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<u>**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**</u>

<u>**ANNEX 3**</u>

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of Mozambique for 2023 – Part 2
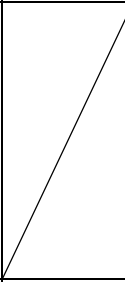
<u>**Action Document for Cidadania Activa**</u>

ANNUAL PLAN
This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and an action plan within the meaning of Article 23 of the <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title **CRIS/OPSYS** **business reference** **Basic Act**	**Cidadania Activa** OPSYS number: ACT-61786 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Mozambique
4. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 for the Republic of Mozambique
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<u>Specific Objectives</u>: Strengthened democratic system (transparency, accountability and the rule of law) and economic governance frameworks for a more inclusive and just society in Mozambique (P1/SO1); 'Protect, restore and enhance Mozambique's natural capital and ecosystem services as essential drivers of sustainable growth and resilience' (P1/SO1), 'More inclusive and equitable quality basic education' (P2/SO2) and 'Foster innovation and digital transformation for inclusive growth' (P2/SO3).
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Not applicable
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<u>Main SDG</u> : 17 (partnerships for the goals) <u>Other significant SDGs</u>: SDG 5 - Gender Equality (targets 5.5-5c), SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities (target 10.2), SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities (targets 11a-11b), SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
8 a) DAC code(s)	15150 Democratic participation and civil society – 100%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) And Civil Society - 20000

9. Targets	☐ Migration ☐ Climate ☒ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☒ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers **(from DAC form)**	**General policy objective** @	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
	Aid to environment @	☒	☐	☐
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☒	☐	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☐	☒	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change adaptation @	☒	☐	☐
11. Internal markers and Tags	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @	☐	☒	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	☐ ☒ ☐ ☒ ☒	☒ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	
	Connectivity @	☒	☐	☐

			YES	NO	
		digital connectivity	☐	☒	
		energy	☐	☒	
		transport	☐	☒	
		health	☐	☒	
		education and research	☐	☒	
	Migration @		☐	☒	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities @		☒	☐	☐
	Covid-19		☒	☐	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION					
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020122 Total estimated cost: EUR 15 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 15 000 000				
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION					
13. Type of financing	**Direct management** through: - Grants				

1.2   Summary of the Action

The European Union (EU) Mapping Studies of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Mozambique (2016 and 2020-21) have shown progress in the capacity of civil society to participate in democratic governance process, but also a shrinking enabling space. The capacity of civil society for a full and qualified engagement and informed collaboration with public authorities on participatory governance and democratic processes is still limited. The participatory assessment[1] of the current Non-State Actors Support Programme (PAANE II) helped to identify the main causes of the above-mentioned problem.

Cidadania Activa seeks to address these challenges through three cross-feeding building-blocks: improved capacities of CSOs to advocate for enabling environment and engage in structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including authorities, and groups of rights holders (Output 1.1 – Enabling Environment and Dialogue); improved capacities of CSOs for strategic management and communication, institutional development, project management, digital skills and for engaging in public policies, namely on what regards priority public policies (i.e. environment, climate action, youth, education, public finance management - PFM, etc.), and gender equality and women empowerment (Output 1.2 – Capacities); and – improved capacities of civil society for participation in policy making and monitoring (Output 1.3 – Participation). The achievement of these outputs will improve participation of citizens and CSOs, including those representing women, youth and persons with disabilities, in democratic processes (Outcome), contributing to strengthen inclusive and participatory democracy in Mozambique (Impact).

This intervention logic is aligned to the EU Global Gateway strategy which supports a strong, inclusive, green and digital recovery and transformation, enabled by democratic values, good governance and transparency. The Action mostly corresponds to the support measures in favour of civil society of the 2021-2027 Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) and contributes to its three Priority Areas (Growing Green, Growing Young and Governance, Peace and a Just Society). It contributes directly to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 - Peace, Justice and

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[1] 2023 Assessment and stocktaking of the 11th EDF Support Programme to Non-State Actors in Mozambique (PAANE II) and formulation of the NDICI support programme to civil society in Mozambique. The assessment was conducted in 3 of the 5 provinces targeted by PAANE II (Niassa, Sofala, Inhambane) and one "non-PAANE" province (Gaza), complemented by stakeholders' meetings in Maputo and an online survey responded by 64 national entities.

Strong Institutions, and also addresses SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 – Climate action, SDG 15 – Life on land, SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

Cidadania Activa will be implemented through grants awarded to civil society organisations to implement activities mostly at decentralised level aimed at improving the capacities and internal governance of local organisations and reinforcing collaboration with local public authorities on participatory processes and mechanisms (such as the *Conselhos Consultivos* and the *Observatórios de Desenvolvimento*). Capacity building activities will be complemented by financial and technical support for public policy and service delivery evidence-based monitoring.

The Action will contribute to the realisation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 GAP III, in particular to its thematic area of engagement "Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women", "Promoting equal participant and leadership" and "Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation, Digitalisation, Climate change and the environment".

