in the ocean. Protection, preservation and effective, equitable and sustainable management of regional natural resources, including action to promote sustainable forest management and deforestation-free supply chains and tackle wildlife trafficking and IUU fishing.
- SO 4 – Support and strengthen the capacity of regional/sub-regional institutions in the area of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.
- SO 5 – Promote and exchange knowledge, experiences and good/innovative practices between EU and ASEAN stakeholders and local governments on sustainable urban development and planning, including promoting smart green cities and digital capacity-building and innovation.
- SO 6 – Promote gender equality and the full and effective participation of women and indigenous peoples, on an equal footing, in the field of environmental protection and the management of natural resources and ensure their rights are fully respected, in line with relevant international law, notably human rights law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

<u>Expected Results</u>

- ER 1: Sustainable development, and a green, zero pollution and inclusive growth model that tackles poverty in line with the 2030 Agenda, creating decent jobs and providing developing necessary skills, are promoted, including in the Mekong sub-region. Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs)
- ER 2: Dialogue, cooperation and capacity-building for the transition towards clean and just energy are enhanced, with a view to promoting resource-efficient, climate-neutral, knowledge-based, circular and climate-resilient economies ER 3: Action to protect the region's exceptionally rich biodiversity and ecosystems on land and in the ocean is strengthened, including by addressing deforestation, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and wildlife trafficking.
- ER 4: Capacity of regional/sub-regional institutions in the area of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response is enhanced; resilience reinforced.
- ER 5: Exchange of knowledge, experiences and innovative practices, as well as cooperation in research and innovation on shared priorities are enhanced between the EU and ASEAN, and in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States and EU Member States, local governments and other stakeholders, including on sustainable urban development and planning, smart green cities and digital capacity-building and innovation
- ER 6: Full and effective participation of women and indigenous peoples on an equal footing, in the field of environmental protection and the management of natural resources; their rights are fully respected, in line with relevant international law, notably human rights law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Sector 3: Sustainable Connectivity (SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9, 12)

Improve sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN and within ASEAN, in line with the respective EU and ASEAN connectivity strategies, and with the Joint Ministerial Statement on Connectivity adopted at the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting of 1 December 2020.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Strengthen trade, economic, energy, digital, and transport cooperation and links between the EU and ASEAN/ASEAN Member States, including on regulatory aspects
- SO 2 – Promote cooperation and capacity-building on sustainable connectivity (including digital) as well as on socially and environmentally sustainable value chains between the two regions and within ASEAN in line with applicable EU and ASEAN policy frameworks, notably through promoting decent work in particular for groups most severely hit by the pandemic, with a focus on the elimination of child labour.
- SO 3 – Strengthen people-to-people connectivity and exchanges, notably in the areas of education, science, and research.

Expected Results

- ER 1: Trade, economic, energy, digital, and transport cooperation, connectivity and links including on regulatory aspects are strengthened, resulting *inter alia* in better conditions for trade and investment flows. Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs).
- ER 2: Inter-regional and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable connectivity (including digital) and the environmental and social sustainability of value chains between the two regions and within ASEAN are enhanced, notably through improved institutional capacities and with a focus on ensuring decent work and the elimination of child labour, resulting in the uptake and implementation of core ILO conventions, responsible business conduct and due diligence to ensure that production and supply chains are aligned with EU values on human and labour rights, environmental objectives and long-term sustainability standards.

- ER 3: EU-ASEAN people-to-people connections are strengthened, including as regards public, civil society and private sector, science, research and educational institutions and in relation to a reduction of the gender and age digital gap.

2.1.4. Pacific

Taking into account the unique features and challenges of the Pacific region, the EU will support enhanced regional integration by building on the track-record and lessons learned from regional programmes financed by previous EU external financing instruments. EU support will further strengthen the Green-Blue Alliance between the EU and the Pacific region, based on the shared priorities of the European Green Deal, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the new post-Cotonou Pacific Regional Protocol, and the new EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, including the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the EU and Pacific States. To achieve this goal, the partnership will focus on enhanced regional integration through three pillars: Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability; Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development; and Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security.

Sector 1: Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)

Actions under this priority area will seek to strengthen the regional integrated approaches for research, policy planning and implementation of measures in support of climate action, disaster risk

reduction, ocean governance, nature based solutions and environmental protection and sustainable management for the Pacific region to live up to its climate and environmental commitments.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Support Pacific partners in their sustainable responses to the impacts of global warming.
- SO 2 – Support Pacific partners to build further their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- SO 3 – Support Pacific partners in carrying out regionally integrated approaches to strengthen natural resources conservation, management and governance and the application of circular economy both on land and in the oceans, including through capacity building for maintaining a secure marine environment.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Increased capacity (including research capacity and use of digital tools) for anticipation of, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of global warming; including severe climate-related risks and events.
- ER 1.2: Increased capacity to deliver on international climate commitments and to implement multilateral environmental agreements legislation while ensuring just transition.
- ER 2.1: Reduced dependency on and use of fossil energy sources.
- ER 2.2: Increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources, including use of sustainable and smart mobility.
- ER 2.3: Increased skills development in green, sustainable technologies, leading to decent work.
- ER 3.1: Increased capacity and readiness to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of marine living resources, and the protection and restoration of marine and terrestrial natural/biodiversity resources, e.g. through digital tools and spatial planning.
- ER 3.2: Expanded use of nature-based solutions providing environmental and resilience benefits as well as creation of new income opportunities for men and women.
- ER 3.3: Improved waste management and increased capacity to move towards a more circular economy.
- ER 3.4: Enhanced capacities in partner countries to address IUU and threats to maritime security.

Sector 2: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16)

The EU will support actions that help develop inclusive and sustainable green and blue economy by promoting sustainable and circular economy, e-business and digital solutions at regional level and by developing an enhanced business and investment environment. These development efforts need to be embedded in an effort to improve economic governance. Such effort will include the promotion of digitalisation and e-governance, the creation or expansion of contingent financing, improved access to and effective use of climate finance, and improving regional arrangements for risk management and post-disaster response.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Support a more diversified, equitable, sustainable and resilient economic growth, in particular by strengthening economic regional integration, based on addressing climate change impacts and principles of environmental sustainability.
- SO 2 – Improve regional economic governance, including through digitalisation, in support of green and blue growth.
- SO 3 – Enhance the regional trade and investment environment notably through EPA enforcement; corporate due diligence and UN business and human rights principles.

Expected Results

- ER 1: Higher levels of compliance to and implementation of international regulations, rules and standards, including tax good governance standards.
- ER 2: Improved regional alignment on budget transparency and accountability, fiscal policies and PFM reforms, conducive to, amongst others, achieve regional climate objectives and enhanced digitalisation.
- ER 3: Improved regional investment and private sector climate;

Sector 3: Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 16)

Actions under this priority will be aligned with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024, advancing universal values such as strengthening of democratic institutions, the rule of law and protection of human rights, strengthen the links between human rights, security, and climate change and promoting gender equality, in line with the ambition set by the new EU GAP III.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Support regional institutions to ensure that protection of human rights is embedded at the highest level of the regional political dialogue, with a specific focus on gender equality and ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children taking into account the priorities defined in the revised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, but also aspects of freedom of association and the elimination of child labour.
- SO 2 – Support regional institutions and national and local authorities in the implementation of the climate change and security objectives under the Boe Declaration, including support for regional stability.

Expected Results

- ER 1: Strengthened regional institutions that can promote the universal values of human rights, democracy and rule of law for all, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children.
- ER 2: Enhanced capacities in partner countries and regional institutions to address the climate change and security nexus, including conflict prevention and regional stability and security.

2.1.5. Pan-Asia (SDGs 7, 8, 9, 12, 13)

In addition to the sub-regional integration and cooperation efforts outlined above, several intra-regional initiatives have been launched to address institutional gaps and bring together regional partners around a common agenda. There is potential for increased cooperation, including between sub-regions (as well as around areas such as the Himalayas, the Mekong and various maritime zones). The EU has already supported some of these efforts and maintains a great interest in strengthening such regional cooperation, when both political and operational engagement can make a difference. Such initiatives may also include cooperation with other international partners or regions, in particular Africa and the Neighbourhood.

The Pan-Asia approach will also cater for sub-regions, multi-country and bilateral partners that lack effective regional integration and cooperation frameworks, yet still need to strengthen cooperation and international partnerships. Overall, it will aim at supporting the implementation of the EU strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Forge international partnerships at continental, intra- and inter-regional levels which are aligned with EU external priorities, principles and values, to facilitate cooperation across policy areas.
- SO 2 – Improve regional economic governance through support to MSMEs' transformation, adaption and participation to resilient, equitable and socially and environmentally sustainable value chains.
- SO 3 – Promote cultural cooperation between Europe and Asia.
- SO 4 – Reinforce security and defence cooperation, inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention, counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism and foster cooperation on cyber security and organised crime, in particular drugs and human and wildlife trafficking.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.
- ER 2.1: Coordinated efforts to develop more sustainable consumption and production and circular business models (sustainable food systems in the case of the agri-food sector), and export-oriented industries by promoting decent work, efficient conservation and sustainable management of natural resources on land and in the ocean, substantial reduction of waste generation and more sustainable procurement practices.
- ER 2.2: Strengthened and resilient value chains between EU and Asian economies and between Asian economies.
- ER 3.1: Reinforced Europe-Asia networks and cultural alliances via inter alia track-two diplomacy next to EU/Multilateral Summits and other fora, youth associations, think tank dialogues, model European Union Simulations, film festivals, art exhibitions, exchanges between cultural organisations in all artistic domain.
- ER 4.1: Regular regional dialogues, coordination and information sharing on conflict resolution and prevention and on security issues.
- ER 4.2: Conflicts addressed via inclusive, gender sensitive and coordinated mediation mechanisms and/or through international legal instruments and regional arrangements.
- ER 4.3: Coordinated and cooperative analysis of security incidents.

2.2. Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners

2.2.1. China

The March 2019 Joint Communication EU-China – A Strategic Outlook sets out a multi-faceted approach towards China simultaneously as a partner, a competitor and a systemic rival. Engaging with China means pursuing and safeguarding EU interests and values, addressing global challenges, promoting, the rules-based international order and multilateralism, including by engaging on WTO reform, contesting unfair practices and distortions of the level playing field, strengthening good governance and reciprocity as well as environmental, social, and financial sustainability in third countries. The EU and China have over seventy sector-specific dialogues spanning this wide range of subject areas.

There is further potential in strengthening EU coordination and collective engagement in China as well as to strengthen partnerships with different actors, including international organisations and financial institutions, governmental and non-governmental partners, civil society, local authorities, social partners, private sector and academia, as facilitated through public diplomacy activities too, including

the promotion of European values and interests, strengthening the visibility of the EU and enhancing cultural diplomacy.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 - Promote European values and interests in the bilateral relations with China, in line with the multi-faceted approach.
- SO 2 – Engage China to deliver on global public goods (including on international commitments such as the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change), to tackle global challenges, and to address its role as global actor and donor by promoting international norms and standards alignment with EU policies, and countering negative impact where necessary.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Monitor and promote human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace and security both in China and in partner countries, and increase awareness among stakeholders in China of the EU, its values, principles, and its system of governance, including on rule of law, human and labour rights, fundamental freedoms as well as international norms and standards notably on the digital front.
- ER 1.2: Increased frequency and/or more efficient preparation and follow-up of high-level dialogues and sectoral dialogues, and enhanced people-to-people ties (e.g. culture and education, and research) and facilitated coordination on reciprocal mobility, migration and people-to-people exchanges including on right-based migration management and civil society exchanges.
- ER 1.3: Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs) operating in China and competing with Chinese businesses in partner countries and support for European businesses and organisations (focus on competitiveness of European business organisations and SMEs; technical assistance and policy dialogue on decent work and the ratification and implementation of ILO conventions; corporate social responsibility and environmental standards by Chinese businesses in China and overseas; raising awareness of Chinese producers and exporters about EU product safety rules raising awareness on new key legal developments in China; due diligence to ensure that production and supply chains are aligned with EU values on human rights, environmental objectives and long-term sustainability standards, including in research and innovation).
- ER 1.4: Strengthened digital agenda in support of the EU's rules-based, multilateral, human-centric and market-driven approach to Artificial Intelligence, 5G, ICT standardization, data protection, research and innovation and the tackling of online fraud,
- ER 2.1: Coordinate on the external dimension of the European Green Deal and progress towards the Paris Agreement targets, including via initiatives to address the impact of China's practices in partner countries and via initiatives that support the development and implementation of China's own climate change and environmental protection policies (e.g. the ETS trading system; biodiversity and wildlife protection; waste and water management; resource efficiency and circular economy; sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains; clean oceans; forest preservation and reforestation, including China's external footprint; EU-China Blue Partnership for the Oceans.
- ER 2.2: Promote energy transition, clean energy investment and sustainable finance standards, both domestically and externally in partner countries (e.g. phasing out of investments in coal-powered energy generation), green technologies and innovation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- ER 2.3: Coordinate on health and safety, with an emphasis on global health including pandemics and consumer protection.
- ER 2.4: Promote and defend rules-based multilateralism, including the UN Development System and other multilateral institutions.

- ER 2.5: Pursue sustainable, accessible quality infrastructure in line with the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and international standards, address development finance, including Chinese overseas lending practices, and promote best practices in aid management while ensuring coordination on humanitarian aid, focusing on China's increasing role in humanitarian crises and peacekeeping initiatives.
- ER 2.6: Pursue reciprocity and a level playing field in the Research and Innovation domains in order to further engage with China on tackling global challenges.

2.2.2. India

The overarching priority is the implementation of the 2025 roadmap, the Strategic Partnership and the EU-India Connectivity Partnership as well as other sectoral partnerships. The roadmap is fully aligned with the Commission's geopolitical priorities on international partnerships and the EU Strategies in Asia.

Sector 1: Green Deals

- **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**: strengthen climate resilience, supporting a just transition to climate neutrality, supporting relevant international organisations led by India (CDRI, ISA), climate proofing; sustainable finance and green bonds.
- **Biodiversity**: knowledge, protection, preservation, and management of ecosystems and natural habitats, including regarding climate change impacts and disaster risks, notably to the benefits of health, sustainable food systems and innovative businesses, including organic farming, and agricultural pollution.
- **Clean energy transition:** implementation of the EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership; energy efficiency, renewable energy, grid connection, storage, decarbonisation of industry, cold chain and just energy transition, including research and innovation cooperation to increase the efficient use of green energy capacity.
- **Resource efficiency/circular economy**: implementation of the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Partnership; promoting a more circular and less resource intensive economic growth model through optimising all steps of production and consumption, including design, extraction, manufacturing, distribution, reuse, recycle, reduce materials in addition to addressing marine litter, waste and industrial pollution.
- **Urban development**: smart and inclusive cities, resilient infrastructures, accessible sustainable urban mobility and e-mobility, air pollution, water management, sanitation, solid waste management; implementation of the Smart and Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership and Water Partnership.

Sector 2: Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

- **Health**: cooperation on anti-microbial resistance (AMR), prevention of non-infectious diseases, prevention and preparedness for global pandemics (using the "One Health" approach), quality pharmaceutical ingredients, supply chains in pharmaceuticals, food safety supply chains.
- **Digital agenda/transformation**: enhance an open, democratic and sustainable, as well as accessible digital society, with trust in artificial intelligence; pursue initiatives that support data-driven societies, protection of personal data, safe and secure digital connectivity infrastructure (e.g. 5G, internet of things), safe and accountable online environment, fair and open digital markets, and global standards for interoperable emerging technologies; supporting social entrepreneurship.
- **Mobility and transport**: low-carbon civil aviation and airports, ports and ship recycling, climate-neutral railways, multimodality and inter-operability of transport corridors, digitalisation and

alternative fuels, e-vehicles, safety standards, alternative means of transportation, accessible public transportation, safety and security of transport.