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Republic of Mozambique remains among the least developed countries in the world in terms of human development, witnessing also increasing inequality, including significant gender and geographical disparities. Notwithstanding the significant economic growth over the past two decades, progress has not been inclusive and has not translated into broad poverty reduction. Furthermore, the country has been dealing with a series of multidimensional shocks, including the 2016 'hidden debts crisis', extreme climate events, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Since 2017, Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province is confronted with armed violence that has resulted in over confirmed 4 000 fatalities as well as around 1 000 000 internally displaced people (IDPs).

Mozambique has launched structural reforms to ensure constitutional rights, promote justice, good governance, public integrity, sustainable development, and decentralisation. The latter required the revision of the national Constitution, Law n.1/2018, of 12 June, which had its foundations in the consensus on peace, stability and democracy in Mozambique, to include different stages towards the improvement of provincial decentralised governance. This process, critical to Mozambique's development, foresees the participation of citizens and civil society in local governance processes. However, there have been challenges to ensure effective engagement of civil society and citizens and their collaboration with local public authorities. This is due to a number of factors, namely budgetary constraints, insufficient understanding of respective roles and mandates, and limited capacities to perform their functions. Constraints are also found at central level, where the space for dialogue and collaboration is shrinking: new draft legislation (on media, broadcasting, non-profit organisations), recently submitted to the Parliament –though subsequently withdrawn for further revision- could lead to limitations of the civic space at central and local level. Moreover, support provided to civil society by development partners is scattered, not adequately coordinated and not assisted by a mapping of interventions (as it was somehow facilitated in the past through the ODAMOZ platform), missing structured dialogue and collaboration with CSOs to cover the entire cycle of programming and retro-informing it.

The country saw a swift emergence of civil society organizations in the 90s following the end of civil war and the need to provide widespread aid to those in need. In the following decades these organizations started focusing also on actions related to good governance (transparency, accountability, public services, participation in governance processes, etc.), human rights, and fundamental freedoms. The consolidation and expertise of these civil society organizations has been directly linked to their capacity to access funding from international development partners to implement their agendas.

The EU has supported civil society in Mozambique through different cooperation assistance mechanisms and instruments. In the framework of the European Development Fund, since 2006 the EU has supported several

editions of PAANE. This programme aimed at: supporting and strengthening the role of civil society in the development process of Mozambique; strengthening mutual accountability between civil society, citizens and public authorities; strengthening representative and participatory democracy; structured dialogue; etc.

Despite these efforts, and the knowledge and existence of spaces for citizen and civil society participation, their participation is still limited. The latest 2020-21 EU Mapping Study of CSOs pointed that the enabling environment is positive when CSOs engage and collaborate on the improvement of social services (education, social protection, health, humanitarian action). Yet, CSOs report limitations to denounce human rights abuses and corruption, when journalists report on conflict contexts, and when political participation and freedom of expression are considered to challenge the political order. The study identified three key challenges that affect CSOs: (i) obstructed and shrinking environment, (ii) reduced evidence-based advocacy and discrediting formal spaces for participation, (iii) and credibility linked with independence and internal governance and capacity weaknesses.

The EU is committed to support Mozambique on its development through supporting both national authorities and civil society. With regards to civil society, the *EU Roadmap for engagement with Civil Society in Mozambique for the period 2021-2027*,[2] aims to address existing challenges in line with the Mozambique Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy 2021-2024, the EU MIP 2021-2027, and the Gender Country Profile 2021. The Roadmap identifies six objectives for the EU engagement with CSOs: 1) Strengthening an enabling environment for civil society; 2) Shifting towards a more structured dialogue with CSOs; 3) Promoting women's rights, gender equality and women and girls' empowerment, and fighting sexual and gender based violence; 4) Expanding civil society engagement on environmental and climate action (growing green); 5) Channelling and promoting the voice of youth and developing capacities on digitalization and entrepreneurship (growing youth): and 6) Strengthening domestic accountability and peace building (Governance, peace and just society). The latter three objectives are clearly in line with the new 2021-2027 Mozambique MIP priority areas.

The country has a Gender Policy and Implementation Strategy (revised in September 2018), a National Strategy for Preventing and Combating Premature Unions (2016-2019) which is currently under review, a National Plan for Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence (2018-2021) and a National Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2022). The Five Year Government Plan (2020-25) seeks to promote gender equality in all areas and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable with an emphasis on gender-based violence, child protection, as well as premature marriages, trafficking and sexual abuse

In this context, this Cidadania Activa is designed as complementary to other key ongoing initiatives under implementation with the support of the EU in Mozambique which address civil society participation in public policies, namely "Voz PoBa", "Decentralisation for Development – D4D", and "Programa Melhorando a Resiliência Climática Local em Moçambique (MERCIM)+", and others in the pipeline, such as "Support to Democratic Governance in Mozambique", "Component on CSO engagement of the Resilience for the North (ResiNorte) programme" and "Tolerância Zero! à violência baseada no género". Other partners' actions will also be considered, such as Finland's upcoming civic engagement programme in the North. Cidadania Activa will also be complemented by actions funded under the CSO thematic programme, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and the NDICI Rapid response pillar. Complementarity will be specifically sought with respect to policy sectors and geographic location, in order not to duplicate, but to further expand civil society opportunities to participate in public policies.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The recent external assessment of the ongoing PAANE II conducted in the framework of the formulation of this Action complements the findings of the civil society mapping studies in Mozambique[3], which describe an evolving situation where CSOs' acting space is increasingly shrinking. EU long-term support to civil society in Mozambique contributed to strengthening the capacity of national CSOs, with good results on the establishment of collaborative

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[2] Subscribed by Austria, Belgium, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. The document also benefitted from inputs from Canada and Switzerland.