- **Connectivity:** implementation of the Connectivity Partnership, meant to deepen bilateral engagement on digital, energy, transport, and people-to-people connectivity, as well as trilaterally in South Asia, the Indo-Pacific, Africa and Central Asia, including on regulatory aspects
- Support to green, digital and innovative **EU businesses**: support to EU SMEs and start-ups engaging in India, entering and navigating the Indian market, with an emphasis on green financing, fast and affordable solutions to the market capacity building on decent work, sustainable production and consumption, CSR, business and human rights. Support to EU clusters of innovation in target sectors, business partnership between EU and Indian SMEs and multinational companies.
- **Trade**: advocacy on market access and regulatory framework in particular to encourage the use of established ILO standards, advocacy on ratification of ILO conventions and the decent work programme , facilitate development of a platform for EU businesses to engage in policy advocacy collectively, advocacy and outreach on issues of international trade governance including WTO reform, support to the Investment Facilitation Mechanism, and other EU India dialogues related to trade and investment that encourage a level playing field and support the shared objective of facilitating and deepening EU India trade and investment ties, including the recently reopened FTA negotiations, responsible and resilient supply chains with safe working conditions, and decent wages , competition cooperation, and cooperation on public procurement, food safety supply chains, geographical indications. All this should support the planned negotiations for a free trade agreement, an investment protection agreement and an agreement on geographical indications.
- **Macroeconomic policies:** strengthen regional policy dialogue, institutional and human capacity to design and implement macroeconomic and financial policies that ensure transparency and accountability, promote growth and reduce poverty.

Sector 3: Governance, People, Peace, Security

- **Security**: maritime security, cyber security peace building and conflict prevention, countering terrorism and radicalisation/violent extremism, organised crime (in particular drugs and trafficking in human beings).
- Supporting legal **migration** and mobility through potential Talent Partnerships; fostering cooperation for sustainable readmission, return, and reintegration strategy; addressing trafficking in human beings within the framework of the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility.
- **CSO** engagement: CSO spaces for action and involvement; gender equality and women and girls, youth empowerment and participation, upholding fundamental freedoms/freedom of expression, legal enforcement/access to human rights, minority rights, environmental and criminal justice institutions, combatting trafficking in human beings; supporting cultural connectivity and counteracting online hate speech.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Support India's sustainable modernisation objectives in line with the EU-India Strategy, implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and the EU-India Connectivity Partnership.
- SO 2 – Support the external dimension of the European Green Deal with India.
- SO 3 – Promote good governance and reduce inequalities.

Expected Results

- ER 1: Effective implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and progress on implementation of the EU-India connectivity and sectoral partnerships.

- ER 2: Improved environmental and climate policies, supporting India's increased commitments an engagement under the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and other multilateral environmental agreements.
- ER 3: More inclusive and participatory decision-making processes of civil society, particularly of underprivileged groups, leading to poverty reduction and social inclusion.

2.2.3. Gulf Countries

For the Gulf, this programme will apply a flexible geographic and thematic approach with the overarching objective of easing regional tension, preventing conflict and mitigating risks, and supporting economic diversification and fair social transformation. The approach will encompass:

Political and policy dialogue at national and regional level within the framework of the EU-GCC cooperation agreement and the bilateral Cooperation Agreements and Arrangements in place:

- **Sectoral cooperation** in key areas of EU and mutual interest, such as trade and agri-food trade relations, energy, environment and climate change, space, prevention of and response to natural disasters, security and counterterrorism, combating drug trafficking, migration, human rights, research and innovation, people to people contacts and public diplomacy, with particular emphasis at ongoing efforts towards a fair green transition, economic diversification and social transformation, including gender equality. Considering today's contested information environment (marked by disinformation) and the importance of building coalitions with citizens and non-state actors to advance EU policy priorities in the region, developing trusted channels of engagement through Public Diplomacy will be an essential element of EU cooperation with the Gulf;
- **Intra-regional cooperation** with other countries of the region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) aiming at promoting regional integration and cooperation on connectivity, transport, environment, climate change and migration, whilst advancing towards greener models and promoting resilience and human rights and possibly cross-regional initiatives with other regions such as the Horn of Africa, Central and South Asia and Southern Neighbourhood.

Specific Objectives

- SO 1 – Stronger partnership in furtherance of the EU's external priorities.
- SO 2 – Stronger regional integration through dialogue and cooperation, as well as with neighbouring regions.
- SO 3 – Diversified economies through greener and more sustainable consumption and production.
- SO 4 – More open and inclusive societies in the Gulf region.

Expected Results

- ER 1: EU priorities are effectively promoted, realising economies of scale and facilitating exchanges.
- ER 2.1: Regional cooperation and integration and confidence building efforts are strengthened
- ER 2.2: Sub-regions, partners and policy areas that are not effectively covered in existing regional integration processes are enabled to benefit from regional cooperation efforts.
- ER 2.3: Cross-regional cooperation (with Southern Neighbourhood, Horn of Africa, etc.) is promoted.
- ER 3.1: Partners in the Gulf mainstream sustainable diversification in their policies.
- ER 3.2: Strengthened cooperation and alignment on green recovery as a new growth strategy.
- ER 3.3: More sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, reduction of waste generation and more sustainable procurement practices.
- ER 4.1: Policies and national strategies promote more open, and inclusive societies, human rights including labour rights), governance of media, and digital transformation.

- ER 4.2: Understanding and visibility of the Union and of its role by means of public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, cooperation in educational and academic matters are promoted.

2.2.4. Pursuing EU Interests with Asian partners in Asia and the Pacific (High Income Countries and other key partners)

HICs are important partners for policy-driven peer-to-peer cooperation among developed countries willing to shape together the global agenda and influence policy making. In Asia-Pacific, this scheme is particularly promising in terms of EU strategic interests. The main aim is to support the EU regional and global agenda and Strategies, including through the EU Strategic Partners.

Specific Objectives

- **SO 1 – Reinforced cooperation with the EU's partners in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen multilateralism (*partnerships for multilateralism*) by effectively implementing the *EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*, and enhance the EU's role and profile as a global actor in Asia and the Pacific.**
  The aim is to provide tools to support policy dialogues on global and regional challenges, and on multilateralism. Attention will be devoted to promoting the role of the EU as a global actor of peace and security, to expand existing cooperation with like-minded partners (Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, etc.) underpinned, amongst others, by the Council Conclusions on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and respond to the demand by the EU's partners for greater engagement.
  The programme will promote the role of the EU as a global actor of peace and security, notably the priority areas highlighted in the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on Enhanced EU Security Cooperation in and with Asia of 28 May 2018. In this regard, it will promote regional and international initiatives contributing to stability, security and peace, mitigation and prevention of security threats, such as the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, and risks such, as chemical, biological, and radiological risks.
  Reinforcing the legitimacy of the EU in the Asia-Pacific as a value-based global actor (democracy, human rights, rule of law, gender equality, multilateralism, tax good governance) and standard-setter across the whole spectrum of EU policies will be the focus of the public, science and cultural diplomacy action with HICs and other key partners. The aim is to engage partners in adopting new practices to transform sustainably, in coherence with EU global and bilateral objectives, and build trust and mutual understanding with the EU through specific public and targeted outreach. More generally, the programme will support the implementation of the EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo Pacific.
- **SO 2 – Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards in collaboration and alliance with Asian and Australasian HICs *(alliance diplomacy)***
  In line with the EU's priorities, in particular the green and digital transition, international labour standards, decent work agenda, and regional connectivity, policy-driven action will cover the array of EU policies, in line with the evolution of the EU policy framework and the outcomes of bilateral/regional dialogues.
- **SO 3 – Economic diplomacy: FTAs, level playing field, market access, investment promotion and protection, business opportunities**
  The aim is to support the negotiation and implementation of trade and investment agreements, agreements on geographic indications and on wine, compliance with tax good governance standards, action on SPS, circular economy, raw materials, clean energy technology goods and products, international labour standards, intellectual property rights, competition, trade and sustainable development, (green) procurement WTO-related and other similar actions. A key priority will be to support action on business cooperation and Foreign Direct Investment to further enhance and facilitate access to Asian markets for EU companies, notably SMEs, and thus

contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy. Working on green/digital/responsible, equitable supply chains will be key to promote more resilient and greener post-COVID economies and build back better. Promotion of EU know-how, common standards and facilitation of interoperable technologies, also through business-to-business and people-to-people contacts, will also be included.

- **SO 4 – Supporting key political processes, tools and objectives (Good Governance, PCAs, SPAs, Connectivity Partnerships) between the EU and Asian partners**
  The programme will provide tools to support policy dialogues and exchanges. It will also promote transboundary cooperation on shared natural resources based on existing framework agreements where relevant (i.e. Japan's SPA, Singapore's PCA etc.). The programme will also support the implementation of existing or future connectivity partnerships. It will contribute to create the conditions for more circular-production models, and more responsible and secure value chains between the EU and the region.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Effective policy dialogues on global and regional challenges, increased cooperation on rules-based multilateral order and governance and enhanced EU participation in Asian multilateral organisations leading to improved understanding, appreciation and alignment with EU positions, including on the European Green Deal.
- ER 1.2: Expanded and reinforced peace and security cooperation with like-minded partners, responding to the demand by the EU's partners for greater engagement on security, including cyber security, maritime security, violent extremism, counter terrorism, hybrid threats and cybercrime, and on security sector reform in Indo-Pacific region.
- ER 1.3: Reinforced mechanisms of conflict prevention, early warning and peacebuilding through mediation and dialogue, crisis management, and stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction, in line with the women, peace and security agenda.
- ER 1.4: Strengthened recognition of the EU in the Asia-Pacific as a value-based global actor and standard-setter across the whole spectrum of EU policies, through public diplomacy action.
- ER 1.5: Stronger engagement with and greater mobilisation of networks of key target audiences and potential partners in the Asia-Pacific such as youth, academics, influencers (e.g. media, think tanks, business community), civil society and cultural actors.
- ER 2.1: Improved digital and regulatory convergence facilitating the global flow of data, data protection and security, including on network security, digital communication supply chains, protection of critical infrastructure, and roll-out of 5G on the basis of global standards.
- ER 2.2: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.
- ER 3.1: Effective implementation of trade and investment agreements, including successful negotiations and enhanced cooperation on norms, regulations, standards and interoperability and the effective implementation of commitments by the Parties to adhere to international labour and environmental conventions.
- ER 3.2: Enhanced market access (including agreements on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary conditions), improved business cooperation and partnerships (B2B), in particular SMEs, and a level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses leading to improved competiveness of EU business in Asia, as well as enhanced capacities of European business organisations.
- ER 3.3: Increased inward FDI.
- ER 3.4: Convergence on SPS, raw materials, international labour standards, intellectual property rights, competition, (green) procurement and WTO-related actions.
- ER 3.5: Reinforced applied research and innovation.
- ER 3.6: Sustainable and resilient supply chains and sustainable food systems, as well as the promotion of decent work.
- ER 4.1: Initiation and successful conclusions of negotiation processes.

- ER 4.2: Effective implementation of the EU Global Gateway.

2.3. Priority Area 3 – Migration, Forced Displacement and Mobility

The overall objective of this priority area is to contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit, and destination by fostering well-managed migration and mobility. The programme will be divided into a regional/multi-country component (SO 1 and 2) and a component that will finance country specific actions through a flexible mechanism (SO 3).

Specific Objectives

- **SO 1 – Support durable solutions to existing and future forced displacement situations.**
  This component will address the two major refugee crises in the region, namely the protracted existing and potential new Afghan displacement situation (including in Central Asia), the displacement situation in Iraq, and the displacement of populations from Myanmar, with a particular focus on the Rohingya refugee crisis. Under the same regional approach, it will also address forced displacement caused by natural disasters and climate change, together with other forced displacement crises with a multi-country dimension that may evolve.

- **SO 2 – Contribute to strengthening migration governance and management, to enable orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (including labour migration) and mobility of people.**
  This component aims at strengthening cooperation and capacities to improve migration governance and management, and to prevent and address irregular migration, promote legal and safe pathways to migration, including labour rights of migrant workers and human mobility as well as to harness the socio- economic development benefits of migration.

- **SO 3 – Encourage relevant exchange between origin, transit, destination and/or host countries to increase cooperation and improve management of migration and/or forced displacement challenges, as well as to expand their cooperation with the EU on migration, forced displacement and mobility.**
  This component will finance additional actions through a flexible mechanism with a focus on key countries of origin, transit and destination as per the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration.[16] It will ideally complement and strengthen actions launched through national MIPs and under Specific Objectives 1 and 2.

Expected Results

- ER 1.1: Policy dialogue on durable solutions to forced displacement and policy development addressing forced displacement is enhanced within the concerned region.
- ER 1.2: Peacebuilding and reconciliation, including community and grassroots-driven processes, to identify nationally owned sustainable solutions to displacement situations are supported.
- ER 1.3: Partner countries' capacities to ensure protection space, human rights and empowerment of uprooted people and host communities as well as the sustainable integration and reintegration of refugees, returnees, IDPs and other categories of migrants are strengthened.
- ER 1.4: Access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, living conditions, resilience, self-reliance, and social cohesion of refugees, IDPs and host communities are improved.
- ER 1.5: Qualitative and quantitative research, evidence and data analysis on forced displacement disaggregated by gender and age at regional, national, and local level is improved.

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- ER 2.1: Cooperation, policy dialogue and development, engagement at international, national and regional level with private and public stakeholders in the field of migration governance and mobility are enhanced.
- ER 2.2: Partner countries' capacities to address irregular migration including the prevention of and fight against smuggling of migrants and all forms of trafficking of human beings, support to migrants in situations of vulnerability, at regional, national, and local level are reinforced.
- ER 2.3: Sustainable reintegration support to returnees from Europe and third countries and to host communities in their countries of origin is provided, in full respect of fundamental values and Human Rights.
- ER 2.4: Human mobility, including labour migration and climate-induced migration takes place in a more regular and safe manner.
- ER 2.5: The developmental impact of social and financial remittances is enhanced.
- ER 2.6: Qualitative and quantitative research, evidence and data analysis on migration disaggregated by gender and age at regional, national, and local level is improved.
- ER 3.1: Capacities of partner countries to cooperate on and address migration and/or forced displacement challenges, and gradually build ownership of migration related processes identified and agreed in migration partnerships with the EU, are reinforced.
- ER 3.2: Partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration, forced displacement and mobility is enhanced. This may include the development of Talent Partnerships.

2.4. Proposals for Team Europe Initiatives [17]

2.4.1. ASEAN / South-East Asia Green Initiative (*Indicative EU contribution 45 million euros*)

A Green Team Europe Initiative is proposed for ASEAN/South East Asia. The TEI will cover the regional, sub-regional and country levels, with the regional components complementing the national programmes. The regional component will tackle issues of regional nature and relevance in line with priority 2 such as biodiversity protection, ocean governance including the fight against IUU fishing and marine plastics pollution, clean energy transition, water management, illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and air pollution, for which regional coordination, cooperation and the exchange of information and best practices is key to deliver effective results: a secondary objective is to further underpin regional integration efforts in these areas through ASEAN. Retaining flexibility between the bilateral and regional approach will allow the TEI to engage also at sub-regional level to cover groups of countries with comparable needs and priorities in relevant areas (e.g. Mekong River sub-region, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) only, Celebes Sea, etc.) and other regional initiatives. The TEI should also retain the ability to work with relevant countries outside the region, as and where relevant.