[3] The 2016 and the 2020-2021 EU Mapping Studies of CSOs in Mozambique.

practices between civil society and local authorities, especially on evidence-based monitoring of public policies implementation and social service delivery (e.g. on education, social protection, health, natural resources). Support provided to decentralised participatory governance mechanisms (*Conselhos Consultivos* and *Observatórios de Desenvolvimento*, as established by law) has contributed to increase civil society representativeness and awareness on local governance and development processes. However, weaknesses still persist for a full and qualified engagement of civil society in democratic governance and for a conducive and informed collaboration with public authorities. The lack of proper structured dialogue among actors involved in democratic governance, along with the fact that several interventions funded by different development partners (including the EU) were not sufficiently coordinated also represented a missed opportunity for maximising the potential for the achievement of results and for increasing aid effectiveness.

The above-mentioned assessment identified the main problem to be addressed as the insufficient engagement of citizens and CSOs in democratic participation and accountability processes, with the effect that inclusive and participatory democracy in Mozambique still need to be strengthened. Three main causes were identified as contributing to this problem: 1) insufficient mutual recognition, trust and understanding among actors involved in participatory and representative democracy, limiting dialogue and an enabling environment; 2) Insufficient capacity of citizens, civil society organisations and local authorities to participate in local governance processes, namely on priority public policies and areas of EU engagement in Mozambique (i.e. environment, climate action, youth, education, PFM, gender equality and women empowerment); 3) Weak practice and culture of partnership and collaboration between civil society and local authorities on participatory planning, implementation, public service delivery, evidence-based monitoring and reporting to implement the outcomes of civil participation in decision-making processes.

Mozambique has ratified a number of international and regional instruments aimed at promoting gender equality and women's rights, namely: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (ratified in 1993); the Declaration of Beijing (ratified in 1995), the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights and the Rights of Women (ratified in 2005). Mozambique is also a State Party of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (CRPD) having completed ratification in 2012. However, lack of enforcement, implementation and monitoring remains the key challenge. Women and girls are often unaware of their rights, and the judicial system is not yet prepared to deal with a gender-sensitive justice and facilitate access to justice for women. This is partly explained by the idea that "gender" is about women and not about equal rights and opportunities and equal sharing of power between men and women)[4].

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

As Right holders:

The main stakeholders of Cidadania Activa are citizens and CSOs[5], including thematic and advocacy platforms, community-based organisations, human rights activists and associations, women's organisations and/or working on gender equality and women's empowerment, organisations of persons with disabilities, the media, etc. CSOs play a key function in a democratic system articulating citizens' concerns. They are active in the public arena, engaging in initiatives to further participatory democracy, and embody a growing demand for transparent and accountable governance. Although it is the State that carries the main responsibility for development and democratic governance, synergies between the public authorities and CSOs can help overcome challenges related to poverty, inequalities, social exclusion and unsustainable development. Thus, CSOs' participation in policy processes is key to ensuring inclusive and effective policies. The Roadmap linked with the CSO mapping study and the PAANE II assessment recognised the improving capacities of CSOs, but also the existing weaknesses for

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[4] Country Level Implementing Plan Mozambique 2021-2025.

[5] In line with the definition on the 2012 Communication from the Commission on "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations": they include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and LGBT organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media.

partaking actively in local governance and democratic processes due to lack of technical and financial capacity, especially at local level.

As Duty-Bearers:

Key government stakeholders addressed by the Action include public authorities at central, provincial and district level, as well as provincial and municipal assemblies, along with those entities which are responsible for development of public policies and democratic governance and are parties in the dialogue with civil society at central level, notably the Ministry of State Administration and Public Service (dialogue in the framework of the Consultative Councils), the Ministry of Economy and Finance (for the Development Observatories), the Ministry of Justice, Constitutional and Religious affairs (Non-Governmental Organisation - NGO policy and legislation), the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (coordinate and promote actions towards gender equality), and other relevant line ministries or State Secretariats (for example dealing with gender, education, youth, environment, etc.).

Other relevant stakeholders include the Gender and Citizenship Group, which gathers EU Member States and like-minded countries to follow-up on the implementation of the EU Roadmap for engagement with Civil Society and the Gender Action Plan, and the Coalition of the Willing Group on Gender and Women's Empowerment.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this Action is to **Strengthen inclusive and participatory democracy in Mozambique**.

The Specific Objective of this Action is:

1. To improve participation of citizens and CSOs, including those representing women, youth and persons with disabilities in democratic processes.

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

1.1 Enabling Environment and Dialogue – Improved capacities of CSOs to advocate for enabling environment and engage in structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including authorities, and groups of rights holders;

1.2 Capacities – Improved capacities of CSOs for strategic management and communication, institutional development, project management, digital skills and for engaging in public policies.

1.3 Participation – Improved capacities of civil society for participation in policy making and monitoring.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1 – Enabling Environment and Dialogue:
- Awareness and knowledge raising activities for actors involved in participatory and representative democracy (governance processes, clarification of mandates, functions, roles, etc.) to foster mutual understanding with gender and human rights sensitive approach.
- Facilitate structured political, policy and technical dialogue among civil society organisations, including women's and people with disabilities' organisations, formal and informal groups and their representative bodies (such as district platforms, provincial fora and mechanisms, thematic networks and working groups, etc.) to better strategise positions in order to attain more impact.
- Enable structured dialogue between civil society and public authorities, at central and decentralised level, towards working on common agendas on the formulation and implementation of legislation and priority public policies, taking into account both informal and formal spaces envisaged in national legislation.
- Provide support for improving aid effectiveness (mapping of ongoing interventions, mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues developing strategies to address gender, human rights, and rights of persons with disabilities, etc.).

Activities relating to Output 1.2 – Capacities:
- Conduct needs assessments to identify specific priorities for capacity development of civil society, based on existing weaknesses (knowledge and capacities to execute their strategies, (in)existing mechanisms and tools, project cycle management, institutional capacity, internal governance, strategic communication, digital skills, etc.), with gender and human rights sensitive approach.
- Develop and implement a tailored and on-demand capacity building programme for CSOs working on the priority public policies and areas of EU engagement in Mozambique (i.e. environment, climate action, gender, human rights, youth, education, PFM, etc.) including mentoring, tutoring and on-the-job training, promoting the secure and safe use of digital technologies, and involving local authorities when relevant to enable CSO engagement on governance processes.
- Compile and refine existing best practices, methodologies and tools (e.g. community scorecard, digital platforms for reporting, gender indexes, etc.), and support the creation of new ones when relevant, to monitor at local level the implementation of public policies and the quality of service delivery and thus collect evidence for informed planning, budgeting and advocacy.
- Provide technical assistance and sub-grants to: (a) support long term action strategy stemming from the initiative of CSOs and based on their strategic agendas; (b) foster peer-to-peer support and capacity transfer among CSOs and between them and international CSOs and reaching out to local and grassroots organisations; (c) support the design of CSOs' institutional and financial sustainability strategies and plans; d) reinforce the capacities of Community Based Organisations and local mechanisms for monitoring and accountability of local governments.
- Support women's organisations and CSOs' action on gender equality and women empowerment (e.g. research and data collection on gender and disability inclusion, policies, specific tools and transformative approaches).
- Provide technical training on strategic communication, advocacy techniques and the safe use of digital tools for CSOs – with particular focus on the media – to promote active citizenship and human rights, in particular women's human rights and rights of persons with disabilities.

Activities relating to Output 1.3 – Participation:
- Promote the participation of CSOs in public policy formulation and monitoring of the implementation of local development plans and budget down to service delivery, etc. (e.g. in the existing participatory spaces *Conselhos Consultivos* and *Observatórios de Desenvolvimento*, and through public hearings, citizens gender-sensitive budget, etc.).
- Provide technical and financial support for joint evidence collection (including through digital tools/platforms) and its use in advocacy, reporting and monitoring of public policies and service delivery, involving CSOs, communities, local authorities, media, academia, and provincial/municipal assemblies.
- Provide technical support and sub-granting for the design and implementation of micro-projects focusing on priority public policies areas of EU engagement in Mozambique (i.e. environment, climate action, gender, inclusion of people with disabilities, youth, education, PFM, etc.) jointly selected/voted by civil society, citizens and local authorities through participatory processes, and support monitoring and collaboration between these stakeholders throughout the implementation.
- Organise joint monitoring missions and facilitate collaboration among local experiences (intra and inter-provinces) and with peers in other countries facing similar challenges to share methodologies, best practices and lessons learned (e.g. by using digital platforms and tools).
- Develop a knowledge management system capitalising on successful methodologies, best practices and lessons learned to inform the Programme's exit strategy while retro-feeding the system for improved dialogue and strengthened capacities.