The Green Initiative will address the transition towards circular, climate-neutral and environmentally sustainable economies and resilient ecosystems, implementing the external dimension of the European Green Deal, covering the areas of clean energy, circular economy, sustainable food systems, biodiversity and sustainable landscape and sustainable urban development and planning for green, socially-inclusive and smart/digitally-connected cities. It will also pay a particular attention to horizontal issues, which will be mainstreamed in all interventions. These include eliminating pollution, ensuring a just transition (such as creating decent green jobs, developing green skills and promoting gender equality), climate finance, digitalisation and the links between climate change and migration.

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[17] The EU's indicative contributions TEI are subject to the confirmation of the Team Europe partners' indicative meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the absence thereof, the EU's indicative contribution may be redirected in accordance with the priority areas of the MIP and their allocations. The obligation of the Union and the Member States to coordinate their development policies following initiatives by the Commission to this effect, as per article 210 TFEU, always applies.

2.4.2. ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity (*Indicative EU contribution 40 million euros*)

A Sustainable Connectivity Team Europe Initiative is proposed for South-East Asia/ASEAN. It aims at furthering sustainable, comprehensive, and rules-based connectivity between the EU and ASEAN and within ASEAN itself, in line with EU policy. This TEI will take into account the four pillars of the Joint Communication on Connectivity: transport, energy, digital and people-to-people. Furthermore, it will promote trade facilitation and level playing field. It builds on the principles of the Joint Communication "Connecting Europe and Asia: Building blocks for an EU Strategy" and the corresponding Council conclusions and its synergies with the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC), which focusses mainly on intra-ASEAN connectivity and regional integration. The Team Europe Initiative will also support the preparations for a possible Connectivity Partnership between EU and ASEAN and support collaboration on quality connectivity infrastructure.

Priority areas will include: policy dialogue; sustainable economic connectivity and regional integration support including: Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) and investment climate actions, EU and international standards Sustainable and resilient value chains, including decent work, sustainable transport connectivity and intellectual property cooperation; EU-ASEAN business connections; digital connectivity and science, research, technology and innovation partnership, circular economy and sustainable production and consumption; people-to-people connections; and sustainable connectivity investment. This will be a regional TEI bringing together relevant Team Europe programmes and actions at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels under a single umbrella as a regional narrative, including regional or sub-regional actions of other Team Europe partners and connectivity-related components of Bilateral TEIs with individual ASEAN Member States.

2.4.3. Pacific Green Blue Alliance *(Indicative EU contribution 75 million euros)*

In order to activate the Post-Cotonou Pacific Protocol's main areas on Oceans Fisheries and Blue Economy, Disaster Risk Management, Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Biodiversity, the Team Europe Initiative Green Blue Alliance for the Pacific will be the backbone of the EU's regional engagement in the Pacific. The key elements of the TEI are to: (1) mainstream and enhance climate ambition across all policies, including macro-economic and Public Finance Management; (2) develop a stewardship model that reconciles biodiversity and environmental protection and restoration with sustainable economic development. Additionally, this Team Europe Initiative will contribute to displaying the EU's action in 'Fighting Inequalities by Building Inclusive and Sustainable Societies' at international and multilateral meetings, such as the United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP26. France, AFD, Proparco, GiZ, EIB, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Ireland have expressed interest so far.

2.4.4. Afghan Displacement Situation (*Indicative EU contribution 79 million euros*)

This proposed Regional Team Europe Initiative will focus on one of the world's longest-lasting displacement situations, currently facing a new peak in the wake of the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan. Within the region, the Afghan crisis has so far mainly involved Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. The evolving situation in Afghanistan could produce negative spill-overs in terms of insecurity and population movements, and potentially expand to neighbouring countries, with repercussions in terms of regional instability that pose serious concerns to the whole international community.

This proposed TEI aims at assisting existing and possibly newly Afghan displaced along with their host communities through a coordinated mid to long-term regional response. The EU has taken a leading position with regard to the Afghan displacement situation, by accepting to be the first chair of the Core Group of the Support Platform for the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) in 2021. This

proposed TEI builds on the EU commitment for durable solutions and supports the agenda of the EU as key member of the Core Group.

The proposed TEI will cover programmes financed under this regional MIP as well as under the relevant components on migration and forced displacement of the country MIPs (or Special Measures). Activities will include policy dialogue and concrete interventions at national, cross-border and regional level. Focus will be on protection, including social inclusion and sustainable reintegration; provision of basic services, job creation, skills development and access to the labour market; and well-managed labour migration and mobility.

Coordination with, and participation of EU Member States and finance institutions is sought at policy, financial and operational level through ongoing or future development actions, financial means and the provision of expertise, and could cover one or multiple countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Central Asian countries). At the policy level, the main forum will be the Core Group of the SSAR Support Platform. Current MS members of the Core Group are Denmark and Germany.

2.4.5. Pan-Asia SME Initiative to Deliver Sustainable Consumption and Production (*Indicative tentative EU contribution 132 million euros)*

Micro, Small-and-Medium-Enterprises (MSME) are the backbone of the economies in Asia representing about 90% of local enterprises. MSMEs have generated the largest number of employment opportunities, second only to agriculture, employing more than 50% of the workforce. According to the International Finance Corporation, women own 50% of microenterprises and 59% of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in East Asia and the Pacific. In South Asia women own 10% of microenterprises and 8% of SMEs. The recent pandemic has particularly affected MSMEs by disrupting Global Value Chains on which most economies have been built upon over the last decades, thus putting at danger their viability and growth.

Investing in sustainable industrial practices and resilient value chains among MSMEs will have a significant and transformative impact in many countries in the region and it will represent an important step to support the green and just recovery process. In doing so, businesses will have to adjust their long-term strategies, reassess investment plans, rethink how they use raw materials, respect fundamental labour rights and make their production models more sustainable in order to access global value and supply chains and promote decent jobs. Synergies with EFSD+ and Horizon Europe will be promoted.

2.4.6. Digital Transformation in Central Asia *(Indicative EU contribution 40 million euros)*

A regional Team Europe initiative for Central Asia is proposed on Digital Transformation. The TEI would cover Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan. It will aim to boost the opportunities for establishing strategic digital partnerships between the EU and regional actors, and to foster a human centred digital transformation in Central Asia. It will do so by making use of the expertise and networks of the EU Member States and of EU financial institutions, private sector, CSOs, and academia, and by complementing the national interventions.

Central Asia is one of the least digitally connected regions in the world, with an extremely high digital divide likely to keep worsening social inequality and hampering the potential for economic growth in the region. The COVID-19 crisis has further exacerbated the situation, making it more necessary than ever to act to ensure better, affordable and improved connectivity for all to counter the impact of the pandemic and its consequences in every social and economic domain.

There is a need for infrastructure investment to improve end-to-end connectivity for citizens as well as businesses, to realize the potential of digital development. Beyond physical infrastructure and the

mix of technologies needed to spread the coverage and quality of digital connectivity, the digital divide is also fuelled by the uneven spread of digital literacy and skills. This holds back opportunities, especially for women and youth, and other underprivileged groups who could exploit digital technologies and solutions to enhance their opportunities for social and economic empowerment, including decent employment. Finally, the missed digital opportunities in Central Asia are linked to lack of sector reforms and enabling regulatory environments, which could support the enhancement of the digital connectivity in the region and better integration of digital technologies to provide e-services (e.g. digital financial services, e-government, etc.). While all these elements certainly have strong national components, there is also a high need to ensure development of compatible e-strategies, harmonised regulation, enhanced interoperability, cybersecurity, etc. The proposed TEI will, in consultation with interested Member States and financial institutions, identify in which of these areas there is the highest potential for transformative EU action throughout the region, and aim to bring in complementarity the tools and funding available and to the other members of Team Europe.

2.4.7. Water-Energy-Climate Change in Central Asia *(Indicative EU contribution 51 million euros)*

A Team Europe Initiative on Water-Energy-Climate Change is proposed for Central Asia. Competing demands for water and energy between Central Asian countries are a major challenge for the region and a potential driver of conflict. The TEI aims to support Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran in better managing and sharing the limited water resources sustainably and fairly, while balancing the needs of upstream hydroelectricity generation and downstream water needs for agricultural production, seeking complementarity wherever possible and sustainability in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As these challenges are transboundary in nature, intrinsically linked to nearly all areas of development and require mutual trust, cooperation is vital and the EU, together with its Member States, can provide essential added value based on the EU's own experience of regional integration. Building on its experience on the coordinated management of public goods and advanced technology/know-how in shared water management and renewable energy generation. Team Europe can contribute to addressing these challenges in line with the EU policies and the European Green Deal while supporting EU Water diplomacy. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak, building back better and the need to ensure the do-no-harm principle, a green recovery that embeds social inclusion, decent work, and access to skills development opportunities, women's rights and gender equality has become even more relevant. There is good potential for capitalizing on EU and Member States' joint efforts to support Central Asia on these pressing topics, taking into account recent cooperation around the International High-Level Conference on the Water Action Decade, which is due to take place in Tajikistan in 2022 and will be one of the main high-level events supporting the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" and on the way to UN Water Conference, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

3. Support Measures

3.1. Measures in Favour of Civil Society

The operating conditions of civil society and its cooperation with the governments of the Asia-Pacific show a mixed picture. In most countries, while the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated authoritarian trends and shrinking space for civil society to operate, it also boosted civil society engagement, when NGOs engaged in collecting, coordinating and disseminating various types of social and medical assistance.

The EU will continue partnering with and foster the governance and advocacy role of civil society, in line with the 2012 Commission Communication, *The roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations*. The EU will support social dialogues in the region in order to strengthen decent and resilient industrial relations.

Engagement with non-governmental actors, notably civil society networks, media, law societies, employers' and workers' organisations, cultural actors, political parties (including in particular their youth wings) and parliaments, traditional and religious leaders, think tanks, youth and women organisations, organisations representing particularly marginalised groups, and trade unions, will be critical to accompany and support the EU agenda. At the regional level it will follow the principle of subsidiarity.

Support to civil society will aim to promote regional cooperation on human rights (including labour rights), gender equality, rule of law and protecting vulnerable groups and promoting environmental sustainability. Especially youth, minorities and vulnerable groups have to be empowered to be heard and integrated wherever relevant in all decision-making processes at all levels and participation in democratic, civic and political life.

The EU will also strengthen the capacity of Civil Society to be heard beyond the national level, including through dedicated public diplomacy initiatives engaging with youth and civil society to build trust and understanding of global challenges and the EU's positions at sub regional or pan Asian level.

3.2. Cooperation Facility

This facility will finance strategic communications and public diplomacy actions, external expertise for project identification and formulation, evaluations, audits or studies and technical assistance that can measure and improve programme impact and support good governance, including tax good governance. This expertise will also be provided through TAIEX and Twinning operations.

The cooperation facility will provide the means for cooperation on areas where the EU interests should and could be pursued offensively, i.e. via capacity building, policy dialogues, cooperation with EU agencies or affiliation to EU programmes, as well as strategic communication and fight against disinformation and visibility actions on EU cooperation. Dedicated long term regional public diplomacy initiatives supported through the facility will i.a. aim at:

- Building coalitions with citizens and non-state actors to advance EU policy priorities.
- Building trust, enhancing the understanding and perceptions of the EU, supporting the implementation of the EU's policy priorities, and facilitating future cooperation across policy areas.
- Fostering, engaging and mobilising networks of key target audiences and potential partners such as youth, academics, influencers (e.g. media, think tanks and business community), civil society and cultural actors.
- Connecting bilateral initiatives at the regional and global levels (e.g. regional youth fora, civil society fora, business fora) in order to reinforce the understanding of multilateralism, highlighting the role of the EU as a global player, fostering intercultural dialogue and developing operational synergies.
- Promoting good governance standards and paradigms.

Strategic communication activities, including political communication and large-scale sub-regional campaigns, will be designed to raise awareness and understanding of the EU's priorities and impact in the sub-regions. These activities will aim to measurably increase perception of the EU as a trusted partner among specified target audiences. Team Europe Initiatives and key global strategies will be

fully integrated into strategic communication activities, with joint communications initiatives across EU services, EU institutions and Member States as appropriate.

Dedicated regional public diplomacy initiatives will continue to engage key target audiences and stakeholders such as states, private sector, civil society groups, trade unions, employers' organisations, thinks tanks, youth, women, students and academics. This will be done through dedicated long-term initiatives as well as by leveraging existing EU programmes and initiatives. The 'Team Europe' approach will be built upon, joining-up communications initiatives across EU services, EU institutions and Member States.

In addition, a contribution is made (outside the scope of this regional MIP) to trans-regional thematic knowledge hubs and technical assistance facilities to provide high quality technical expertise and inputs to the benefit of the region.

Support to Investments under the EFSD+

In order to ensure green, sustainable and inclusive growth, Build Back Better and Greener from the COVID-19 crisis and reach the Paris Agreement objectives and the SDGs, trillions of investments will be needed from public and private, domestic and international sources. Financial resources catalysed by EU guarantees/blending under EFSD+ for enhancing bankability, providing additional financing, mitigating credit risk and promoting concessional lending to partner countries, in support of green recovery and sustainable investments are instrumental to meet financing needs without harming debt sustainability, and for creating job opportunities, while promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Decisions regarding the allocations of the EFSD+ will be taken in line with the 'policy-first' principle in full support of the priorities, areas and sectors identified in this and/or in the country MIPs.

The immense challenges of recovering from the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic for the Asian and Pacific region may not undermine the importance of systemic threats such as climate change and can actually serve as an opportunity to collectively commit on a global recovery that links debt suspension and/or re-structuring and further investment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promotes sustainable, green, just, equitable and resilient growth.

The Asia Investment Facility (AIF), the Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA) and the Investment Facility for the Pacific (IFP), or any successor thereto, will fully exploit the significant potential for blended finance in terms of crowding-in, leveraging and catalysing additional financing, including from private and commercial sources. The EU grants will be used strategically to mobilise financing from partner financial institutions (EUFIs/IFIs/others) and the private sector. The objective will be to support and facilitate investment on innovative sustainable projects which are aligned with EU priorities and that would be difficult to fund without the EU support, notably due to market failure, piloting emerging and nascent technologies. The type of activities to support such operations are the following:

- Investment Grants to reduce the cost to end-users or the debt burden of the beneficiary country (e.g. loan interests) by partly financing the total investment costs, notably those that have to do with social and green objectives (e.g. last-mile connectivity; higher environmental standards).
- Technical assistance to support feasibility studies, project design, management, quality, ease risks, remove obstacles and accelerate implementation.
- Risk Capital injections to financial schemes to lower investors' risk (and its perception) usually for mobilizing private capital. For example, an investment in the first-loss or junior tranche of an investment fund.

- Budgetary guarantees to safeguard financial operations against default, and thus help materialize projects that would otherwise not be financed due to the high level of real or perceived risk, or would require an excessively high remuneration by the borrower/recipient. The type of financial guarantees funded by the EFSD+ are the following:

  ✓ Sovereign and non-commercial sub-sovereign: government and entities fully backed by the state unable to finance themselves in the market, notably large infrastructure projects.
  ✓ Commercial sub-sovereign: public entities able to finance themselves in the market. Examples include loans to water and sanitation public companies, upgrading of electricity companies to promote renewable energies.
  ✓ Private sector: Wide range of private sector companies through financial institutions and intermediaries (e.g. SMEs to sizeable electronic communication companies). Examples include an SME credit line, solar off-grid project, or support to cocoa growers for sustainable production.

The implementation of blending operations and budgetary guarantees through European Finance Institutions also offers a unique opportunity to promote and implement the Team Europe approach in partner countries, bringing a transformative impact in priority areas such as Green Deal, Blue Economy, Jobs & Growth, Connectivity and Digitalisation. EFSD+ modalities will be deployed so as to ensure synergies and complementarities between the forthcoming Global Gateway communication and the connectivity priorities that are set out in this programme.