3.3   Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions).
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).
The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Due to the nature of the Programme, environmental and climate change issues will be focused and aligned to the Growing Green MIP 2021-2027 Priority Area by including specific objectives and priorities in the Call for Proposals to be launched. Some funded actions will contribute to environment and biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies (namely towards limiting carbon footprint), as well as climate resilience and disaster risks reduction. Eligible activities aimed at promoting the mainstreaming and integration of environmental and climate change concerns in policy dialogue and local planning shall include capacity building, awareness campaigns for citizens and public authorities' sensitisation, support for evidence-based monitoring and for green transformation initiatives (including circular economy approaches), mainly for youth and women. In alignment with the EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society, actions will help to expand civil society engagement on environmental and climate action, notably by: enhancing public awareness and behavioural change, promoting innovative approaches and methodologies to work on environmental and climate advocacy, including linking national CSOs with international movements, and supporting CSOs participation in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is a significant objective of the Action. This will be achieved through the development and implementation of a programme gender strategy, which will be designed taking into account the Gender Country Profile, in line with the objectives of the MIP (growing green, growing youth, and governance, peace and a just society) and the areas of engagement of the third EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) – Country Level Implementation Plan for Mozambique. The gender strategy would concretely propose specific actions to address gender equality and women empowerment in the priority policy areas of the Programme. Furthermore, in the framework of the Call for Proposals to be launched, organisations specialised in gender equality and women's empowerment will be encouraged to integrate the consortia applying for grants, with the responsibility to effectively mainstream and integrate gender strategies within the action and its implementation.

Human Rights
Cidadania Activa will address the five principles of the Rights-Based Approach through its activities which improve participation in decision making in governance processes, non-discrimination and equal access to all citizens, accountability and rule of law, transparency and access to information supporting the evidence-based monitoring of public policies and service delivery. In line with the EU's commitment to promote and protect human rights and democracy and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024, the action will work also to "promote a safe and an enabling environment for civil society as actors in their own right, including long-term strategic support to capacity building and meaningful participation of civil society" and to "promote structured and regular dialogues between state actors, civil society (including social partners) and the international community" to "foster the role of civil society in oversight and accountability in both the public and the private sector, promoting the use of online technologies" and to "support and strengthen long-term partnerships with civil society actors and human rights/social movements, also by making full use of the opportunities to fund grassroots organisations".

Disability
As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU Strategy of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030), equal opportunities (i.e. in terms of participation, representation, etc.) will be ensured to persons with disabilities under each axis of the action: dialogues, capacities, and participation. The action should ensure physical and/or digital accessibility requirements to facilitate participation in activities to all.

Disability crosscuts other CSO groups such as women and youth organisations, thus the development of a comprehensive strategy is foreseen to ensure effective mainstreaming of disability in the supported initiatives. Moreover, in the framework of the Call for Proposals to be launched, preferential criteria could be established for including in the applying consortia an organisation of persons with disabilities.

Reduction of inequalities
Although the past decades witnessed significant economic growth, inequalities in Mozambique have been increasing: men and women, rural and urban, young and old, rich and poor, etc. These substantial disparities were further deepened by the COVID-19 pandemic. The improvement of policy dialogue and the ongoing decentralization process are key opportunities to overcome these inequalities and promote social cohesion. However, this requires proper participation and representation of all fringes of society in decision-making and dialogue spaces, as well as skills and tools to ensure an effective and result-oriented participation. By supporting CSOs, citizen and public authorities the action will capacitate and promote communication and partnerships between these actors to ensure a fairer and needs-based governance model. Once equipped to fully execute their roles, these actors will be able to help overcoming structural inequalities in Mozambique.

Democracy
An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and is an asset in itself. It represents and fosters pluralism and can contribute to more effective policies, equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth. The action supports participatory and representative democracy in Mozambique. There are different levels of participatory democracy practices (information, consultation, dialogue and partnership, and many other different models to organise participation), the main goal being to engage citizens or civil society actors in local or national decision-making processes on issues that affect their daily life. The action is designed with that in mind and aims at equipping citizens, civil society and public authorities with the means and capacities to properly conduct, engage, advocate and influence decision-making processes in the framework of decentralised governance mechanisms in Mozambique. The results achieved at local level will retro-feed dialogue at central level, giving leverage to the civil society positioning and influence on policy-making.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience
Civil Society is a key actor for conflict prevention, resilience and security in fragile contexts. CSOs play a central role in supporting resilience at community level, in risk reduction and response to crisis. Support for civil society under this action is expected to further strengthen its capacity, namely on priority public policies and areas of EU engagement in Mozambique (i.e. environment, climate action, youth, education, PFM, gender equality and women empowerment, etc.). Moreover, it is expected that strengthened collaboration with public local authorities on local governance processes will help preventing and reducing conflict and promoting a peaceful environment; as will structured dialogue, including between CSOs themselves, to enhance collaboration and mitigate competition dynamics. Additionally, support will be provided to civil society actors so that they can play a strong and coordinated role in policy dialogue on relevant EU policies and initiatives.

Disaster Risk Reduction
Considering that Mozambique is a country highly prone to natural disaster, either caused by cyclones or droughts, it is expected that supported actions may address the integration of preparedness and response measures in local planning, in the frame of activities aimed at strengthening participation in policy making and monitoring, as well as capacity building activities engaging civil society and community-based organisations. Moreover, and to ensure the security and safety of stakeholders involved in the Programme, the adoption of safeguarding approaches in the activities planning and implementation will be promoted, especially taking into account seasonal risks.