Potential for sustainable finance in the region is high, which may complement the activities of the EFSD+. As communicated in the Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy, the European Commission will support efforts to scale up sustainability-related financial instruments in our partner countries and help build back better globally, notably via 'Global Europe' - the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). Among these sustainability-related financial instruments, green bonds are a key instrument which should be supported to help our partner countries to finance their recovery. The InvestEU programme also supports the development of green bonds within the EU. Similarly, we would like that our external action instruments (EFSD+) supports the development of green bonds in our partner countries.

Technical assistance plays a key role for the successful implementation of the guarantee programmes and ensures the fact that "policy first" principles are applied during the programming and implementation phase. Therefore, amounts needed for complementary TA will be provided by the Regional MIP.

4. Financial Overview

Overall indicative amount for the period 2021-2027.
The duration of this MIP is seven years, and a mid-term review is foreseen for 2024.

Priority Area 1 – Regional Integration and Cooperation	In million EUR	% of total
Central Asia	140	5.97
South Asia	30	1.28
South-East Asia and ASEAN	180	7.68
Pacific	100	4.27
Pan-Asia	271[18]	11.56
Sub-total	*721*	*30.76*
Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners		
China	110	4.70
India	90	3.84
Gulf Countries, High Income Countries and other Key Partners (including public diplomacy for India and China)	135[19]	5.76
Sub-total	*335*	*14.30*
Priority Area 3 – Migration, Forced Displacement and Mobility		
Forced displacement	141	6.01
Migration management	140	5.98
Flexible Instrument Migration	141	6.01
Sub-total	*422[20]*	*18.00*
Support Measures		
Sub-total	*64*	*2.73*
Support to Investments under the EFSD+		
Guarantees (including up to 10% for Technical Assistance)	500	21.33
Blending	290	12,37
External Lending Mandate legacy	12	0.51
Sub-total	*802*	*34.21*
Total	**2344**	**100**

Amounts not included:
1. Contribution to the Erasmus Mundus+ Programme: EUR 370 million
2. Contribution to trans-regional thematic knowledge hubs and technical assistance facilities: EUR 78 million

[18] *Of which EUR 71 million for participating in actions under the Global Challenges programme (indicatively: health 15 MEUR, biodiversity 30 MEUR, water 7 MEUR, mining 1 MEUR, agri-food systems 18 MEUR)*
[19] *To be managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, breakdown to be decided.*
[20] Out of this total allocation, an indicative distribution for geographical priorities: Afghan displacement situation 100 MEUR, Rohingya refugee crisis 60 MEUR, Syrian refugees in Iraq 25 MEUR

List of documents that served as a basis for the Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021 – 2027

- Council Conclusions on the Indo-Pacific: EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
- The Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (16 September 2021), JOIN(2021) 24 final
- Joint Communication: The Global Gateway, JOIN 30(2021), 1 December 2021
- European Commission and HR/VP contribution to the European Council EU-China – A strategic outlook (March 2019)
- EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025, July 2020
- Joint Communication: Elements for an EU strategy on India (November 2018)
- Connecting Europe and Asia - Building blocks for an EU Strategy (Communication 2018)
- Relevant EU-ASEAN agreements, including the outcome documents adopted at the ASEAN-EU Ministerial meeting on 1st December 2020 and the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action 2018-2022
- The EU and ASEAN: a partnership with a strategic purpose (June 2015)
- EU Japan (i) Strategic Partnership Agreement and (ii) Economic Partnership Agreement (2018)
- EU Republic of Korea (i) Framework Agreement (2010), (ii) Free Trade Agreement (2015) and (iii) Framework Participation Agreement on Crisis Management (2016)
- EU Australia Framework Agreement (2017)
- EU New Zealand Partnership Agreement (2017)
- Council conclusions on the Enhanced EU Security cooperation in and with Asia (28 May 2018)
- Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – JCPOA (14 July 2015)
- Joint Communication on the EU and Central Asia: New opportunities for a stronger partnership (May 2019)
- Framework for Pacific Regionalism (2014)
- Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP, 2016)
- Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD, 2017)
- Samoa pathway
- Boe Declaration on Regional Security (2018)
- EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan (2019)
- EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement (1989)
- Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy 2016-2025 (2016)
- Joint Communication on International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans (November 2016).

Attachment 1 – Intervention framework

Attachment 1. Intervention Framework				
Priority area 1.1: Regional Integration and Cooperation in Central Asia				
Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Sector 1: Partnering for Resilience (SDGs 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 16) - Environment, water and energy; Human rights (including labour rights), women's and youth empowerment, LGBTIQ, rule of law and support to civil society; Integrated approach to peace and stability; Transition to green economy.				
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Support for regional cooperation on environmental challenges and for a sustainable energy transition and improved regional energy connectivity based on state-of-the-art research and promoting sustainable development and a green, zero pollution and inclusive growth mode.				
ER 1.1: Improved structured cooperation in the framework of regional organisations, such as the International Fund for the Aral Sea.	a. Number of regional policies, sector strategies, regional institutional frameworks being developed that are based on recommendations of EU funded analytical work. b. Number of joint regional decisions (or agreements) c. Number of regional institutions demonstrating	a. 0 b. 0 c. 0 d. 0 e. 0 f. 0	a. 3 (e.g.: (1) air quality governance institutional framework, (2) CC adaptation on glaciers (3) CC adaptation on draughts) b. 1 (e.g.: next Aral Sea Basin Program) c. 4 (e.g.: EC IFAS, ICSD, ICWC, CAREC) d. 20 e. EUR 1 billion f. 14 million (50%) (20% of 70 M CA population)	a. Official reports / endorsed documents b. Official reports / endorsed documents c. Evaluation reports d. https://unece.org and https://www.gwp.org e. Official reports / endorsed documents f. Evaluation reports

	improved management performance d. Number of analytical outputs related to water use efficiency, water balance or topics related to integrated water resources management. e. Amount of investment (EUR) that reflects transboundary consideration that are based on/include recommendations from EU funded activities. f. Number of potential beneficiaries of investments supported (% female).			
ER 1.2: Strengthened public capacities and	a. Number of institutions	a. 0 b. 0	a. 5 (3 national water	a. Evaluation reports and national web sites: https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/water?lang

knowledge for the joint governance, management and use of water, including the automatisation of river water intake data, in line with EU best practices.	demonstrating improved management performance that is based on the EU funded work. b. Number of regional frameworks supporting IWRM that are being formulated with support from the EU. c. Number of learning activities that strengthen capacity of institutions in the water sector. d. Number of participants in learning activities (% female). e. Percentage of participants (% female) who consider outcomes of training events as relevant	c. 0 d. 0 e. 0 f. KAZ - 6,000m^3 (Report CAWATER); KYR – 5,237m^3 (Nat Stat) TAJ – 4,054 m^3 (FAO) TUR – 3,571 m^3 (Report CAWATER) UZB – 1,750 m^3 (Report CAWATER): (http://www.cawater-info.net; http://www.stat.kg/) g. Urban – 89%, Rural – 69% (UNECE) h. In irrigation: 60 – 70%; (CAWATER) Drinking water supply 25 – 50% i. 0	ministries / agencies, 2 river basin authorities) b. 3 c. 5+ d. over 1000 (at least 30%) e. over 80% (50%) f. KAZ – 5,400 m^3; KYR – 4,713 m^3; TAJ – 3,648 m^3; TUR – 3,214 m^3; UZB – 1,575 m^3 g. Average CA region: 92% urban (50%) 80% rural (50%) h. Irrigation – 40% Drinking water supply 30% i. 5	; https://www.water.gov.kg/index.php?lang; https://www.mewr.tj/; http://www.minagri.gov.tm/; https://water.gov.uz/ b. Evaluation reports c. Project reports/monitoring reports d. Project reports/monitoring reports e. Training evaluation reports f. Official reports/statistics g. Official reports/statistics: https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/Protocol_reports h. Official reports/statistics i. Project reports / evaluation reports

	and have integrated them in their work.			
	f. Total annual fresh water consumption per capita (M3/ca)			
	g. Number of people with sustainable access to safe drinking water (% female)			
	h. Percentage of water loss (technical and commercial losses) (% relative to the total "produced" water)			
	i. Water tariffs adjusted in accordance with the new policies and in accordance with the EU's recommendations			
ER 1.3: Strengthened public capacities and knowledge for energy	a. Number of institutions demonstrating	a. 0 b. 0 c. 0	a. 5 (e.g.: 5 national energy	a. Project reports / evaluation reports b. Project reports / evaluation reports c. Project reports / monitoring reports

governance, policy design and regulatory framework with a focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment, in line with EU best practices and improved capacities for the effective management of intra-regional electricity connectivity and trade.	improved management performance that is based on the EU funded work. b. Number of regional frameworks supporting RE & EE that are being formulated with support from the EU. c. Number of learning activities that strengthen capacity of institutions in the RE & EE sector. d. Number of participants in learning activities (% female). e. Percentage of participants (% female) who consider outcomes of training events as relevant and have	d. 0 e. 0 f. KZ: 100% (50%) KRG: 100% (50%) TJ: 99% (50%) TKM: 100% (50%) UZ: 100% (50%) g. KZ: 3% KRG: 25% TJ: 42% TKM: 7% UZ: 2% h. KZ: 8 MJ per US$PPP KR: 8 MJ per US$PPP TJ: 5 MJ per US$PPP TK: 17 MJ perUS$PPP UZ: 7 MJ perUS$PPP i. 0	ministries / agencies) b. 1 c. 5 d. over 1000 (at least 30%) e. over 80% (50%) f. KZ: 100 (50%) KRG: 100 (50%) TJ: 100% (50%) TKM: 100% (50%) UZ: 100% (50%) g. KZ: 15% KRG: 30% TJ: 50% TKM: 15% UZ: 15% h. KZ: 7.2 MJ per US$PPP KR: 7.2 MJ per US$PPP TJ: 4.5 MJ per US$PPP TK:15.3 MJ per US$PPP UZ: 6.3 MJ per US$PPP i. 2 GW	d. Project reports / monitoring reports e. Training evaluation reports f. https://rise.esmap.org g. https://rise.esmap.org h. https://rise.esmap.org i. Project reports / Evaluation reports

	integrated them in their work. f. Proportion of people with sustainable access to electricity (% female) g. Share of the RE in the total energy/electricity production/consumption h. Energy efficiency: Energy intensity i. New RE production capacities installed with the support of the EU			
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Support for cross-country cooperation, preparedness and planning for disaster risk reduction and support **to partner countries to fulfil their commitments on climate change, eco-system and biodiversity conservation and remediation.**				
ER 2: Increased effectiveness of disaster risk management systems, ecosystems and	a. Status of National disaster risk reduction strategies in	a. 2 countries with a DRR Strategy or Plan of Action completely	a. DRR strategies/ Plan of actions implemented	• Official reports on engagement in Sendai Framework reporting • Sendai Framework monitoring reports • Review processes of DRR strategies • Annual reports on disaster losses

biodiversity conservation systems.	line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 b. status of disaster damage and loss accounting mechanisms aligned to Sendai Framework c. % of disasters reported on human and economic losses in line with Sendai Framework indicators	aligned to Sendai Framework (2021) b. 5 CA countries received training and developed national DesInventar-Sendai system (2021) c. 30% (2021)	b. DesInventar-Sendai system functioning in 5 CA countries c. 75%	• Reports on implementation of Regional DRR strategy and Roadmap • Reports on assessment of resilience at local level
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Promotion of gender equality, including women's economic empowerment and the fight against gender-based violence, as well as protection of the rights of minorities, persons with disabilities and other discriminated groups.				
ER 3: Reduced gender-based violence, with attention to preventive activities, education, intersectional discrimination, and gender norms and better protected rights of	Percentage of reported physical/sexual intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence abuses, economic violence,	KZ: 4.7% (last 12 months) KR: 17.1% (last v12 months) TJ: 19% (last 12 months)	Decrease by 20% of reported physical/sexual intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence abuses, economic violence, abusive behaviour or	• Official statistics • Surveys • NGO Reports

minorities, including of persons with disabilities, and structural drivers of inequality reduced.	abusive behavior or threat	TKM: n/available UZ: n/available	threat, for each of the countries	

Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): Support for freedom of expression media freedom and freedom of association, in particular continued support for civil society organisations and the social partners, by promotion of exchanges and cross-country peer-to-peer learning at regional level, including the implementation of the women, youth, peace and security agenda and strengthening public participation in environmental assessments, or rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

ER 4.1: Increased people-to-people contacts among Central Asian states, including effective freedom of association and reinforced capacities of civil society organisations through mutual support and peer-to-peer learning to enhance community resilience. Increased capacity of civil society organisations and social partners to take part in public consultations and policymaking.	a. Ratification of ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association (ILO, 1948) and/or ILO Convention 98 on Organizing and Collective Bargaining (ILO, 1949) b. Number of complaints the ILO received	a. Yes/no b. 0	a. Yes b. 0	a. ILO annual reporting b. ILO annual reporting

ER 4.2: Increased capacity of civil society organisations and the social partners to take part in public consultations and policymaking, with the inclusion of women's organizations, youth, remote populations, persons with disabilities and marginalised minorities.	• CIVICUS' Enabling Environment Index (EEI)	• KZ: rank 79 • KG: rank 80 • TJ: rank 99 • TM: rank N/A • UZ: rank 108	Increase by X points	CIVICUS' Enabling Environment Index (EEI) http://www.civicus.org/eei/
Specific Objective 5 (SO 5): Continued cooperation on integrated border management, the fight against drugs trafficking and drug demand reduction.				
ER 5: Finding common solutions to cross-border threats, including through information sharing and best practices.	a. Number of awareness campaigns and sessions on drugs b. Number of state institutions and non-state actors supported on security, border management, protection of civilian population and human rights	a. 0 (2021) b. 2 (2021)	a. at least 30 b. at least 80	a. EU projects monitoring b. EU projects monitoring
Sector 2: Partnering for Prosperity (SDGs 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10) - Digital connectivity; Entrepreneurship and regional trade; Human development.				

Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Promotion of digital connectivity in the region and with other parts of the world, in particular with Europe and enhanced cooperation for the digital economy in all its aspects.				
ER 1.1: Increased digital skills and capacities of Central Asian populations, in particular women, youth, people with disabilities, people living in rural areas and minority groups, in view of integration in the global digital economy.	a. Number of people with access to Internet with EU support b. Number of people who have benefited from skills development for digitalisation interventions supported by the EU	a. 0 b. 0	a. 10% of population in the five CA countries b. 1000 of which 600 are women	a. EU projects monitoring b. EU projects monitoring
ER 1.2: Strong regulatory frameworks, including on data protection and cybersecurity, in line with EU standards, allowing for increased and improved service provision through digital means.	a. Number of countries supported by the EU to develop and/or revise digital-related policies and strategies b. Number of people supported by the EU with enhanced access to digital services	a. 0 b. 0	a. 4 b. 10% of population in the five CA countries	a. EU projects monitoring b. EU projects monitoring
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Support for entrepreneurship and decent employment, through better application of international environment and labour standards				

ER 2.1: Employment generated and quality of jobs improved in line with international labour standards.	a. Number of jobs created / year b. Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex c. Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities (€) d. Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by	a. 0 b. Proportion in year 1 (est.) c. Figures for year 1 d. ILO compliance data for year 1	a. Increase by 5% b. Decrease by 5% c. Increase by 5% d. Quantitative and qualitative progress reported	a. Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT b. Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT c. Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT d. ILO compliance data

	sex and migrant status			
ER 2.2: Economic and social empowerment of youth and women supported through business opportunities and improved livelihoods**.**	a. Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities b. Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training c. Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	a. 0 b. 0 c. 0	a. Decrease by 5% b. Decrease by 5% c. Increase by 5%	a. Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT b. Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT c. Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Enhancement of intra-regional trade (also via supporting intra-regional harmonisation of selected import requirements), business dialogue and business-government dialogue at regional and inter-regional levels. Support for cooperative solutions to cross-border challenges and better economic and people-to-people connections among border areas.				
ER 3: Increased trade in goods and services between Central Asian countries and between Central Asian countries and the wider region. Increased income-	a. Increase of trade b. Number of tariff/non-tariff barriers reduced	a. Actual values for 2021 b. Actual values for 2021 c. Actual values for 2021	a. Increase by 5% b. Decrease by 5% c. Increase by 7% d. Increase by 12%	• Trade statistics from IMF, World Bank and National Statistical Institutes • Trade and Tariffs reports from WTO • Doing Business report from World Bank/IFC

generating activities and improved livelihoods in border areas.	c. Number of harmonised standards (including environmental and ethical standards), certifications of products and custom procedures d. Number of simplified customs procedures approved and implemented	d. Actual values for 2021		
Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): Support for health crisis preparedness response and recovery in the health sector.				
ER 4.1: Resilient health systems, able to tackle future possible shocks/pandemics through enhanced preparedness and response capacities.	a. Number of national action plans and scenarios developed (disaggregated by geographic location) for strengthening emergency preparedness and readiness	a. 0 b. 0 c. 0 d. 0	a. 5 b. 5 c. 15 d. 200	a. WHO Observatory, National Health Portals, Ministries of Health of beneficiary countries b. WHO Observatory, National Health Portals, Ministries of Health of beneficiary countries c. WHO Observatory, National Health Portals, Ministries of Health of beneficiary countries d. WHO Observatory, National Health Portals, Ministries of Health of beneficiary countries

	b. Number of rapid implementation plans developed (disaggregated by geographic location) c. Number of hospitals designated/assessed (disaggregated by geographic location) capable of managing COVID-19 and similar pandemics (meeting minimum Infection Prevention and Control requirements) d. Number of health care professionals trained in situ/online (disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, type of training)			

	capable of managing COVID-19 and similar pandemics (meeting minimum Infection Prevention and Control			
ER 4.2: Future-proofed, equitable and accessible resilient national immunization systems.	a. % population uptake with complete dose series of COVID-19 vaccines b. % districts with >95% DTP3 immunisation coverage c. % suspected measles cases which have been investigated in a WHO accredited laboratory d. % of districts submitting timely, complete, accurate reports to national level	a. 73% b. 63% (one of the countries do not provide case-based line list) c. Tbd d. Tbd e. Tbd	a. > 80% b. > 80% c. Tbd d. Tbd e. Tbd	a. WHO online vaccine programme monitor and national reports b. WHO/UNICEF Annual Joint reporting Form c. Monthly Measles and Rubella surveillance reports d. Country health management information systems (HMIS) reports e. WHO monitor and national reports

	e. % of districts with digital solutions used for disease surveillance and case management.			
Specific Objective 5 (SO 5): Support for inclusive and accessible education and training with a focus on TVET and skills development in support of improved employability for young people in line with economic diversification, the green transition and digitalisation, including the recognition of qualifications, equivalence and common approaches.				
ER 5.1: Enhanced employability of women and men in Central Asia through regional cooperation on skills and qualifications in a lifelong learning perspective, with specific focus on digital skills.	• Youth employment rate by sex • Youth activity rate by sex • NEETs rate by sex (SDG 8) • VET participation rate by sex	• Youth employment rate by sex: AF (2019): male – 66.9%, female – 18.8%; KG (2019): male – 70.4%, female – 40.3%; KZ (2019): male – 72.3%, female – 59.4%; TJ (2019): male – 46.5%, female – 27.7%; TM (2019): male – 68.6%, female – 43.5%; UZ (2019): male – 70.7%, female – 58.6%; • Youth activity rate by sex:	• 5 % increase compared to current data	Official statistics of the beneficiary countries, IMF/World Bank/ILOSTAT

		AF (2019): male – 74.5%, female – 22.7%; KG (2019): male – 74.5%; female – 47.3%; KZ (2019): male - 75.6%; female - 71.8%; TJ (2019): male – 50.3%, female – 30.7%; TM (2019): male – 72.1%, female – 47.5%; UZ (2019): male – 75%, female – 52%; • NEETs rate by sex (SDG 8): AF - no data available; KG: male – 12%, female – 29%; %; KZ: male – 44, female – 50; TJ: male – 30%, female – 53%; TM: no data available; UZ: no data available. • VET participation		

		rate by sex: AF (2018): male – 2.2%, female – 1.8%; KG (2018): male – 38%; female – 27.1%; KZ (2018): male – 45.4%; female - 35%; TJ (2013): male – 10%, female – 1.3%; TM (2014): male – 25.2%, female – 17.7%; UZ (2018): male – 92.4%, female – 93.7%		
ER 5.2: Increased regional cooperation, convergence and exchange in the TVET and skills development sector among Central Asian countries.	a. Number of joint pilot projects among Central Asia countries b. Agreement between participating Central Asia countries on a regional action plan on the future collaboration in the field of	a. 0 joint projects b. No agreement on a regional action plan c. No regional qualification framework	a. At least 1 multi-country pilot project b. agreement on a regional action plan c. Concept for regional qualification framework developed and discussed	a. Individual project documentation b. Individual project documentation c. Individual project documentation

	education and skills and youth employability c. Concept for a regional qualification framework developed and discussed with participating countries			
Specific Objective 6 (SO 6) Support for Central Asian countries to promote higher education and TVET learning mobility and provision of educational opportunities in the region for Afghans, in particular girls and women.				
ER 6.1: Women from Afghanistan, especially those more marginalised, such as refugees, women from minority groups, young women, women with disabilities, among others, empowered through training received in Central Asian countries.	• % of graduates receiving a job offer (disaggregated by age and disability). • % of graduates in a job position relevant to their qualifications (disaggregated by age and disability).	• Current statistical data from the project "Economic Empowerment of Afghan Women through Education and Training in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan"	• % increase compared to current data	• Survey of the graduates on their employment status; • Beneficiary survey, human resources records of targeted sector bodies • Ministry and universities annual reports.
ER 6.2: Stability of the Central Asian region is bolstered through adaptation of	-			

programmes to address the repercussions of the situation in Afghanistan with an eventual perspective of supporting greater integration of Afghanistan into Central Asia depending on political developments in that country, leading to enhanced stability and shared prosperity.			

Priority area 1.2: Regional Integration and Cooperation South Asia				
Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Sector 1: Sustainable and Resilient Environment (SDGs 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).				
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Support in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, as well as raising ambition in updated NDCs through coordinated action and joint initiatives that promote resilience and reduce climate risk and greenhouse gas emissions.				
ER 1.1: Joint regional coordination on Conference Of the Parties and other fora on raising Nationally Determined Contributions ambition through cross-border initiatives, policies, sharing of practices, technologies, and infrastructure.	Number of climate-relevant a) regional coordination/cooperation agreements, b) regional coordination events, c) cross-border initiatives/programmes.	0	a) 1 b) 2 c) 1	Coordination agreements, documentation of events, programme documentation
ER 1. 2: Coordinated development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies and adaptation plans at regional level.	Number of (i) countries and (ii) cities/local governments with regionally-coordinated climate change adaptation and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: a) developed, b) under implementation with EU support (EU RF and SDG)	0	a) 1 b) 1	Sendai Framework Monitor (Target E) (UNDRR) Project reporting
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Effective support for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystems, marine ecosystems and ocean resources and prevent pollution.				

ER 2.1: Enhanced and coordinated cooperation for the protection, conservation and management of land, environment forests, biodiversity, wildlife, and transboundary water management, in a participatory and consultative manner in decision-making processes.	Number of countries engaged in a regional initiatives in support to the sustainable management of the environment with the support of the EU	0	3	Databases, national and project reports
ER 2.2: Strengthen regional cooperation and coordination on ocean governance, with regard to the conservation and sustainable management of marine living resources at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels as well as the adoption and implementation of international agreements.	Number of countries a) Cooperating b) participating in international and regional processes and commitments	0	a) 3 b) 3	Databases, national and project reports

Sector 2: Trade, Energy and Digital Connectivity (SDGs 7, 8, 10).

Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Facilitate regional trade, innovation and entrepreneurship, and sustainable and resilient supply chains through a reduction to barriers to trade.

ER 1.1: Increased regional and cross-border trade and investment and increased cooperation for the effective reduction of trade barriers.	Number of countries whose capacity to trade across borders has improved with EU support	0	3	• Reports from DG TRADE, project reports • World Bank's Doing Business report • International organisation reports
ER 1.2: Enhanced regional cooperation on innovation focusing on green technologies and resilient supply chains by connecting innovative SMEs and Start-ups to speed up solutions.	Number of countries supported by the EU to enhance regional cooperation on technological innovation, green technologies and resilient supply chains	0	3	Databases, national and project reports WB, UN reports

ER 1.3: Increased entrepreneurship opportunities, particularly for women and youth.	Number of actions/initiatives with EU support to increase entrepreneurship opportunities	0	1	Databases, national and project reports
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Promote intra-regional energy connections, networks and dialogue on energy management.				
ER 2: Improved regional integration for energy focusing on the production and distribution of renewable energy, and progressive phasing out of fossil fuels, including bringing smart solutions through start-up matchmaking.	1) Number of cross-border energy projects/initiatives supporting the integration of renewable energy into electricity grids, facilitated with EU support. 2) Number of regional coordination/exchange events/dialogues on energy	0	1) 1 2) 3	Databases, national and project reports ADB reports ; documentation of coordination/exchange events
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Promote sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based digital connectivity.				
ER 3.1: Development of digital technology promoting market access, entrepreneurship and social outcomes and to reduce rural-urban and gender digital divides.	Number of countries supported by the EU to enhance **digital technology promoting market access, entrepreneurship and social outcomes**	0	3	Databases, national and project reports ADB reports
ER 3.2: Improved regulatory practices on digital cooperation, including on cyber security.	Number of countries supported by the EU to a) develop and/or revise, b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations (EU RF)	0	a) 3 b) 3	Databases, national and project reports
Sector 3: Integrated Approach for Regional Stability, Security and Conflict Prevention.				
Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Facilitate inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention.				

ER 1.1: Regular regional dialogue and exchanges on conflict resolution and prevention, based on an inclusive participatory approach.	*Impact indicators* • Number of violent conflicts in the targeted area of the Action (as well as duration of the conflict) *Outcome indicators* • Number of early action policy options implemented on the basis of early warning information • Number of trained or supported entities acting to prevent conflict and build peace (M/W) • Number of civil society organisations engaging in the formal or informal peace architecture • Number of women's organizations engaging in the formal or informal peace architecture *Output indicators* • Number of entities/networks supported or trained in conflict prevention and peace-building activities • Number of reconciliation initiatives / dialogues set up • Number of people trained on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation (M/W) • Number of training modules on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation developed			

• Number of learning tools on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation developed • Number of gender sensitive conflict and resilience analyses undertaken to underpin responses to conflict/crises situations • Number of peace committees/ structures established. • Number of leaders promoting tolerance in communities (M/W) • Number of advocacy initiatives targeting policy makers • Number of multi-stakeholder platforms created to promote peace at national and provincial levels • Number of community security and resilience plans developed to mitigate incidences of violence			

| ER 1.2: Conflicts addressed via inclusive, gender sensitive and coordinated mediation mechanisms and/or through international legal instruments and regional arrangements. | *Impact indicators*

• Number of violent conflicts in the targeted area of the Action (as well as duration of the conflict)

Outcome indicators

• Number of early action policy options implemented on the basis of early warning information
• Number of trained or supported entities acting to prevent conflict and build peace (M/W)
• Number of civil society organisations engaging in the formal or informal peace architecture
• Number of women's organizations engaging in the formal or informal peace architecture

Output indicators

• Number of entities/networks supported or trained in conflict prevention and peace-building activities
• Number of reconciliation initiatives / dialogues set up
• Number of people trained on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation (M/W)
• Number of training modules on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation developed | | | |

	• Number of learning tools on reconciliation/mediation/conflict management/ conflict transformation/stabilisation developed • Number of gender sensitive conflict and resilience analyses undertaken to underpin responses to conflict/crises situations • Number of peace committees/ structures established. • Number of leaders promoting tolerance in communities (M/W) • Number of advocacy initiatives targeting policy makers • Number of multi-stakeholder platforms created to promote peace at national and provincial levels • Number of community security and resilience plans developed to mitigate incidences of violence	

Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Promote cooperation for regional security, on land and on sea, notably on counter terrorism (including monetary laundering), prevention of violent extremism, cyber security and organised crime ((including drugs and trafficking in human beings).

ER 2.1: Improved regional coordination and information sharing on transboundary security issues.	*Impact indicators* • Global Terrorism Index – Number of terrorism related incidents in a given year *Outcome indicators* • Extent of coordination between agencies involved in regional security (This qualitative indicator would be based on a scale: no coordination, partial coordination, full coordination) • Number of counter terrorism cases in which cross-country cooperation was stablished (the same for cyber security and organised crime) *Output indicators* • Extent to which inter-agency regional coordination Counter Terrorism structures are in place (the same for cyber security and organised crime) • Number of front line practitioners (M/W) trained to identify signs of radicalisation at an early stage • Level of awareness and critical thinking about recruitment tactics/propaganda used by extremists (M/W/B/G) • Level of awareness and critical thinking about disinformation used by extremists (M/W/B/G) • Number of dialogue fora and communication channels established at regional level			

ER 2.2: Joint and cooperative analysis of security incidents.	Impact indicators			
	• Global Terrorism Index – Number of terrorism related incidents in a given year			
	Outcome indicators			
	• Extent of coordination between agencies involved in regional security (This qualitative indicator would be based on a scale: no coordination, partial coordination, full coordination) • Number of counter terrorism cases in which cross-country cooperation was stablished (the same for cyber security and organised crime)			
	Output indicators			
	• Extent to which inter-agency regional coordination Counter Terrorism structures are in place (the same for cyber security and organised crime) • Number of front line practitioners (M/W) trained to identify signs of radicalisation at an early stage • Level of awareness and critical thinking about recruitment tactics/propaganda used by extremists (M/W/B/G) • Level of awareness and critical thinking about disinformation used by extremists (M/W/B/G) • Number of dialogue fora and communication channels established at regional level			

Priority area 1.3 : Regional Integration and Cooperation South East Asia and ASEAN

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Sector 1: Implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17) - Policy dialogue and cooperation; Responding to Global Challenges and building back better; Regional integration.				
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Providing a platform for continuing and enhancing EU-ASEAN policy dialogues and exchanges of experience in a number of areas, including the ASEAN-EU Dialogue in Science and Technology; and providing support where needed and requested for capacity and institutional strengthening initiatives.				
ER 1: EU-ASEAN policy dialogue is enhanced in a range of sectors, the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership is implemented and strengthened, and where needed and requested, the capacities of ASEAN regional institutions are strengthened.	Number of EU-ASEAN meetings organised with the support of the EU's policy dialogue facilitation instrument	Number of EU-ASEAN meetings organised in 2020 with the support of the EU's policy dialogue facilitation instrument	**EU-ASEAN meetings organised annually in the period 2021-2027 under at least 80% of the policy dialogue streams with the support of the EU's policy dialogue facilitation instrument**	Project reports
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Enhanced EU-ASEAN cooperation to build the two regions' resilience and preparedness to respond to global challenges, including security threats and risks in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner.				
ER 2: Cooperation to build the two regions' resilience and preparedness to for global challenges, including security threats and risks, is enhanced. Resilience and a sustainable approach to development and crisis recovery is put at the centre of EU-ASEAN cooperation.	Number of trainings/initiatives organised for relevant ASEAN bodies – including the AHA Center[21] - with the support of EU funding	Number of trainings/initiatives organised for relevant ASEAN bodies – including the AHA Center - with the support of EU funding in 2020	**Number of trainings/initiatives organised annually for relevant ASEAN bodies – including the AHA Center - with the support of EU funding annually in the period 2021-2027**	**Project reporting** **UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction** **UNESCAP & UN HABITAT reports**
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Contributing to regional integration in South East Asia and good, effective and inclusive governance, trade, security, peacebuilding, the protection of human rights and gender equality in line with SDGs 16 and 5, notably the protection of the rights of and promotion of opportunities for women migrant workers in South-East Asia.				

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[21] https://ahacentre.org/

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3: Regional integration and good, effective and inclusive governance, security, peacebuilding, the protection of human rights and gender equality are enhanced, notably the protection of the rights of and promotion of opportunities for women migrant workers in South-East Asia.	Number of training and capacity building events organised to protect the rights of and promote opportunities for women migrant workers in South-East Asia	Number of training and capacity building events organised to protect the rights of and promote opportunities for women migrant workers in South-East Asia in 2020	Number of training and capacity building events organised annually to protect the rights of and promote opportunities for women migrant workers in South-East Asia in the period 2021-2027	Reports of implementing partners
	Number of programmes approved under Priority Area 1 of the R MIP	0	3 programmes	NDICI committee meetings EAMRs
Sector 2: Green and Sustainable Development (SDGs 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15).				
Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Promote sustainable development and a green, zero pollution and inclusive growth model while tackling poverty, in line with the 2030 Agenda, creating decent jobs and developing necessary skills including in the Mekong sub-region.				
ER 1: Sustainable development, and a green, zero pollution and inclusive growth model that tackles poverty in line with the 2030 Agenda, creating decent jobs and providing developing necessary skills are promoted, including in the Mekong sub-region. Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs).	Number of ASEAN countries/ specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on this topic in support to the protection of the environment with the support of the EU	0	Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries	Project reports
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): In line with the Paris Agreement, promoting dialogue, cooperation and capacity-building for a clean and just energy and resource-efficient, climate-neutral, knowledge-based, circular and climate resilient economies.				
ER 2: Dialogue, cooperation and capacity-building for the transition towards clean energy are enhanced, with a view to promoting resource-efficient, climate-neutral, knowledge-based, circular and climate-resilient economies.	Number of ASEAN countries/ specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on this topic in support to the protection of the environment with the support of the EU	0	Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries	Project reports
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Support adaptation to the impact of climate change on environment, by protecting the region's exceptionally rich biodiversity and ecosystems on land and in the ocean. Protection, preservation and effective, equitable and sustainable management of regional natural resources, including action to promote sustainable forest management and deforestation-free supply chains and tackle wildlife trafficking and IUU fishing.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3: Action to protect the region's exceptionally rich biodiversity and ecosystems on land and in the ocean is strengthened, including by addressing deforestation, illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, and wildlife trafficking.	**Number of trainings/activities organised for relevant ASEAN bodies – including the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity - with the support of EU funding**	Number of trainings/activities organised for relevant ASEAN bodies – including the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity - with the support of EU funding in 2020	Number of trainings/activities organised annually for relevant ASEAN bodies – including the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity - with the support of EU funding annually in the period 2021-2027	Project reports
Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): Support and strengthen the capacity of regional/sub-regional institutions in the area of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.				
ER 4: Capacity of regional/sub-regional institutions in the area of disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response is enhanced; resilience reinforced.	**Number of ASEAN countries/specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on this topic in support to the protection of the environment with the support of the EU**	0	**Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries**	Project reports
Specific Objective 5 (SO 5): Promote and exchange knowledge, experiences and good/innovative practices between EU and ASEAN stakeholders and local governments on sustainable urban development and planning, including promoting smart green cities and digital capacity-building and innovation.				
ER 5: Exchange of knowledge, experiences and innovative practices, as well as cooperation in research and innovation on shared priorities are enhanced between the EU and ASEAN , and in partnership with ASEC, ASEAN Member States and EU Member States, local governments and other stakeholders, including on sustainable urban development and planning, smart green cities and digital capacity-building and innovation.	**Number of ASEAN countries/specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on this topic in support to the protection of the environment with the support of the EU**	0	**Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries**	Project reports
Specific Objective 6 (SO 6): Promote gender equality and the full and effective participation of women and indigenous peoples, on an equal footing, in the field of environmental protection and the management of natural resources and ensure their rights are fully respected, in line with relevant international law, notably human rights law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 6: Full and effective participation of women and indigenous peoples on an equal footing, in the field of environmental protection and the management of natural resources; their rights are fully respected, in line with relevant international law, notably human rights law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Number of ASEAN countries/specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on this topic in support to the protection of the environment with the support of the EU	0	Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries	Project reports
Sector 3: Sustainable Connectivity (SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9, 12).				
Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Strengthen trade, economic, energy, digital, and transport cooperation and links between the EU and ASEAN/ASEAN Member States, including on regulatory aspects.				
ER 1: Trade, economic, energy, digital, transport cooperation, connectivity and links including on regulatory aspects are strengthened, resulting inter alia in better conditions for trade and investment flows. Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs).	**Number of countries whose connectivity and capacity to trade with the EU has improved with EU support.** **Number of ASEAN Master plans for ITS deployment in line with the E-REAI project**	**0** **TBD**	**At least 5 ASEAN countries** - TBD	**Project reports** **DG TRADE reports** **ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO); Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (ERIA)** **WTO and OECD data base on TRA** **Official national strategies and implementation plans**
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Promote cooperation and capacity-building on sustainable connectivity (including digital) as well as on socially and environmentally sustainable value chains between the two regions and within ASEAN in line with applicable EU and ASEAN policy frameworks, notably through promoting decent work in particular for groups most severely hit by the pandemic, with a focus on the elimination of child labour.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2: Inter-regional and intra-regional cooperation on sustainable connectivity (including digital) and the environmental and social sustainability of value chains between the two regions and within ASEAN are enhanced, notably through improved institutional capacities and with a focus on ensuring decent work and the elimination of child labour, resulting in the uptake and implementation of core ILO conventions, responsible business conduct and due diligence to ensure that production and supply chains are aligned with EU values on human and labour rights, environmental objectives and long-term sustainability standards.	• **Number of ASEAN countries/specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on the social and environmental sustainability of value chains with the support of the EU** • **Number of schools providing appropriate education and training and number of ships inspections in regard to living and working conditions conducted by flag and port state**	• **0** • Infective implementation and enforcement of existing international standards (STCW or and 2006 MLC Conventions). • **Infective implementation and enforcement of existing international standards (STCW or and 2006 MLC Conventions).**	• **Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries** • **Enhanced seafarers training, living and working conditions standards to comply with global benchmarks in 4 countries (Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Thailand).**	• **Project reports** • **Inspections in schools and ships.**
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Strengthen people-to-people connectivity and exchanges, notably in the areas of education, science, and research.				
ER 3: EU-ASEAN people-to-people connections are strengthened, including as regards public, civil society and private sector, science, research and educational institutions and in relation to a reduction of the gender and age digital gap.	Number of ASEAN countries/specialized bodies engaged in a regional initiative on enhancing people-to-people connections with the support of the EU	0	Inclusion of support to organisations from at least 5 ASEAN countries	Project reports

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Sector 1: Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability (SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15).				
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Support Pacific partners in their sustainable responses to the impacts of global warming.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.1: Increased capacity (including research capacity and use of digital tools) for anticipation of, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of global warming, including severe climate-related risks and events.	Number of countries with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies: a) developed; b) under implementation with EU support.	By 2017, none of the Pacific ACP countries had communicated their strategies regarding SDG indicator 13.2.1. By 2022-23 (end of PacRes): 5 additional Pacific ACP countries.	By 2027, all Pacific countries supported by the EU have CC and/or DRR strategies.	• UN SDGs reporting by country • FRDP M&E reports • InfoRM Index • Project and programme reports • Delegation reporting (Rio Marker adaptation)
ER 1.2: Increased capacity to deliver on international climate commitments and to implement multilateral environmental agreements while ensuring a just transition.	Number of policies, strategies and plans: a) developed or revised, b) implemented with EU support to integrate climate action / align with NDC priorities and objectives.	Baseline: 0	At least 6	• National communications and MRV reports • FRDP M&E reports • Project and programme reports • Delegation reporting (Rio Marker mitigation)
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Support Pacific partners to build further their capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.				
ER 2.1: Reduced dependency on and use of fossil energy sources.	GHG emissions avoided (tons CO2eq) with EU support.	Baseline: 0	At least 120.000 t CO2eq avoided with EU support	• National communications and MRV reports • FRDP M&E reports • Project and programme reports • Delegation reporting (Rio Marker mitigation
ER 2.2: Increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources, including use of sustainable and smart mobility.	Renewable energy generation capacity installed (MW) with EU support.	Baseline: 0	At least 6 MW renewable energy	Project and programme reports
ER 2.3: Increased skills development in green, sustainable technologies, leading to decent work.	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.	The share of renewable energy in PICs averages approximately 30% of final consumption, but with huge variations between countries (between 60% and 0%).	At least 35% on average, with at least 5 Pacific countries achieving their RE goals stated in NDC by 2030.	National and regional sectoral reporting (energy reports, national communications, MRV reports) World Bank SE4ALL database
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Support Pacific partners in carrying out regionally integrated approaches to strengthen natural resources conservation, management and governance and the application of circular economy both on land and in the oceans, including through capacity building for maintaining a secure marine environment.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3.1: Increased capacity and readiness to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of marine living resources, and the protection and restoration of marine and terrestrial natural/biodiversity resources, e.g., through digital tools and spatial planning.	Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km2).	Approximately 150 km2	600 km2	• IUCN reports • BIOPAMA reports (for the baseline) • Project and programmes reports
ER 3.2: Expanded use of nature-based solutions providing environmental and resilience benefits as well as creation of new income opportunities for men and women.	Number of Pacific countries with an updated biodiversity strategy in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	Baseline: 0	At least 4	• IUCN reports • BIOPAMA reports (for the baseline) • Project and programmes reports
ER 3.3: Improved waste management and increased capacity to move towards a more circular economy.	Volume of waste avoided, collected and recycled with EU support (tons).	Baseline: 0	Target: At least 22 tons	Project and evaluation reports
ER 3.4: Enhanced capacities in partner countries to address IUU and threats to maritime security.	Number of Pacific countries supported to update their National Plan of Actions to address IUU fishing.	Baseline: 0	5 NPAs updated	• National policies and mpatlas.org/ • Blue Pacific Ocean Reports • Programme and project reports
Sector 2: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16).				
Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Support a more diversified, equitable, sustainable and resilient economic growth, in particular by strengthening economic regional integration, based on addressing climate change impacts and principles of environmental sustainability.				
ER 1: Higher levels of compliance with and implementation of international regulations, rules and standards, including tax good governance standards.	Number of smallholders/MSMEs reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land.	Baseline: 0	Target: at least 25,000 (2027)	• Project and evaluation reports • ILO reports • ADB and WB reports
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Improve regional economic governance, including through digitalisation, in support of green and blue growth.				
ER 2: Improved regional alignment on budget transparency and accountability, fiscal policies and PFM reforms conducive to achieving regional climate objectives and enhanced digitalisation.	Increase of actual expenditure outturn (excluding grants, as % of total actual expenditures) for climate activities – simple unweighted average of the Pacific countries	Baseline: close to 0	20 percentage points average increase across supported countries.	Public Expenditures and Financial Accountability Assessments with Climate Change module, National Budgets, reports AF & GCF, PIFS reporting from Working Group on Climate Change Finance

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Enhance the regional trade and investment environment notably through EPA enforcement, corporate due diligence and UN business and human rights principles.				
ER 3: Improved regional investment and private sector climate.	Average rank of PICs in the Ease of Doing Business Index.	Baseline: 130 (2020)	Target: <130 (2027)	• World Bank's Doing Business Report • Project and evaluation reports
Sector 3: Fundamental Values, Human Development, Peace and Security (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 16).				
Specific Objective 1 (SO 1): Support regional institutions to ensure that protection of human rights is embedded at the highest level of the regional political dialogue, with a specific focus on gender equality and ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children, taking into account the priorities defined in the revised Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, but also aspects of freedom of association and the elimination of child labour.				
ER 1: Strengthened regional institutions that can promote the universal values of human rights, democracy and rule of law for all, including the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children.	Number of victims of human rights violations directly benefitting from assistance funded by the EU (disaggregated by sex and age).	Tbd	Tbd with authorities	• Police Units dealing with Child Abuse and Sexual Offences • Public Prosecutor's Office – rape and sexual offence statistics
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Support regional institutions and national and local authorities in the implementation of the climate change and security objectives under the Boe Declaration, including support for regional stability.				
ER 2: Enhanced capacities in partner countries and regional institutions to address the climate change and security nexus, including conflict prevention and regional stability and security.	Number of integration and reintegration strategies for IDPs and/or refugees due to climate change.	Tbd	Tbd	• Governmental agencies reports • ROM reports • UN reports

Priority area 1.5 : Regional Integration and Cooperation Pan-Asia (SDGs 7,8,9,12,13)

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Forge international partnerships at continental, intra- and inter-regional levels which are aligned with EU external priorities, principles and values, to facilitate cooperation across policy areas.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.	Number of actions involving the EU on specific international partnerships.			
	Number of initiatives and conventions supported in accordance with EU policy priorities.			
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Improve regional economic governance through support to MSMEs' transformation, adaption and participation to resilient, equitable and socially and environmentally sustainable value chains.				
ER 2.1: Coordinated efforts to develop more sustainable consumption and production and circular business models (sustainable food systems in the case of the agri-food sector), and export-oriented industries by promoting decent work, efficient conservation and sustainable management of natural resources on land and in the ocean, substantial reduction of waste generation and more sustainable procurement practices.	Number of countries with Sustainable Consumption and Production national action plans.	11 countries in 2020.	25 countries in 2027.	SDG 12 Tracker (12.1 and 12.6)
	Number of companies publishing sustainability reports meeting the minimum requirements.	395 companies in 2020.	800 companies in 2027.	
ER 2.2: Strengthened and resilient value chains between EU and Asian economies and between Asian economies.	EU-Asia trade volume in EUR, disagregated by sub-regions (EU-ASEAN, EU-CA and EU PACIFIC)	EU trade by sub-region in 2020: • EU-ASEAN: EUR 120 bln • EU-Central Asia: EUR 15 bln • EU-Pacific: EUR 1,3 bln	20% increase in EU-Asia trade	DG TRADE reports.
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Promote cultural cooperation between Europe and Asia.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3.1: Reinforced Europe-Asia networks and cultural alliances via inter alia track-two diplomacy next to EU/Multilateral Summits and other fora, youth associations, think tank dialogues, model European Union Simulations, film festivals, art exhibitions, exchanges between cultural organisations in all artistic domain.				.
Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): Reinforce security and defence cooperation, inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention, counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism and foster cooperation on cyber security and organised crime, in particular drugs and human and wildlife trafficking.				
ER 4.1: Regular regional dialogues, coordination and information sharing on conflict resolution and prevention and on security issues.	Number of dialogues conducted			
ER 4.2: Conflicts addressed via inclusive, gender sensitive and coordinated mediation mechanisms and/or through international legal instruments and regional arrangements.	Number of actions targeting gender sensitive and coordinated mediation mechanisms supported by the EU. Number of international, regional and national mediation and mediation support actors (organisations/institutions) participating in EU-funded interactions, networks and collaborations on the prevention and resolution of conflicts.			
ER 4.3: Coordinated and cooperative analysis of security incidents.	Number of analysis produced on security incidents supported by the EU			

Priority area 2.1: Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners China

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Promote European values and interests in the bilateral relations with China, in line with the multi-faceted approach.				
ER 1.1: Monitor and promote human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace and security both in China and in partner countries, and increase awareness among stakeholders in China of the EU, its values, principles, and its system of governance, including on rule of law, human and labour rights, fundamental freedoms as well as international norms and standards notably on the digital front.	Number of Human Rights Dialogues held between the EU and China.	0	1 dialogue held annually.	EEAS reports.
ER 1.2: Increased frequency and/or more efficient preparation and follow-up of high-level dialogues and sectoral dialogues, and enhanced people-to-people ties (e.g. culture and education, and research) and facilitated coordination on reciprocal mobility, migration and people-to-people exchanges including on right-based migration management and civil society exchanges.	Number of High-Level and sectoral dialogues occurring on a regular basis (once per year or once every two years at most).	About 15% of currently existing High-Level and sectoral dialogues held.	At least 20% of the then existing high-level and sectoral dialogues held on a regular basis.	Associated COM DGs/EEAS reports.