Other considerations if relevant
N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

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

External environment	Risk 1 – Obstructed and shrinking space for civil society	**Medium**	**High**	Promote continuous political and technical dialogue between and within CSOs, public authorities, the EU and other development partners to convey messages on the importance of collaboration between these stakeholders and to cement opportunities for joint-work. Continue making available specialised legal expertise to support public authorities to update the legal framework if needed.
External environment	Risk 2 – Mutual distrust between civil society, citizens and public authorities	**Medium**	**High**	Promote mutual understanding and opportunities to jointly partake in capacity building actions; Promote concrete opportunities for effective collaboration and partnerships to carry out joint decisions from Consultative Councils and Development Observatories.
External environment	Risk 3 – Upcoming elections can dictate significant political changes which might hamper gains and lead to disengaging on commitments and efforts	**Medium**	**Medium**	Carefully plan the timing of activities to ensure that new decision-makers and technical staff are duly involved and inducted to understand and perform their roles and functions; Plan and deliver joint trainings, including practical work, to foster understanding, communication, trust and partnership.
External environment	Risk 4 – Conflict and extreme climate events can hamper the implementation	**Medium**	**High**	Carefully select the geographic scope of the actions and the workplan of activities according to potential risks, ensuring flexible rules to adapt to a rapidly changing context; Ensure continuous communication with other ongoing actions to better assess risk and threat levels during planning and implementation. The Call for Proposals will require that the proposals are conflict sensitive and 'do no harm'.

Lessons Learnt:

Findings from the current PAANE II participatory assessment and from previous programmes supporting civil society in Mozambique – funded by the EU and other development partners – show that the decentralisation process is a relevant entry-point for promoting a culture of collaboration and partnership between civil society and local public authorities towards enhanced democratic processes, especially at local level due to their proximity. Best results have been achieved when this collaboration is established and performed around common interests, where each part brings added-value to this partnership, building mutual trust. An example is the production of evidence for the monitoring and accountability of public policies and service delivery, as the civil society adds technical expertise and has been able to raise funds to perform it. Partnership has also shown to be more effective and sustainable when producing concrete benefits with spill-over effect which can be replicated, as it was identified especially on social sectors. Furthermore, the achievement of results and their sustainability is directly linked to institutional capacity, which has been reinforced but still requires support for its consolidation. While it was understood that the strong image of the current PAANE II as a programme helped building ownership and increased its political leverage, the weak culture of collaboration among civil society organisations, but also between development partners, reduced the capacity to take advantage of opportunities for synergies and complementarities, limiting the cost-effectiveness of the individual

actions and the effect of a global Programme. The lack of a coordination unit, and the fact that the established coordination mechanisms assumed a more informative than collaborative role, were identified as constraints for improving complementarities and structured dialogue among the involved and supporting actors. It was also demonstrated and confirmed by the implementing partners and beneficiaries that conventional training programmes revealed less effective when compared to mentoring/tutoring approaches based on concrete support to on-going activities, especially for grass-root organisations which require technical and financial support for their institutional strengthening. Finally, although gender was explicitly addressed in the overall and specific objectives of PAANE II, it was not adequately mainstreamed into all actions but addressed by one specific grant focusing on gender. As such, there is a high risk of neglecting the gender dimension, despite its relevance, unless it is clearly stated that gender and the rights-based approach have to be integrated with specific strategies in all actions, and with proper technical support to ensure this happens.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The intervention logic was built taking into account the current context, the findings from PAANE II assessment and the capitalisation of lessons learned from previous and current actions. It addresses the need for strengthening dialogue and trust among actors involved in democratic governance, and for improving capacities and participation in governance processes. The three Outputs are interlinked and cross-fertilize, since the results achieved from enhanced participation will be capitalised and disseminated to retro-feed the dialogue at local and central level, following a circular sequence (dialogue ↔ capacities ↔ participation) creating an enabling environment for the civil society to participate and influence policy-making in an inclusive way. Cidadania Activa will focus on priority public policy sectors in line with the MIP and areas of EU engagement in Mozambique (e.g. environment, climate action, youth, education, public finance management, gender equality and women empowerment, digitalisation, etc.)

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

IF the capacities of CSOs to advocate for enabling environment and engage in structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including authorities, and groups of rights holders, is improved (Output 1.1 – Enabling Environment and Dialogue);

and **IF** the capacities of CSOs for strategic management and communication, institutional development, project management, digital skills and for engaging in public policies is improved (Output 1.2 – Capacities);

and **IF** the capacities of CSOs for strategic management and communication, institutional development, project management, digital skills and for engaging in public policies is improved (Output 1.3 – Participation);

AND assuming that the space for civil society participation and dialogue remains open and does not shrink further; the CSOs further develop their networks and cooperation;; the trained members and managers of CSOs continue their membership and stay in the CSOs; and the developed draft polices, legal acts and monitoring reports by CSOs are considered by the authorities and followed-up by the CSOs (assumptions);

THEN Citizens and CSOs, including those representing women, youth and persons with disabilities, will improve their participation in democratic processes (Outcome); **BECAUSE** improved trust, mutual recognition and capacity around governance processes as a result of dialogue and participation has demonstrated to be conducive for an enhanced representative and participatory democracy.

IF Citizens and CSOs, including those representing women, youth and persons with disabilities, improve their participation in democratic processes (Outcome); **AND** the decentralisation model is implemented according to the Mozambican Constitution and the Government Five-years Plan 2020-2025 (assumption); **THEN** inclusive and participatory democracy in Mozambique will be strengthened in the long-term (Impact); **BECAUSE** citizens representativeness and participation are part of the foundations of Democracy.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).

- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.

- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

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

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

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen inclusive and participatory democracy in Mozambique	1) Governance component of the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) (OPSYS core indicator)*	1) 4.21 (2022)	1) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1) BTI Transformation Index	*Not applicable*
		2) WGI voice and accountability (GERF 1.21)	2) tbd in the inception phase (2024)	2) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	2) World Bank WGI index	
		3) Country score according to the CIVICUS Monitor	3) 38 (2022)	3) tbd in the inception	3) CIVICUS Monitor	

				phase (2029)		
Outcome 1	1) To improve participation of citizens and CSOs, including those representing women, youth and persons with disabilities in democratic processes	1.1) Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (**GERF 2.29)	1.1) tbd in the inception phase (2024)	1.1) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.1) Project reports; national bulletin	The decentralisation model is implemented according to the Mozambican Constitution and the Government Five-years Plan 2020-2025.
		1.2) Number of local authorities involving CSOs in development of local plans and budgets, including developing gender-sensitive budgets	1.2) tbd in the inception phase (2024)	1.2) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.2) Reports from Consultative Councils and Development Observatory meetings; Project reports	
Output 1 [Enabling environment and Dialogue] relating to Outcome 1	1.1) Improved capacities of CSOs to advocate for enabling environment and engage in structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including authorities, and groups of rights holders	1.1.1) Number of CSOs' representatives participating in multi-stakeholder dialogues at national and sub-national level with the support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex	1.1.1) 0 (2024)	1.1.1) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.1.1) Projectreports; sign-in lists; protocols: recordings	Space for civil society participation and dialogue remains open and does not shrink further. The CSOs further develop their networks and cooperation
		1.1.2) Number of dialogue platforms strengthened or initiated by CSOs with the support of the EU-funded intervention	1.1.2) 0 (2024)	1.1.2) tbd in the inception	1.1.2) Project reports; reports from Consultative	

				phase (2029)	Councils and Development Observatory meetings; participants lists
		1.1.3) Number of people reached with EU-funded awareness raising campaigns (disaggregated by sex, disability and age) (OPSYS core indicator)	1.1.3) 0 (2024)	1.1.3) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.1.3) Project reports; media news
Output 2 [Capacities] **relating to Outcome 1**	1.2) Improved capacities of CSOs for strategic management and communication, institutional development, project management, digital skills and for engaging in public policies	1.2.1) Number of CSO members trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge of internal governance standards, transparency and accountability towards intended beneficiaries, constituencies, and social bases (disaggregated by sex and disability) (OPSYS core indicator)	1.2.1) 0 (2024)	1.2.1) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.2.1) Project reports; pre and post training test reports	The trained members and managers of CSOs continue their membership and stay in the CSOs
		1.2.2) Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support (GERF 2.28)**	1.2.2) 0 (2024)	1.2.2) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.2.2) Project reports; pre- and post-training test reports	
		1.2.3) Number of initiatives funded under the Intervention that strengthened CSOs capacity to response to changes in, uphold and promote an enabling environment. (OPSYS core indicator)	1.2.3) 0 (2024)	1.2.3) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.2.3) Project reports; pre- and post-training test reports	
		1.2.4) Number of CSO representatives trained by this Action on matters related to the priority public policies (e.g. climate change/youth, digitalisation) and the policy-making processes, as well as horizontal skills (e.g. | 1.2.4) 0 (2024)	1.2.4) tbd in the inception	1.2.4) Project reports; pre- and post-	

		management, human resources, leadership, negotiation), disaggregated by sex.		phase (2029)	training test reports	
Output 3 [Participation] **relating to Outcome 1**	1.3) Improved capacities of civil society for participation in policy making and monitoring	1.3.1) Number of initiatives under the Intervention which specifically promote the inclusion of CSOs in public policy formulation (OPSYS core indicator)	1.3.1) 0 (2024)	1.3.1) tbd (2029)	1.3.1) Programme reports	The developed draft polices, legal acts and monitoring reports by CSOs are considered by the authorities and followed-up by the CSOs
		1.3.2) Number of women's organisations participating in decision-making regarding local governance, development and peacebuilding thanks to support of EU-funded intervention (OPSYS core indicator)	1.3.2) tbd in the inception phase (2024)	1.3.2) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.3.2) Project reports	
		1.3.3) Number of people benefitting from EU-funded sub-grants projects (disaggregated by sex and age) (OPSYS core indicator)	1.3.3) tbd in the inception phase (2024)	1.3.3) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.3.3) Project reports	
		1.3.4) Number of public policies monitored or co-monitored by CSOs with the support of the Action	1.3.4) 0 (2024)	1.3.4) tbd in the inception phase (2029)	1.3.4) Project reports	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Republic of Mozambique.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 84 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures[6].

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants will contribute to achieving the programme's Outcome: "Citizens and CSOs, including those representing women, youth and persons with disabilities, are engaged in democratic participation and accountability processes". Therefore, the grants will address the programme's planned Outputs: 1.1) Enabling Environment and Dialogue – Improved capacities of CSOs to advocate for enabling environment and engage in structured dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including authorities, and groups of rights holders; 1.2) Capacities – Improved capacities of CSOs for strategic management and communication, institutional development, project management, digital skills and for engaging in public policies; and 1.3) Participation – Improved capacities of civil society for participation in policy making and monitoring.

The guidelines for applicants of the call for proposals will ensure that the selection criteria and thresholds lead to the selection of a limited number of grants (indicatively between 4 and 6). Specific sectors and/or geographical areas may be identified in the call in order to ensure complementarities with other EU priorities and related EU programmes.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for funding are legal entities non-profit making Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or assimilated Civil Society Organisations, or respective networks, platforms or federations.

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[6] www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

Other essential characteristics of the potential applicants shall be specified in the guidelines for applicants of the call for proposals.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may totally be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Technical competence and experience in providing support to civil society organisations, including managing sub-granting mechanisms for reaching out to grass-roots organisations;

- Proven results achieved under previous similar programmes;

- Administrative capacity and experience to implement this type of intervention due to its mandate and expertise;

- Established presence and proven experience in the implementation of programmes in Mozambique;

- Demonstrated capacity to coordinate various stakeholders.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply. The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components[7]	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
Grants – total envelope under section 4.4.1	14 500 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	500 000
Totals	15 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to oversee the Action implementation and for strategic decision. It will be composed by representatives of the European Union, the Government of Mozambique (considering the relevant stakeholders identified in section 2.2), and the implementing entities. Other development partners supporting civil society and local governance could be invited as observers to ensure complementarity of interventions. Other civil society actors representing rights holders, such as youth, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups could also be invited, to ensure adequate involvement of Civil Society in the follow-up and monitoring of the action (see section 5.1).

A CSO to be selected under the Call for Proposals will accompany and support specific aspects of the implementation of the Action, such as promoting coordination, complementarity and synergies between interventions within the Action, and with other development partners' initiatives; providing on-demand capacity building to beneficiary CSOs, notably on contract management procedures and strategic

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[7] N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

communication; ensuring mainstreaming of key cross-cutting issues (such as gender, disability, Rights Based Approach, conflict sensitivity); monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Implementing partners will have key responsibilities on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and knowledge management. A global M&E system at programme level will be designed and implemented adopting a human-rights based approach, to be used as a monitoring, management support and learning tool. The system will be fed by data coming from the implementation of the different actions, as well as by specific monitoring activities for baseline and final studies and results reporting, including periodic collection of current values, which is to be funded under the regular budget of the action (through specific budget lines identified for this purpose). Common indicators, including from the EU Roadmap for engagement with Civil Society in Mozambique and the Gender Action Plan III, shall be used as much as possible to allow for comprehensive yet specific reporting. Whenever applicable, the internal monitoring system and tools must contain indicators disaggregated by sex, age groups, and geography. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is being implemented both at local and national levels and its performance on the achievement of results.

An active involvement of Civil Society in the follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the action should also be ensured. As such, and as an integral part of the action's monitoring system, a mechanism of permanent dialogue with the final beneficiary populations/communities should be established to enhance trust and engagement. This mechanism should enable:
(i) Carrying-out regular consultations with the final beneficiaries of the action regarding identification, planning and implementation of activities;
(ii) Receiving feedback from the final beneficiaries on the implementation and impact of the action, including any concerns or complaints they may have in this regard;
(iii) Defining solutions and forms of redressing such concerns or complaints in a timely manner.

Special attention should be paid to consulting women and youth and persons with disabilities, with a view to breaking gender inequalities and strengthening the role of women as drivers of change, and facilitating the involvement of young people and of persons with disabilities in social, economic, civic and political issues.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex, age and geography, and disability if possible.

5.2   Evaluation

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

The mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to determining if the action is on track and if any adaptation measures are required.

The final evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the need to verify to which degree the action may continue to be supported in the future. The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two (2) months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

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

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partner(s) and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination[8]. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

5.3   Audit and Verifications

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

6   STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

In line with the 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead–be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

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[8] See best practice of evaluation dissemination

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
☒	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
☐	Group of actions	N/a
Contract level		
☐	Single Contract	N/a
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other).		
☒	Group of contracts 1	Grants (direct management): group of contracts to be awarded via a Call for Proposals