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.3: Improved market access, level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses (including SMEs) operating in China and competing with Chinese businesses in partner countries and support for European businesses and organisations (focus on competitiveness of European business organisations and SMEs; technical assistance and policy dialogue on s decent work and the ratification and; implementation of ILO conventions; corporate social responsibility and environmental standards by Chinese businesses in China and overseas; raising awareness of Chinese producers and exporters about EU product safety rules raising awareness on new key legal developments in China; due diligence to ensure that production and supply chains are aligned with EU values on human rights, environmental objectives and long-term sustainability standards, including in research and innovation).	Number of High-Level Trade and Economic Dialogues (HED) held between the EU and China.	1 (2020).	1 dialogue held every two years.	TRADE reports.
ER 1.4: Strengthened digital agenda in support of the EU's rules-based, multilateral, human-centric and market-driven approach to Artificial Intelligence, 5G, ICT standardization, data protection, research and innovation and the tackling of online fraud.	Number of High-level Digital Dialogues held between the EU and China.	1 (2020).	1 dialogue held annually.	CNECT reports. Holding of dialogues may be impacted by the broader geopolitical context and bilateral relations.
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Engage China to deliver on global public goods (including on international commitments such as the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change), to tackle global challenges, and to address its role as global actor and donor by promoting international norms and standards alignment with EU policies, and countering negative impact where necessary.				
ER 2.1: Coordinate on the external dimension of the European Green Deal and progress towards the Paris Agreement targets, including via initiatives to address the impact of China's practices in partner countries and via initiatives	Number of EU-China High-Level Environment and Climate Dialogues held between the EU and China.	2 (2021).	1 dialogue held annually.	CLIMA and ENV reports.

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
that support the development and implementation of China's own climate change and environmental protection policies (e.g. the emission trading system; biodiversity and wildlife protection; waste and water management; resource efficiency and circular economy; sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains; clean oceans; forest preservation and reforestation, including China's external footprint; EU-China Blue Partnership for the Oceans).				
ER 2.2: Promote energy transition, clean energy investment and sustainable finance standards, both domestically and externally in partner countries (e.g. phasing out of investments in coal-powered energy generation), green technologies and innovation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.	Number of Energy Dialogues held between the EU and China.	1 (2020).	1 dialogue held annually.	ENER reports.
ER 2.3: Coordinate on health and safety, with an emphasis on global health including pandemics and consumer protection.	Number of Public Health Dialogues between the EU and China.	1 (2021).	1 dialogue held annually.	SANTE reports.
ER 2.4: Promote and defend rules-based multilateralism, including the UN Development System and other multilateral institutions.	Number of Sustainable Development Goals fully achieved.	UN 2021 SDG Progress Report.	17 SDGs fully achieved by 2030.	UN reports.

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.5: Pursue sustainable, accessible quality infrastructure in line with the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and international standards, address development finance, including Chinese overseas lending practices, and promote best practices in aid management while ensuring coordination on humanitarian aid, focusing on China's increasing role in humanitarian crises and peacekeeping initiatives.	Global infrastructure investment gap (% GDP).	0.52%	0%	Global Infrastructure Hub data.
ER 2.6: Pursue reciprocity and a level playing field in the Research and Innovation domains in order to further engage with China on tackling global challenges.	Number of EU-China High Level Dialogues on Research and Innovation.	1 (2021)	1 dialogue held annually.	RTD reports.

Priority area 2.2: Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners India

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Sector 1: Green Deals - Climate change mitigation and adaptation; Biodiversity; Clean energy transition; Resource efficiency/circular economy; Urban development. - Sector 2: Sustainable and Inclusive Growth – Health; Digital agenda/transformation; Mobility; Connectivity; EU businesses; Trade; Macroeconomic Policy. - Sector 3: Governance, People, Peace, Security – Security; Migration; CSO.				
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Support India's sustainable modernisation objectives in line with the EU-India Strategy, implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and the EU-India Connectivity Partnership.				

| ER 1: Effective implementation of the EU-India Roadmap 2025 and progress on implementation of the EU-India connectivity and sectoral partnerships. | a. Number of high level EU-IN dialogues per year on sectoral partnerships under the EU-India Roadmap 2025
b. Number of Member States involved in Team EU approach or Team EU Initiatives under each sectoral partnership
c. Holding of consultations with India on security matters, including maritime security.
d. **Aviation**: a) India's participation in ICAO CORSIA; b) Organisation of the EU-India Aviation Summit(s); c) Convening of other aviation policy dialogues with India (e.g. possible EU-India aviation working group).
e. **Rail**: Exchanges and cooperation on standards and certifications, digitalization, public procurement and private competition.
f. **Smart and sustainable mobility**: Exchanges and cooperation on the topic | a. 2-3
b. 2-3
c. Annual maritime security dialogue.
d. **Aviation**: a) India's reluctance regarding ICAO's CORSIA.
e. **Rail**: non-existent cooperation.
f. **Smart and sustainable mobility**: non-existent cooperation. | a. 5
b. 5
c. Continue holding of annual maritime security dialogue; Continue exercises between operation Atalanta and the Indian Navy – at least 1 such activity per year
d. **Aviation**: a) India's support and participation in CORSIA; b) Organisation of the EU-India Aviation Summit (at least in 2022).
e. **Rail**: Organisation of study visits, workshops and seminars at national and local level to exchange and share EU's best practices and lessons learnt on the various topics mentioned in the Roadmap/Connectivity Partnership; Support for the implementation of initial projects on the ground (e.g. ERTMS deployment).
f. **Smart and sustainable mobility**: Organisation of events and implementation of projects on the topic. | a. Reports from the EU-India dialogues and EU-India sectoral partnerships.
b. Reports from the EU-India dialogues and EU-India sectoral partnerships
c. Regular oversight by EU and Indian civilian and military officials; Operation Atalanta; CRIMARIO II; ESIWA
d. **Aviation**: a) India joining CORSIA; b) Aviation Summits taking place.
e. **Rail**: number of events organised and projects implemented.
f. **Smart and sustainable mobility**: number of events organised and projects implemented. |

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification

Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Support the external dimension of the European Green Deal with India.

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2: Improved environmental and climate policies, supporting India's increased commitments and engagement under the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and other multilateral environmental agreements.	a. Number of national and regional policy commitments planned and/or established (covering key issues such as forests, land and water use, protected areas, biodiversity, energy, waste, pollution, national GHG emissions) b. Number of initiatives aimed at the full implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and its legal instruments. c. Number and amount of green bond issuances supported d. Status of Pilot exercise on climate proofing with CDRI. e. Degree of alignment between EU and Indian taxonomies of sustainable activities f. Number of EU-India High-Level Environment and Climate Dialogues held between the EU and India.	a. 0 b. 0 c. 0 d. 0 e. Increased clarity and transparency of commonalities and differences on the basis of the first Common Ground Taxonomy Report published in November 2021. f. 1	a. 3 b. 2 c. 2 d. One pilot study concluded e. 50% increase of sectors covered, transitional considerations added and areas of alignment. f. 1 dialogue held annually	a. Assessment reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Ecosystem management reports from UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) b. National communications under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) c. EEAS/INTPA reports d. EEAS/INTPA reports e. Common Ground Taxonomy reports and FISMA reports. f. ENV/CLIMA reports
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Promote good governance and reduce inequalities.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3: More inclusive and participatory decision-making processes of civil society, particularly of underprivileged groups leading to poverty reduction and social inclusion.	a. Number of dialogues held on social protection systems and root causes of inequality. b. Number of Human Rights Dialogues held between the EU and India.	a. 1 (2021) b. 1 (2021)	a. One dialogue per year b. One dialogue per year	a. Commission reports b. EEAS reports

Priority area 2.3: Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners Gulf Countries

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Stronger partnership in furtherance of the EU's external priorities.				
ER 1: EU priorities are effectively promoted, realising economies of scale and facilitating exchanges.	**A) Number of consultations, events, approaches and/or practices beneficial to the achievement of EU interests, values and standards.** **B) Number of active participants and/or beneficiaries from the Gulf.**	0	A) 3 per year. B) At least 5.	Desk analysis and/or project reports
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Stronger regional integration through dialogue and cooperation, as well as with neighbouring regions.				
ER 2.1: Regional cooperation and integration and confidence building efforts are strengthened.	**A) Number of consultations, regional cooperation and/or integration and confidence building activities or strategies.** **B) Number of active participants and/or beneficiaries from the Gulf.**	0	A) 3 per year. B) At least 5.	Desk analysis and/or project reports

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.2: Sub-regions, partners and policy areas that are not effectively covered in existing regional integration processes are enabled to benefit from regional cooperation efforts.	A) **Number of EU regional, inter-regional, bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation partnership processes, consultations, activities and/or strategies (incl. strategies to address challenges of global concern) which have been held, developed, adopted or implemented.** B) **Number of active participants and/or beneficiaries from the Gulf.**	0	A) **2 per year.** B) **At least 8.**	Desk analysis and/or project reports
ER 2.3: Cross-regional cooperation (with Southern Neighbourhood, Horn of Africa, etc.) is promoted.	A) **Number of EU cross-regional, and multi-lateral cooperation partnership processes, consultations, activities and/or strategies (incl. strategies to address challenges of global concern) which have been held, developed, adopted or implemented.** B) **Number of active participants and/or beneficiaries from the Gulf and cross-regions.**	0	A) **At least 1 per year.** B) **At least 8.**	Desk analysis and/or project reports
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Diversified economies through greener and more sustainable consumption and production.				
ER 3.1: Partners in the Gulf mainstream sustainable diversification in their policies.	**Number of policies, consultations, national development plans and/or processes in which sustainable diversification has been mainstreamed.**	0	**3 per year**	Desk analysis and/or project reports
ER 3.2: Strengthened cooperation and alignment on green recovery as a new growth strategy.	**Number of consultations, activities, approaches, policies, national development plans, and/or practices that target green recovery.**	0	**3 per year**	Desk analysis and/or project reports
ER 3.3: More sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, reduction of waste generation and more sustainable procurement practices.	**Number of consultations, laws, policies and/or processes that target sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, reduction of waste generation and more sustainable procurement practices.**	0	**2 per year**	Desk analysis and/or project reports
Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): More open and inclusive societies in the Gulf region.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 4.1: Policies and national strategies promote more open, and inclusive societies, human rights (including labour rights), governance of media and digital transformation.	**Number of consultations, laws, policies and/or national strategies that target and/or promote more open, and/or inclusive societies human rights governance of media and/or digital transformation.**	0	**2 per year.**	Desk analysis and/or project reports
ER 4.2: Understanding and visibility of the Union and of its role by means of public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, cooperation in educational and academic matters are promoted.	**A) Number of EU public diplomacy consultations, events, cooperation, contacts, activities and/or outreaches that target and/or promote the positive change of the EU's image.** **B) Number of active participants and/or beneficiaries from the Gulf.**	0	**A) 3 per year.** **B) At least 5.**	Desk analysis and/or project reports

Priority area 2.4: Pursuing EU Interests with Asian partners in Asia and the Pacific (High Income Countries and other key partners).

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Reinforced cooperation with the EU's partners in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen multilateralism (partnerships for multilateralism) by effectively implementing the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and enhance the EU's role and profile as a global actor in Asia and the Pacific.				
ER 1.1: Effective policy dialogues on global and regional challenges, increased cooperation on rules-based multilateral order and governance and enhanced EU participation in Asian multilateral organisations leading to improved understanding, appreciation and alignment with EU positions including on the European Green Deal.	**Number of EU regional, inter-regional, bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation partnership strategies (incl. strategies to address challenges of global concern) which have been developed, adopted or implemented.**	0	**At least 2**	Desk analysis or project reports

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.2: Expanded and reinforced peace and security cooperation with like-minded partners, responding to the demand by the EU's partners for greater engagement on security, including cyber security, maritime security, violent extremism, counter terrorism, hybrid threats and cybercrime, and on security sector reform in Indo-Pacific region.	Number of EU regional, inter-regional, bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation partnership strategies (incl. strategies to address challenges of global concern) which have been developed, adopted or implemented.	0	**At least 2**	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 1.3: Reinforced mechanisms of conflict prevention, early warning and peacebuilding through mediation and dialogue, crisis management, and stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction, in line with the women, peace and security agenda.	**Tbd**	0	**Tbd**	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 1.4: Strengthened recognition of the EU in the Asia-Pacific as a value-based global actor and standard-setter across the whole spectrum of EU policies, through public diplomacy action.	**Tbd**	**Tbd**	**Tbd**	Tbd
ER 1.5: Stronger Engagement with and greater mobilisation of networks of key target audiences and potential partners in the Asia-Pacific such as youth, academics, influencers (e.g. media, think tanks, business community), civil society and cultural actors.	**Tbd**	0	**Tbd**	Desk analysis or project reports
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards in collaboration and alliance with Asian and Australasian HICs (alliance diplomacy).				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.1: Improved digital and regulatory convergence facilitating the global flow of data, data protection and security, including on network security, digital communication supply chains, protection of critical infrastructure, and roll-out of 5G on the basis of global standards.	A) **Number of approaches and/or practices beneficial to the achievement of EU interests, values and standards which have been taken up in third countries (new IMP1)** B) **Number of regulations and standards relating to trade, investment and business in partner countries which have been aligned to EU / international standards (IMP2)**	0	A)At least 2 B) At least 2	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 2.2: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.	A) **Number of approaches and/or practices beneficial to the achievement of EU interests, values and standards which have been taken up in third countries** B) **Number of EU regional, inter-regional, bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation partnership strategies (incl. strategies to address challenges of global concern) which have been developed, adopted or implemented**	0	A) At least 2 B) At least 2	Desk analysis or project reports
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Economic diplomacy: FTAs, level playing field, market access, investment promotion and protection, business opportunities.				
ER 3.1: Effective implementation of trade and investment agreements, including successful negotiations and enhanced cooperation on norms, regulations, standards and interoperability and the effective implementation of commitments by the Parties to adhere to international labour and environmental conventions.	A) **Number of regulations and standards relating to trade, investment and business in partner countries which have been aligned to EU / international standards** B) **Number of barriers to market access, investment and business development which have been removed**	0	A) At least 2 B) At least 2	Desk analysis or project reports

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3.2: Enhanced market access (including agreements on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary conditions), improved business cooperation and partnerships (B2B), in particular SMEs, and a level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses leading to improved competitiveness of EU business in Asia, as well as enhanced capacities of European business organisations.	A) **Number of regulations and standards relating to trade, investment and business in partner countries which have been aligned to EU / international standards** B) **Number of barriers to market access, investment and business development which have been removed**	0	A) **At least 1** B) **At least 1**	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 3.3: Increased inward FDI.	**Number of barriers to market access, investment and business development which have been removed**	0	**At least 1**	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 3.4: Convergence on SPS, raw materials, international labour standards, intellectual property rights, competition, (green) procurement and WTO-related actions.	**Number of regulations and standards relating to trade, investment and business in partner countries which have been aligned to EU / international standards**	0	**At least 1**	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 3.5: Reinforced applied research and innovation.	**N/A**	Tbd	**N/A**	N/A
ER 3.6: Sustainable and resilient supply chains and sustainable food systems, as well as the promotion of decent work.	**Number of regulations and standards relating to trade, investment and business in partner countries which have been aligned to EU / international standards**	0	**At least 1**	Desk analysis or project reports
Specific Objective 4 (SO 4): Supporting key political processes, tools and objectives (Good Governance, PCAs, SPAs, Connectivity Partnerships) between the EU and Asian partners.				
ER 4.1: Initiation and successful conclusions of negotiation processes.	**Number of approaches and/or practices beneficial to the achievement of EU interests, values and standards which have been taken up in third countries**	0	**At least 2**	Desk analysis or project reports
ER 4.2: Effective implementation of the EU Global Gateway.	**Number of approaches and/or practices beneficial to the achievement of EU interests, values and standards which have been taken up in third countries**	0	**At least 2**	Desk analysis or project reports

Priority area 3: Migration, Forced Displacement and Mobility.

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
Specific objective 1 (SO 1): Support durable solutions to existing and future forced displacement situations.				
ER 1.1: Policy dialogue on durable solutions to forced displacement and policy development addressing forced displacement is enhanced within the concerned region.	• **Number of dialogues on durable solutions for the forcibly displaced created or supported in priority countries;** • **Number of roundtables/workshops/conferences organized to promote debate on a draft policy/law addressing displacement or return issues;** • **Number of laws, policies and strategies addressing displacement and return-related challenges and opportunities revised/drafted;** • **Number of policy reforms and strategies adopted by partner countries to enable access to services and economic opportunities for forcibly displaced persons and their host communities.**	**Existing number of dialogues 2021** **Baseline to be defined on project basis** **Scoping study required**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**EC tracking tables of migration policy dialogues** **Implementing partners'** **monitoring reports** **Government** **reports, budget and** **national** **development plans** **(where applicable)** **Meeting minutes**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.2: Peacebuilding and reconciliation, including community and grassroots-driven processes, to identify nationally owned sustainable solutions to displacement situations are supported.	• **Number of peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives supported;** • **Number of individuals disaggregated by gender and age directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peace-building and/or conflict prevention;** • **Number of persons involved in local reconciliation initiatives, confidence-building initiatives, or formal peace processes (e.g. local peace committees, public debates, forums, cross-community activities and others) thanks to support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis.**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Implementing partners' monitoring reports** **Surveys** **Government reports, budget and national development plans (where applicable)**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.3: Partner countries' capacities to ensure protection space, human rights and empowerment of uprooted people and host communities as well as the sustainable integration and reintegration of refugees, returnees, IDPs and other categories of migrants are strengthened.	● **Proportion of the target population (resident/host communities and displaced persons) living below the national poverty line, compared to the national average (disaggregated by gender, age and displacement status);** ● **Number of (Re)integration activities integrated into existing Government mechanisms;** ● **Number of governmental and nongovernmental actors trained, who report using their new skills and are aware of legal frameworks and fundamental rights of refugees, returnees, IDPs and other categories of migrants and prevention of abuses and risks;** ● **Number of civil society projects promoting social cohesion and conflict prevention between host/resident communities and displaced persons/returnees with support from the EU-funded intervention;** ● **Number of support mechanisms established (health, education, land tenure/housing/property rights, vocational training, labour marked access, start-up)**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Implementing partners' monitoring reports** **Surveys** **Government reports, budget and national development plans (where applicable)** **Reports of capacity building initiatives and training programmes** **Information materials and products of awareness activities** **Meeting minutes**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.4: Access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, living conditions, resilience, self-reliance, and social cohesion of refugees, IDPs and host communities are improved.	• **% of national population with access to basic services (education/health/water/nutrition sanitation/energy) and legal identity (documentation and birth registration) compared to % targeted beneficiaries access levels and country-wide average (if available).** • **% of national population with access to economic opportunities to secure sustainable livelihoods, including land tenure, housing and property rights, livelihood services and labour market access through provincial and national systems compared to % targeted beneficiaries access levels and countrywide average (if available).** • **Number of persons benefitting from improved infrastructure, or human/technical/financial resources provided (disaggregated by gender, age and displacement status)** • **Number of policy reforms and strategies adopted by partner countries, ensuring equal opportunity for refugees, IDP's, returnees, affected host communities.**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	Implementing partners' monitoring reports Surveys Government reports, budget and national development plans (where applicable)

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 1.5: Qualitative and quantitative research, evidence and data analysis on forced displacement disaggregated by gender and age at regional, national, and local level is improved.	• **Number of available quantitative and qualitative data and research to provide evidence for informed programming and policy making on forced displacement funded from the EU interventions;** • **Number of governmental and nongovernmental actors trained and reporting to make effective us of generated quantitative and qualitative data in service delivery.** • **Number of mobility assessments, flow monitoring and surveys in communities carried out and used in public-service delivery;** • **Number of target beneficiaries monitored per year (including for re-integration progress)**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 1 project financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Implementing partners' monitoring reports** **Reports of capacity building initiatives and training** **Government reports, budget and national development plans (where applicable)**
Specific Objective 2 (SO 2): Contribute to strengthening migration governance and management, to enable orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.				

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.1: Cooperation, policy dialogue and development, engagement at international, national and regional level with private and public stakeholders in the field of migration and mobility are enhanced.	• **Number of national and regional collaboration measures on migration and human mobility established and/or supported by EU initiatives;** • **Number of initiative in the field of migration and human mobility supported by EU initiatives.** • **Number of intergovernmental meetings on migration and mobility organised at a senior level with EU support.**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Implementing partners' monitoring reports** **Government reports, budget and national development plans (where applicable)** **Meeting minutes**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.2: Partner countries' capacities to manage relevant return, readmission and reintegration processes, address irregular migration including the prevention of and fight against smuggling of migrants and all forms of trafficking in human beings, support to migrants in situations of vulnerability, at regional, national, and local level are reinforced.	• **Number of officials trained, who report using their training in the public service-delivery entities/areas targeted (i.e. trafficking/smuggling/ /labour migration/migration management international protection)** • **Number of awareness-raising activities among migrants and aspirant migrants and their families on safe and legal migration initiated.** • **Number of policy reforms and strategies adopted by partner countries, ensuring protection and the respect of Human rights of migrants and returnees;** • **Number of exchanges of good practices and lessons learnt on migration management from EU (including EU MS), regional partners and international organisations**	Scoping study required **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	Reports of capacity building initiatives and training programmes Implementing partners' project monitoring reports. Information materials and products of awareness activities Meeting minutes

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.3: Sustainable reintegration support to returnees from Europe and third countries and to host communities in their countries of origin is provided, in full respect of fundamental values and Human Rights.	• **Number of persons benefitting from EU supported reintegration support;** • **Number of sustainable migrant's protection and reintegration mechanisms embedded in national development processes and national initiatives;** • **Number of targeted beneficiaries referred and assisted for civil documentation, legal awareness and legal aid.** • **Number of support mechanisms established (health, education, land tenure/housing/property rights, vocational training, labour marked access, start-up).**	Scoping study required **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Reports of capacity building initiatives and training programmes** **Implementing partners' project monitoring reports.** **Information materials and products of awareness activities** **Meeting minutes**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.4: Human mobility, including labour migration and climate-induced migration, takes place in a more regular and safe manner.	• **Number of revised and/or new laws facilitating regular migration and improving working conditions of migrants through EU interventions;** • **Number of migrants and their families accessing social insurance and healthcare under the national insurance scheme (disaggregated by migrant status);** • **% migrants having access to housing, basic services and regular livelihood opportunities at the place of destination;** • **Proportion of the target population (migrants and their families) living below the national poverty line, compared to the national average (disaggregated by gender, age and migration status);** • **Number of policy instruments responsive to safe and dignified labour market access, tailored for refugees, IDP's, returnees, affected host communities' specific needs.**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Reports of capacity building initiatives and training programmes** **Implementing partners' project monitoring reports.** **Information materials and products of awareness activities** **Meeting minutes**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.5: The developmental impact of social and financial remittances is enhanced.	• **Average time of money transfer in given corridors** • **Average cost of money transfer in given corridors;** • **Percentage of remittance senders within the target population reporting that they use formal channels for their most recent transfer, disaggregated by gender;** • **Number of people with access to health and education thanks to social schemes funded from remittances and developed with EU support;** • **Percentage of migrant workers within the target population who report that remittances have a transformative impact on their recipient family members, disaggregated by sex.**	**Scoping study required** **Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 1 project financed.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	**Reports of capacity building initiatives and training programmes** **Implementing partners' project monitoring reports.** **Information materials and products of awareness activities** **Meeting minutes**

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 2.6: Qualitative and quantitative research, evidence and data analysis on migration disaggregated by gender and age at international, regional and national level is improved.	• **Number of available quantitative and qualitative data and research to provide evidence for informed programming and policy making on migration funded from the EU interventions;** • **Number of governmental and nongovernmental actors reporting to make effective us of generated quantitative and qualitative data.** • **Migration policies integrated into existing government mechanisms based on evidence generated**	Scoping study required Baseline to be defined on project basis	At least 1 project financed. **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	Implementing partners' monitoring reports Surveys Government reports, budget and national development plans (where applicable)
Specific Objective 3 (SO 3): Encourage relevant exchange between origin, transit, destination and/or host countries to increase cooperation and improve management of migration and/or forced displacement challenges, as well as to expand their cooperation with the EU on migration, forced displacement and mobility.				
ER 3.1: Capacities of partner countries to cooperate on and address migration and/or forced displacement challenges, and gradually build ownership of migration related processes identified and agreed in migration partnerships with the EU, are reinforced.	Number of initiatives financed to support capacities of partner countries on migration and forced displacement.	Baseline to be defined on project basis	At least 2 projects financed under flexible-incentive mechanism. **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	Implementing partners' monitoring reports

Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
ER 3.2: Partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration, forced displacement and mobility is enhanced. This may include the development of Talent Partnerships.	**Number of initiatives financed from the EU with the aim of supporting cooperation on migration, forced displacement and mobility.**	**Baseline to be defined on project basis**	**At least 2 projects financed under flexible-incentive mechanism.** **Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during projects' inception phase**	EAMR

EFSD+				
GENERAL OBJECTIVE (IMPACT): To contribute to long-term sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, by promoting strategic investments with a priority focus on Green Deal, Jobs and Growth and Digital Transition.				
Expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Targets (2027)	Means of Verification
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1 (S.O.1): Supporting strategic and inclusive investments in the fields of climate change and resilience, energy transition, sustainable connectivity, urbanisation and agriculture, and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems.				
Output 1.1 Improved power clean/green/renewable energy (Energy)	• Renewable energy generation capacity installed (MW) with EU support • Greenhouse Gas emissions avoided (tonnes CO2eq) with EU support (Energy)	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Targets for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• EU Monitoring and Evaluation • Experts analysis • Desk reviews • Interviews with selected stakeholders
Output 1.2 Improved energy infrastructure (Energy)	• Number of people with access to electricity with EU support through (a) new access and (b) improved access (Energy) – data disaggregated by sex and age.	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• EU Monitoring and Evaluation • Experts analysis • Desk reviews • Interviews with selected stakeholders
Output 1.3 Improved Water and Waste facilities	• Number of individuals with access to improved drinking water source with EU support (Water & Sanitation) data disaggregated by sex and age • Amount of wastewater collected, treated and reused with EU support (resource recovery: water, nutrients, energy) • Amount of solid waste collected and recycled with EU support (Waste Management). • New connections to water supply with EU support • Installed capacity for solid waste collection and disposal	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• EU Monitoring and Evaluation • Experts analysis • Desk reviews • Interviews with selected stakeholders

Output 1.4 Improved sustainable agriculture practices	• Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and security of land, disaggregated by sex	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• EU Monitoring and Evaluation • Experts analysis • Desk reviews • Interviews with selected stakeholders
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2 (S.O.2): Boosting strategic and inclusive investments for job creation and sustainable growth, by leveraging private sector resources as additional funding source.				
Output 2.1 Increased sustainable inclusive economic growth with improved livelihoods and decent employments	• Export of goods and services as percentage of GDP (Percentage (%)) • Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population (SDG 10.1.1) (Percentage (%))	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• World Bank data • United Nations statistics

Output 2.2 Improved competitiveness and sustainability of the local private sector	• Global Competitiveness Index (Ranking)	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• World Economic Forum http://reports.weforum.org/global-competitiveness-report-2014-2015/?doing_wp_cron=1626254766.5302131175994873046875
Output 2.3 Improved inclusive access and use of diversified financial services, including from innovative financial instruments	• Number of new (formal or informal) MSMEs linked to new value chains (national or international), disaggregated by sector and sex • Number of individuals with access to financial services with EU support, disaggregated by: - type of service (access to loans, guarantees, banking services etc.) - modalities (electronic or face to face) - user type (sex, age, etc.) (Number of individuals) • Number of firms with access to financial services thanks to EU support, disaggregated by: - type of service (access to loans, guarantees, banking services etc.) - modalities (electronic or face to face) - user type (sex of head of firm, age of head of firm, etc) • World Bank Doing Business "getting credit" *ranking/score	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• World Bank: http://www.doingbusiness.org/data • National surveys, project level surveys, Monitoring and Evaluation/ experts analysis

Output 2.4 Increased private sector engagement and leverage	• Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP) (Percentage) • Number of new private sector firms investing in sector/value chain [X] (Number of firms) - data disaggregated by sex and age • Number and value of Private Partnership in Infrastructure (Number and Currency) with EU support • Levels of private co-financing (Currency (€, $, local currency))	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception (project or portfolio definition)	• World Bank Statistics • Experts analysis of sector and/or value chain • World Bank Statistics • DFIs
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3 (S.O.3): To improve equal access to digital infrastructure and foster digital entrepreneurship and job creation for women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity			
Output 3.1 Improved digital infrastructure and connectivity	• Number of households with access to fixed broadband connectivity, disaggregated by urban/rural and type of internet service (wired or wireless broadband network) • Number of people with access to mobile broadband connectivity, disaggregated by sex, urban/rural (Number)	Baseline to be defined on project/portfolio basis	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• Telecommunication/ICT regulatory authority, Ministry of ICTs. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention. • Telecommunication/ICT regulatory authority, Ministry of ICTs. Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.
Output 3.2 Increased competitiveness of digital businesses and job creation in the digital domain as well as in other sectors profiting from digital input; Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity participate fully and equally in the digital economy	• Number of indirect jobs supported by the EU - data disaggregated by sex • Number of new jobs created in companies benefitting from digitalization support provided by EFSD+ - data disaggregated by sex and age • Number of digital start-up enterprises led by women who benefit from financial support and/or training, funded by the EU.	Baseline to be defined project by project at the inception phase	Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase (project or portfolio definition)	• Intervention M&E system • Experts analysis

| Output 3.3 Increased connection to open, affordable and secure broadband connectivity and digital infrastructure, especially for youth, women, vulnerable groups and rural communities | • Number of Mobile Subscriptions (disaggregated by data/no data services enabled) - data disaggregated by sex and age
• Number of Fixed Data Subscriptions (disaggregate by commercial and non-commercial subscriptions) (Number) - data disaggregated by sex and age | Baseline to be defined project by project at the inception phase | Target for 2027 to be confirmed during inception phase

(project or portfolio definition) | • Annual data from Telecommunication/ICT regulatory authority, Ministry of ICTs; Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention
• Annual data from Telecommunication/ICT regulatory authority, Ministry of ICTs; Baseline and end line surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention |