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

**ANNEX III**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for 2025 to 2027

**Action Document for a Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE)**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1. SYNOPSIS**

1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE) OPSYS number: ACT-62893 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out worldwide.
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	This Action intends to contribute to the Multi-Annual Indicative Programming (MIP) for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme 2021-2027, in particular, its Priority 2: Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies, and the two axes of action thereunder: (i) Strengthen democratic, accountable and transparent institutions, in particular, (a) enhancing the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of Parliaments, and (b) engaging civil society observers in election observation; and (ii) Promote participatory and representative decision-making, in particular, (a) supporting political pluralism and inclusiveness, (b) promoting active citizenship in public and political life, and fostering the role of civil society in oversight and accountability mechanisms.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Priority 2: Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies DAC sector code 150 – Governance and Civil Society
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals</b>	Main SDG (1 only): 5 Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 16 and 10

<b>(SDGs)</b>				
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	Main DAC code – 15150 – Democratic participation and civil society Sub-code 1 – 15170 – Women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions Sub-code 2 – 15151 – Elections Sub-code 3 – 15152 – Legislature and political parties			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	10000 – Public sector institutions 20000 – Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) 40000 – Multilateral organisations			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>
Digitalisation @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities1 @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### BUDGET INFORMATION

<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020211</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 14 500 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR <b>14 500 000</b></p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 14 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2026, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p>
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### MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

<b>13. Type of financing<sup>2</sup></b>	<p><b>Direct management</b> through grants.</p> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.24.3.2.</p>
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## 1.2. Summary of the Action

<p>The Women and Youth Democratic Engagement is a flagship action aimed at fostering functioning pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracies worldwide. It also contributes to the TEI Team Europe Democracy. It comprises three inter-connected pillars:</p> <p>(I) <b>WYDE civic engagement</b> and <b>WYDE freedoms</b> are aimed at strengthening youth participation in and around public life, both in politics as well as by engaging in non-partisan civic activism, monitoring institutions and democratic processes including, notably, through domestic election observation, and supporting the right to freedom of assembly and association, with a strong focus on women.</p> <p>(II) <b>WYDE women's leadership</b> is aimed at achieving gender equality in political decision-making, by supporting global research, data collection, analysis and dissemination; building and supporting networks and knowledge-sharing platforms for more effective global advocacy; as well as piloting and leveraging concrete actions on the ground.</p>
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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please consult: [The European Commission inequality marker](#) and Inequality Marker – Complementary Guidelines Application of the I-Marker to SSC fiches and Action Documents | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)

<sup>2</sup> Article 27 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

(III) **WYDEjinter pares** helps making parliaments more accountable, inclusive and transparent through peer-to-peer exchanges with parliaments of EU Member States (EU MS). Activities are notably strengthening women and youth organisations' interactions with legislatures and political parties, contributing to remove the barriers to young people's and women's political career.

All three pillars are directly contributing to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16) and empowering all women (SDG5). SDG 16 is both an enabler and an accelerator of the other SDGs.

### 1.3. Zone benefitting from the Action

The action shall be carried out primarily in countries included in the list of aid recipients published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee. Sub-Saharan Africa in particular will remain a priority area. Some activities may be carried out in other countries, in line with the overall objective of the thematic programme to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide.

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

The Action is fully in line with the **Treaty on the European Union** (TEU), and in particular Articles 2 and 21.

The action will furthermore contribute to the EU **Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan 2020-2027**, the **Youth Action Plan**, and to the **Gender Action Plan III 2021-2027** <sup>3</sup>“An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action”, more specifically the “Thematic area of engagement - Promoting equal participation and leadership”. The action will promote an intersectional approach to ensure that nobody is left behind.

In accordance with Article 2 TEU, **democracy** is a fundamental value, alongside the rule of law and respect for human dignity and human rights. It is also intimately linked to the creation of more stable, prosperous and peaceful societies. Research shows that growth does not bring democracy – but democracy can bring (inclusive and sustainable) growth. The majority of the world's poor live in middle income countries, characterised by poor governance, high inequality and weak democracy. Improving democracy is not peripheral to alleviating poverty – it is central.

71% of the world's population – 5.7 billion people – live in autocracies – an increase from 48% ten years ago. The number of democratising countries is also dwindling, down by almost half compared to ten years ago – there are now only 18 of such countries<sup>4</sup>. Several sources of data<sup>5</sup> support these concerns and point to a decline in democracy in virtually all regions of the world.

#### **Youth's and young women's civic engagement**

Today there are 1.3 billion young people in the world and this number is only expected to increase by the end of the decade<sup>6</sup>. Often young people are excluded from the decision-making process and lack trust in state institutions and their ability to respond to their needs. Young women, in particular, may face additional barriers to political representation, such as gender discrimination, lack of support and mentorship, and societal expectations. Empowering youth by increasing their participation and representation in public affairs fosters a sense of active citizenship, and a culture of democracy and democratic values.

Democracies worldwide struggle with a growing trend of youth disenfranchisement, and with finding ways to

<sup>3</sup> See: [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/gender-equality-and-empowering-women-and-girls\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/gender-equality-and-empowering-women-and-girls_en).

<sup>4</sup> Data from V-Dem Democracy Report 2024: [v-dem\\_dr2024\\_lowres.pdf](https://www.v-dem.net/en/publications/v-dem-dr2024-lowres.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> The V-Dem Annual Democracy Report, International IDEA's Global State of Democracy, the EIU Democracy Index, the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) Report and Freedom House.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Population Division's World Population Prospects 2019 Revision.

respond in a meaningful way to new forms of youth participation. In this context, non-formal and non-partisan forms of youth participation are complementary or prior ways to traditional political engagement. Youth organisations as well as youth-led organisations try to respond to this thirst for participation, each with their own added value, the latter having the advantage of systematically putting young people in charge by definition. This action aims to strengthen democracy and democratic governance through empowering youth participation and women in public affairs, via (i) traditional political engagement, (ii) non-partisan citizen oversight such as domestic election observation, (iii) through new forms of political participations and (iv) the promotion of the fundamental freedom of assembly. It is paramount for the future and sustainability of democracy that young people, and notably young women, recognise its benefits and actively engage in democratic practices in all their forms. Equally important is the promotion of diversity and inclusion and engaging diverse youth representation to enhance social cohesion and governance, ensuring that the benefits of democratic life are shared among all citizens.

### **Women's leadership**

Women continue to be under-represented as voters, political leaders and elected officials, as official peace negotiators and mediators. Change is slow in elected positions and decision-making bodies at all levels. Although 137 countries have mandated quotas for women representation in parliaments or political parties' candidate lists, either by electoral laws or the constitution<sup>7</sup>, implementation is still hampered by factors, such as social norms and gender stereotypes, discrimination within political party structures and the lack of political financing. At the same time, a new vocal generation of young women and girl activists has taken up a wide range of causes including girls and women's empowerment. Paving the way for more women in the political, business, and civic arena is an investment in more just, equitable, and peaceful societies. The WYDE-created global index on youth political participation features a whole dimension on economic participation, because economic well-being is an enabler of a political career, especially for women who are more likely to suffer financial barriers. Addressing gender inequalities and making sure young women have the same rights, opportunities, and access to resources as young men can lead to more comprehensive and diverse policy outcomes, thereby contributing to a more stable and prosperous society.

**Parliaments** are the central institution of any democracy. They are pivotal in ensuring accountability of the government to the people through their oversight function. They have a positive role to play for Global Gateway investments' oversight, visibility and relevance. Research shows that democracies perform better when parliaments are stronger. Strong parliaments not only need a qualitative support administration, they also need to be representative of their whole population. However, worldwide some groups are under-represented, in particular women (26.9% in July 2024)<sup>8</sup>, youth (2.2% of MPs are under age 30, 15.5% are under age 40 and 31.7% are under age 45)<sup>9</sup> and representatives of marginalised groups.

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

More than half of the world population is under 30 years of age. Unfortunately, young people remain often sidelined in formal decision-making processes. Voter turnout among **youth** ages 18-25 continues to be lower than other age groups and they are less likely to join political parties<sup>10</sup>. Interestingly, while youth is under-represented in parliaments and "Male parliamentarians continue to outnumber their female counterparts in every age group (...), there is greater gender balance among the youngest parliamentarians: a ratio of approximately 60:40 for single and lower chambers and 70:30 for upper chambers."<sup>11</sup> Nevertheless, young men and women are very often disillusioned with political leadership and political institutions and excluded. In developing countries, many young men and women do not participate in elections as voters, even less as candidates. As a result, political activism of youth is not always expressed through formal structures and processes. However informal engagement can be understood as political participation<sup>12</sup>, and both are beneficial for a vivid and resilient democracy. Obstacles for youth

<sup>7</sup> International IDEA's gender data base: [Search the database | International IDEA](#)

<sup>8</sup> Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%) see : <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS?view=chart>

<sup>9</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, Youth participation in national parliaments: 2018 see: <http://archive.ipu.org/pdf/publications/youthrep-e.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> UNDP youth strategy 2014-2017 "Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future".

<sup>11</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union, Youth participation in national parliaments: 2018 see: <http://archive.ipu.org/pdf/publications/youthrep-e.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> UNDP, Enhancing Youth Political Participation throughout the Electoral Cycle, 2013.

participation in democratic processes are numerous and multi-faceted: lack of administrative ID, civil registration processes, voter registration processes<sup>13</sup>, age requirements to vote or run for office, limited civic education and political literacy, party politics, culture and traditions, and distrust in political institutions.

Since 2022, WYDE has contributed to improving young people's political participation. It has been measuring the depth of the issue by developing a global index based on a fresh and sustainable methodology and identifying the barriers to their participation through Costs of Politics of Costs of Registration studies. Grass-roots organisations were accompanied to properly implement grants to advocate for democratic reforms. Finally, young politicians have been trained and network political parties themselves have been engaged to help address inclusion challenges.

Citizen activists exercising their freedoms of association and assembly are frequently characterised and led by youth and student movements that may stand outside the formal registration procedures framed by law. The right to protest, through the freedom of peaceful assembly, is too easily curtailed by a range of limitations from administrative barriers to practices of police brutality and arbitrary arrests. Information about the international standards to safeguard these freedoms in law and practice can be mobilised to protect citizen and youth activists when they protest, to follow up on protests and to document human rights violations that occur.

Despite **women's** increased engagement in public life in the past 20 years, equality is far off and power imbalances between women and men remain at all levels of decision-making. In his report to the Sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), the UN Secretary-General noted that despite women's increased engagement in public life, gender parity (50/50) is far from achieved in elected and appointed positions. According to the UN Women-IPU Women in Politics Map (2023) and data on women in local governments collected by UN Women, currently women make up just under one-third of national legislators worldwide (29.7%), 39% of local government members, and 26% of cabinet ministers. Only 22 countries are headed by a woman Head of State or Government. At the current rate of progress, gender parity will not be reached in national legislatures before 2070, or among Heads of Government before 2150. In Africa, women's representation in national parliaments has increased by one percentage point, from 25% in 2021 to 26% in 2024. During the same period, it was also found that while women's representation in top executive positions in governments has increased, their presence in local governments across Africa has declined. In Eastern Africa, women's representation in local governments declined by 11%, alongside a 16% increase in women holding top executive positions.<sup>14</sup>

Women in public life, including politicians, journalists and activists are often subject to gender-based violence and harassment, including different forms of online violence such as technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and even femicide, amid shrinking civic space. Politically motivated attacks on women have been on the rise in nearly every region, reaching a record high in 2019. A 2016 survey of women politicians from 39 countries found that 82% percent had experienced psychological violence, with 44% percent facing violent threats. Violence against women in politics is distinct from violence in politics, and it is one of the key deterrents to women's political participation. It is a critical barrier impacting the ability of women, including young women, to actively and safely engage politics.

A UN Women study of India, Nepal and Pakistan analysed incidents of violence that occurred from 2003 to 2013. finds that more than 60 per cent of women do not participate in politics due to fear of violence. It also found that the insufficient implementation of laws, lack of support from police and judiciary, the socio-economic divide and current power structures are the major reasons for violence.<sup>15</sup>

As regards **parliaments**, while these are the central institution of any democracy, their levels of development, powers and performance vary significantly from country to country. They are often considerably overshadowed by the executive. They may be severely under-resourced, to the point of lacking any institutional and financial autonomy, or not having the research capacities to adequately contribute to government bills or policies. Staff issues are a frequent challenge, with politically-biased recruitments, shortages or inadequate training and skills.

<sup>13</sup> Several Election Observation Mission reports have been mentioning the disenfranchisement of young people from voter lists.

<sup>14</sup> [Women's Political Participation: Africa Barometer 2024 | International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics \(iknowpolitics.org\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Violence Against Women in Politics | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

Internally, the level playing field may be compromised by the majority, leaving little space for the opposition or minority political groups, through inadequate internal rules and procedures. Importantly, in many countries, parliaments suffer from a bad reputation or distrust among citizens, especially the youth, and are thus in need of improving their public engagement. Since 2019, through peer-to-peer exchanges involving EU Member States national parliaments, the program has contributed to improve the role of more than 20 partner parliaments on topics related to government oversight, national budgeting, women's political participation and youth engagement.

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

As regards **citizen's engagement**, the main stakeholders are young citizens, especially young women citizens, youth organisations, youth councils, civil society organisations, domestic/citizen observer organisations, political parties and politicians willing to engage in transgenerational cooperation, as well as EU Delegations and their Youth Sounding Boards.

In terms of the **women's leadership**, the key stakeholders are: women leaders, young women activists, women's rights organisations, research institutions on women political participation, women politicians, including at international organisations, national governments, parliamentarians, local councils and members of political parties.

As for the component on **parliamentary strengthening**, the key stakeholders are parliaments themselves, both partner countries' parliaments and EU MS parliaments. Within parliaments, both Members of Parliament (MPs) as well as staff from parliaments' secretariats will be targeted, in particular women and youth. Other stakeholders will include international organisations, notably the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), specialised foundations, academia and governments.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to **foster functioning pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracy around the world** through and for the Youth, with a particular focus on promoting young women's and men's equal opportunities to participate and take on leadership roles in public affairs.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action contribute to:

1. Young people being better informed, networked and empowered on actively, safely and legally participating in civic activism, political office and elections
2. Overcoming barriers and strengthening women's political participation, incorporating their needs, interests, concerns, contributions and perspective into political life, without discrimination on any basis
3. Increasing the inclusivity, accountability and pluralism of parliaments, with a focus on women and youth participation.

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

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1: Enhanced awareness and capacity of young people on engagement in monitoring democratic institutions and processes, including through domestic election observation
- 1.2 contributing to Outcome 1: Cross-border networks of young people active in politics are set up or reinforced to advocate for removing barriers to youth political participation
- 1.3 contributing to Outcome 1: Enhanced capacity of young politicians and political representatives on advocating for youth issues and achieving positions of influence
- 1.4 contributing to Outcome 1: Increased capacity of institutional, governmental, political, and non-partisan stakeholders in electoral and political processes, including multi-party systems, legal and financial frameworks, and women and youth representation and participation
- 1.5 contributing to Outcome 1: Activists (especially youth) exercising their Freedoms of Association and Assembly are better equipped to claim their rights, stay safe and document violations of their rights.

2.1 contributing to Outcome 2: Improved systems for collecting quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data and analysis on women's political participation and leadership

2.2 contributing to Outcome 2: Enhanced access of women to networking opportunities in politics and in already existing dialogue mechanisms on women's political participation at global, regional and local level

2.3 contributing to Outcome 2: Social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women's political participation effectively promoted

3.1 contributing to Outcome 3: Parliaments' capacities on key functions (representation, legislation, oversight, budget etc) are strengthened, with a focus on women and youth representation and participation

### 3.2. Indicative activities

Activities related to Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 :

- Building or reinforcing networks of youth organisations involved in democracy support within the European Commission's DG INTPA co-led Youth Democracy Cohort
- Learning by doing through sub-granting local CSOs led by or working with young people while building their capacities internally (sound management) and externally (policy knowledge)
- Identifying and mapping the barriers of youth participation in public affairs, following trends towards their progressive removal
- Capacitating and networking young individuals and youth organisations to increase their ability to oversight institutions and democratic processes (including domestic election observation)
- Engaging existing accountability labs into more scrutiny accountability activities involving young people
- Workshops, events, and on-line content, to share knowledge about Democracy, promote global citizenship, advocate for youth participation, and put forward solutions for removing barriers
- Decentralized sensitisation on the benefits of democracy, transparency, inclusivity, electoral integrity, universal citizenship versus identity politics
- Offering guidance, scholarships and grants in Universities to students carrying out research and studies in the field of Democracy and Good governance
- Fielding quick impact actions (bringing short term expertise and small grants) upon request by EU Delegations to respond to Democratization opportunities

Activities related to Output 1.4:

- Multi-party workshops on key issues likely to make democratic processes more inclusive (legal frameworks, political party financing, money in politics, campaign financing,... etc)
- Multi-party workshops on key themes, with a focus on women and youth political participation and on prioritizing programmatic approaches and policy debate over competition between individuals or communities
- Peer-to-peer exchanges between young people active in politics
- Fielding quick impact actions (bringing short term expertise and small grants) upon request by EU Delegations to contribute to making political parties more inclusive and credible in the eyes of young voters
- Trainings for political parties members on key skills, with a focus on women and youth political participation
- Mentoring initiatives, in particular for women and young members of political parties
- support to the development of cross-party codes of conduct aimed at preventing electoral fraud and applying international standards with a focus on transparent party financing
- Providing election assistance to election management bodies and jurisdictions in partner countries willing to improve the inclusiveness, credibility and transparency of their electoral processes, upon partner government's request
- Helping the implementation of recommendations offered by election observers, both domestic and international

Activities related to Output 1.5 :

- Global or regional protest observatories, possibly including deployment capabilities for protest monitors, trainers and/or legal support.
- Awareness-raising, accompaniment and capacity-building on the practical exercise of Freedom of Association

and peaceful Assembly, possibly to include print or digital information or resources.

Activities related to Output 2.1, 2.2, 2.3:

- Supporting research on women's political participation, including generation of comparable data and analysis on violence against women in politics (VAWP).
- Supporting global partnerships and networks that mobilise and support women leaders and advocate to promote social norms change and enhance women's and youth's equal, full, effective and meaningful participation in all spheres of public and political life.
- Supporting women's networks and regional dialogue mechanisms that facilitate inter-generational mentorship and peer-to-peer exchange for young women MPs.
- Develop skills and organise networking opportunities for young women through training programmes, mentorship, cross-national and cross-regional peer-to-peer exchanges.
- Supporting members of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership to implement commitments to increase meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making power of women and girls.
- Promoting social norms that are promoting an enabling environment for gender equality such as through addressing gender norms in parliaments and promoting dialogues with men and boys including to address sexism, harassment and violence against women in politics.
- Enhancing gender mainstreaming in local government.

Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Advocacy, through peer-to-peer exchanges and promotion of good practices, for better women representation in parliaments
- Supporting networks of parliamentary development organisations at global level
- Mobilising EUMS national parliament expertise to strengthen the oversight functions of partner parliaments
- Capacitating partner parliaments' working groups on budget, finance and development policy
- Connecting partner parliaments women caucuses
- Fostering peer-to-peer exchanges among parliaments
- Trainings, workshops and seminars on key issues affecting parliaments
- Helping partner parliaments engage with the youth
- Helping partner parliaments better understand human rights based approach to Global Gateway actions in their country, region and play a positive role to help Global Gateway deliver its full potential
- Coordinating the expertise offered by the 31 participating EU Member States national parliament chambers (Team Europe approach).

### 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**

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

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#### **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 G2. This implies that

gender equality is a principal objective. Enhancing youths', including young women's participation in politics in particular, and an intersectional approach, is essential for enhancing democracy because it ensures diverse representation and inclusivity, aligning with the core democratic principles of equality and human rights.

#### **Human Rights**

The action will apply the human rights based approach (HRBA), working towards strengthening the capacities of rights-holders to make their claims and of duty-bearers to meet their obligations, and applying its five principles: 1) a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data.

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the rights of persons with disabilities will be considered throughout the action. Particularly, the inclusiveness of decision-making process will be enhanced, through the support to young citizen election observers, so that persons with disabilities' right to vote is more respected.

#### **Reduction of inequalities**

The WYDE is labelled as I-1. WYDE grants priority to lower income countries. While youth from all social level of beneficiary countries are targeted, including the political elite, the learning-by-doing activities through accompanied sub-granting and the support to citizen election observers and local grass-root organisations are opportunities to reach out to lesser advantaged demographics.

#### **Democracy**

The overall objective of this action is to foster a functioning pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy. Democracy is thus not only mainstreamed all across the action but the main reason for it. Notably, the action will promote the universal values of democracy around the world as well as universal citizenship, with a strong focus on women and youth.

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

The action duly considers and mainstreams conflict sensitivity and contributes towards building peaceful and resilient societies. It applies the "do-no-harm" and "leave no one behind" principles. Specific risks related to increase in vulnerability of youth and women are considered. WYDE specifically addresses political violence against women politicians or political activists. WYDE also take into consideration risks for democracy advocates, election observers and peaceful protesters.

#### **Disaster risk reduction**

By promoting a pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy and effective governance, the action will indirectly help sensitise on disaster risk reduction matters at global level.

#### **Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

### 3.4. Risks and lessons learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Security-related	Risk 1 - In some contexts, young women who become politically active may face safety concerns, such as online	M	H	The programme will carry out security assessments before delivering support to candidates. Amongst possible mitigating measures, trainings and networking

	harassment, doxing, or physical threats. Ensuring the safety of women who participate in politics is crucial, and failure to do so can be a significant risk.			opportunities will be offered in a neighbouring country in order to avoid fuelling existing threats
Social	Risk 2 - Backlash and Resistance: Efforts to empower young women politically can sometimes provoke backlash from traditional or conservative groups who may feel threatened by shifts in gender norms and power dynamics. This resistance can manifest in various forms, including political smear campaigns, harassment, or even violence against women seeking political office or participating in political activism.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	Where relevant additional awareness-raising and training will be provided to create shared values and norms to be respected and promoted.
Political	Risk 3 - Democracy continues to decline in a large number of countries, making it increasingly difficult to work on the ground with partner countries.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	The action monitors the state of democracy and helps to raise awareness about violations of human rights. If common actions are not possible in certain countries, the project team will explore possibilities for cooperation outside the indicative list of countries
Operation	Risk 4 - Overlapping activities; duplication.	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	Given that this action covers countries which benefit from NDICI funding, specific care will be devoted to keeping all stakeholders abreast of planned activities. EUDs will be consulted before any activity is planned. An overall Strategic Committee will ensure coordination among components. Coordination with FPI will also be necessary.
Political	Risk 5 - Not all youth spontaneous movements and initiatives are benevolent and adhering to the fundamental values of democracy and human rights. The program inadvertently supports or contributes funding to a movement with discriminatory undertones. Unintended risks for young electoral observers	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	The program will comprise specific expertise in charge of analysing the political economy/ideology, and messaging of youth networks and providing early warning in order to be able to direct the support towards those youth initiatives that are willing to participate in public affairs in a peaceful, inclusive and constructive way. The program promotes universal citizenship

	(threats, etc.)			and avoids identity politics.
Operation	Risk 6 - The implementing partners of the project do not adapt to its requirements. They resist to creating synergies and adhering to the WYDE program community and the Team Europe approach. Results are scattered, overlapping and uncoordinated.	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	The Coordination Committees meets in person every 6 month. It is co-chaired by the European Commission’s DG INTPA and one implementing partner on a rotating basis. A task force on visibility and communications fosters coordination and a sense of community among WYDE implementing partners. By aligning advocacy strategy and messaging, WYDE concentrates its efforts and maximizes its chances of success.
Political	Risk 7 - Lack of access of peace monitors, election observers or civil rights monitors	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	WYDE engages with local actors to boost citizen observation capacity and peer to-peer exchange of information. Lack of access would be circumvented by supporting the work by diaspora or cross-border networks, also taking inspiration from the “Supporting Democracy: a citizen program” proposed strategies to confront shrinking civic space.
Political	Risk 8 - Risk of politicisation/imbalance support (perception of partisan support or foreign interference)	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	WYDE implementation is entrusted to partners with demonstrated experience and sound methodology in providing cross-political party support in a balanced way.
Public Diplomacy	Risk 9 – Because of several layers of implementation and competition for visibility, end beneficiaries are losing sight of the EU as the main partner and cease to understand the WYDE as the EU’s flagship initiative for Youth and Democracy.	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	WYDE branding is adopted by all partners at all level of implementation. The European Commission’s DG INTPA co-lead Youth Democracy Cohort is the the crucible in which to build a sense of belonging to the same EU-friendly community enegaged for universal democratic values, whichever WYDE branch they come from.
Public Diplomacy - Security	Risk 10 – WYDE beneficiaries Democracy advocates are put at risk in countries where the EU is targeted by dis or misinformation and hostilily depicted.	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	When necessary, the program is able to dismiss EU visibility for security reasons or for better success of advocacy streams.

**Lessons learnt:**

A meta-evaluation of human rights & democracy thematic projects (2014-2021) was published in 2023. The evaluation looked at over 50 project evaluations, including in the field of ‘support to political parties’, and ‘domestic election observations’. The evaluation highlighted the relevance of EU support in often extremely difficult contexts to highly sensitive areas that are often ignored or underfunded by other development partners. It confirmed the need to maintain flexibility and responsiveness of EU support, and recommended to prioritise longer-term and iterative

interventions, consolidating significant results with sustained commitments. It also recommended to align interventions more effectively with political, electoral and social cycles.

**WYDE|Civic Engagement** got inspiration from previous successful projects on youth participation, notably under the EIDHR, and the many projects of schools of Democracy, schools of politics, citizen election observers funded by EU delegations at country level. It has also inherited the legacy of “Supporting Democracy: a citizen’s program.” Experience supporting civil rights activities under the EIDHR Human Rights Crises Facility and the complementary work of other donors and partner organisations feed into the design of the action. In the framework of Team Europe Democracy, working groups were set to exchange best practices that will feed into WYDE. Thanks to the ROM review conducted in 2024, the most impactful activities of the WYDE|civic engagement were identified, with inter alia: the accompanied small grants to local organisations and their work on policy, the global index on youth political participation, the Youth Democracy Cohort and the quick impact actions upon EU Delegation request.

Initiatives to increase young women's political participation could result in tokenism, where women are included in political roles only symbolically, without genuine power or influence. This can undermine the effectiveness of such investments and perpetuate the marginalization of women in politics. Focussing on meaningful participation and transformation such as through social norms change, as opposed to focus solely on representation, helps avoid such tokenism. WYDE is inheriting the experience of the previous EIDHR global call on the role of women in political party life which delivered three projects. It takes into account the lessons learnt gathered through “Get Involved! Morocco-Benin” where twinings between women politicians of the two countries were put in place, the challenges of the YWAP (Young Women in Active Politics) Malawi and the successes in overcoming political violence against women politicians in the Bolivia project (Strengthening Parity Democracy in Political Parties in Bolivia).

The programme component on Parliament will be the third iteration of inter pares, a successful team Europe approach where 31 EU Member States parliament chambers are joining their force with the EU to deliver peer-to-peer support to partner parliaments. The ROM review on WYDE|inter pares, delivered in summer 2024, revealed the compelling impact the project has on youth and women engagement by parliament. The 2024 WYDE handbook on advancing gender equality with and through parliaments gathered many success stories inspiring the activities to come with the program.

### 3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that by enhancing women and youth political participation and by strengthening parliaments, with a stronger focus on women and youth, more pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracies can be fostered around the world.

**WYDE|civic engagement** is raising awareness of the benefits of democracy and good governance amongst young people and in particular young women and supporting their active involvement in public affairs. The aim is to support initiatives that promote a better understanding of democracy and encourage young people to take on an active role in monitoring democratic processes. Some will dedicate themselves to a political career, through political movements and parties. Some others will gain active experience in the safe exercise of their civic rights by taking part in peaceful mass movements or protests. This will enable young people to deepen their understanding of democracy and its processes and their own place in it. By supporting the engagement of crossborder networks of young people it helps foster inclusiveness and a sense of universal citizenship.

**WYDE|Freedoms** also recognises that youth political participation is often done via non-formal and non-partisan forms, and encourages such movements, insofar as these are peaceful and democratic in respect of international human rights norms. Through doing this, this action leads to greater involvement of youth in different forms of political life, which will lead to more inclusive and representative democracies.

Through global evidence gathering, knowledge, networking and action, WYDE also advances women's leadership. The aim is to drive transformative change through the facilitation of high-level political networks and power discourses at global level, in cooperation with women politicians and leaders such as Ministers, Parliamentarians, and Senators. On one hand, **WYDE|women's leadership** supports networking of women in politics and already existing dialogue mechanisms on women's political participation at global, regional and local level to promote access to politics to women. On the other hand, it strengthens and improves access and exchange of knowledge, statistics disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible). Applying a transformative approach, specific actions are carried out to promote social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women's political participation. Awareness is raised on traditional gender roles, gender-based stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes on women's political participation, particularly VAW in politics.

In order to encourage parliaments to contribute towards a more pluralistic and inclusive democracy, WYDE supports strengthening their institutional capacities from within, in a peer-to-peer approach, through exchanges with EU MS parliaments, building upon the successful **WYDE|inter pares** model. The action also encourages parliament to perform better from without, by strengthening civil society's and youth's engagement with parliaments. A strong focus on women and youth will be ensured throughout.

This action will be implemented in a Team Europe approach, in complementarity with the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Democracy. This Action will ensure complementary, synergy and coordination with other EU and EU MS-funded programmes, both at country level as well as globally, notably with the thematic programme for Civil Society Organisations.

### 3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	To improve young people’s political participation worldwide	Global Youth Political participation index (GYPPI)	53.2 out of 100 in July 2024 (pilot index based on 10 countries)	55 out of 100 in July 2027 as a consolidated and established index (minimum 60 countries)	WYDE civic engagement created index and data (EPD)	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	1. Contribute to young people being better informed, networked and empowered on actively, safely and legally participating in civic activism and political office	Percentage of citizens who are satisfied with the way democracy works in their country, disaggregated by age (where available)	37% according to Afro-barometer (survey on 39 countries)  25% according to Latino-barómetro (survey on 18 countries)	40% according to Afro-barometer (survey on 39 countries)  27% according to Latino-barómetro (survey on 18 countries)	Data from Afro Barometer, Latinobarómetro, V-DEM, Asian Barometer.	World indicators on the state of Democracy continue to be made available.
<b>Outcome 2</b>	2. Strengthen women and girls political participation, incorporating their needs, interests, concerns, contributions and perspective into political life, without discrimination on any basis.	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (MIP indicator)*	27% in July 2024	30% at the end of this action.	Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database, Worldbank statistics.	IPU’s and WB’s indicators are still available.

<b>Outcome 3</b>	3. Contributing to Increasing the inclusivity, accountability and pluralism of parliaments, with a focus on women and youth participation.	Number of parliaments receiving support through EU-funded actions. (MIP indicator)*	23 partner parliaments since 2019 (cumulative)	44 partner parliaments at the end of the action (cumulative since 2019)	Inter pares reporting data cross with OPSYS data	EUMS National Parliaments keep on contributing with expertise.
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.1 Young people better informed and capacitated on how to engage in monitoring institutions and democratic processes including through domestic election observation	1.1 Number of young Domestic Electoral Observers receiving EU-funded trainings with increased knowledge and/or skills disaggregated by sex and gender (where latter is possible). (MIP indicator)*	1.1.1- 120 trainees cumulatively since 2023	1.1.1- 2000 trainees, cumulatively at the end of the action	1.1.1 Reports by WYDE civic engagement and similar EU-funded project, OPSYS data	Governments of partner countries are requesting or allowing the EU electoral support.
<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.2 Cross-border networks of young people active in politics are set up or reinforced to advocate for removing barriers to youth political participation	1.2 Number of members of CSOs working on youth inclusion trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on democracy, disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible).		1000 persons cumulatively, at the end of this action, min 40% women.	Youth Democracy Cohort website, reports by implementing partners.	
<b>Output 3 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.3 Enhanced capacity of young politicians and political representatives on advocating for youth issues and achieving positions of influence	1.3 Number of young candidates presented in elections by political parties, disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible).			Action progress reports	The selected implementing partners are operating according to a non-partisan or transpartisan approach.
<b>Output 4 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.4 Increased capacity of institutional, governmental, political, and non-partisan stakeholders in electoral and political processes, including multi-party systems, legal and financial frameworks, and women and youth representation and participation	1.4 Number of countries supported by the EU to conduct elections and/or improve their electoral process (GERF 2.26)	1.4- 40 countries since 2023	1.4- 50 countries at the end of the action	1.1.2 OPSYS Data	Governments of partner countries are requesting or allowing the EU electoral support.
<b>Output 5 related to Outcome 1</b>	1.5 Activists (especially youth) exercising their Freedoms of Association and Assembly are better equipped to claim their rights, stay safe and document violations of their rights.	1.5 Number of mass protest events accompanied or monitored with support of the EU-funded intervention			Documentation of mass protest events/reports on violations; Pre- and post-training test/survey reports	

<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 Networking of women in politics and already existing dialogue mechanisms on women's political participation at global, regional and local level to promote access to politics to women and young leaders is set in motion	2.1 Number of women and girls participating in the networking for women in politics and for new generations of women and girl activists with support of the EU-funded intervention				
<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 2</b>	2.2 Availability of data and analysis on women political participation is increased	2.2 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated with support of the EU-funded intervention to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making				
<b>Output 3 related to Outcome 2</b>	2.3 Social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women's political participation promoted	2.3.1 Number of people reached by campaigns to promote women's political participation in politics  2.3.2 Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on identification of hate speech, harassment and violence against women in politics, gender-based stereotypes and bias, online abuse and misogynist speech, disaggregated by sex				
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 Parliaments' capacities on key functions (representation, legislation, oversight, budget etc) are strengthened, with a focus on women and youth representation and participation	3.1 Number of inter pares partnerships	3.1 18 partnerships from 2019 to 2022	3.1	3.1.1 Action progress reports	Partner country parliament are involved and active in the demand-driven process of a partnership.

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1. Financing Agreement

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

### 4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

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

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

### 4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>16</sup>.

#### 4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **Objective 1 (Civic Engagement), outputs 1.2, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4**

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

The grant(s) will contribute to achieving Objective 1 (Civic Engagement), outputs 1.2, 1.2, 1.3 of the action.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

NGOs, foundations, public bodies, international organisations, non-for-profit organisations.

##### **(c) Justification of a direct grant**

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant(s) for any of the above objectives may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies selected using the following criteria:

- (i) global remit to support democracy;
- (ii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks and/or build partnership grassroots organisations;
- (iii) ability to promote and enhance EU's visibility;
- (iv) proven expertise and experience in the relevant field;
- (v) democracy support coverage through a comprehensive integrated approach, ranging from non-partisan support to youth political participation, to domestic election observation, to multi-party democracy and freedom of speech in the media;
- (vi) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the resort to an award of a grant without a call for proposals for the part of the Action related to **Objective 1 – Civic Engagement** is justified because the awarded beneficiary's compliance with the criteria above would place it in either a situation of "a de jure or de facto monopoly" (Article 198, point (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509) or that of "a

<sup>16</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation” (Article 198, point (f) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509).

#### **Objective 1 (Civic Engagement), output 1.4**

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

As a contribution to Objective 1 (Civic Engagement), output 1.4, part of the action may be implemented through Financial Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPAs) with global democracy support partners to promote women and youth inclusion in and enhance credibility of political and electoral processes in partner countries.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

NGOs, foundations, public bodies, international organisations, non-for-profit organisations.

#### **Objective 1 (Civic Engagement), output 1.5**

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

The grant(s) will contribute to achieving Objective 1 (Civic Engagement), outputs 1.5 of the action and may be implemented through the existing Financial Framework Partnership Agreements (FFPAs) for Freedoms of Assembly and Association.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

NGOs and Consortia of NGOs awarded as framework partners in the relevant existing FFPA.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the criteria defined in this section.

#### 4.3.2. Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria:

- (i) global remit to support democracy and gender equality;
- (ii) proven expertise and experience in women political participation,
- (iii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks;
- (iv) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work,
- (v) familiarity with EU project cycle management and EU financial and contractual procedures,
- (vi) ability and willingness to work closely with the EU in jointly steering the action as well as to promote and enhance EU visibility.

The implementation by this entity entails **Objective 2 – Women’s Leadership**.

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria:

- (i) global remit to support democracy;
- (ii) proven expertise and experience in parliamentary strengthening and/or political parties,
- (iii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks;
- (iv) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work,

- (v) familiarity with EU project cycle management and EU financial and contractual procedures,
- (vi) ability and willingness to work closely with the EU in jointly steering the action as well as to promote and enhance EU visibility.

The implementation by this entity entails **Objective 3 – Parliaments**.

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

If the above-mentioned implementation modalities cannot be implemented due to exceptional circumstances, the parts of this Action in indirect management may be replaced by direct management ; and the Parts of this Action in direct management may be replaced by indirect management with entrusted entities.

The implementation by an alternative entity would be justified because of the following criteria:

- (i) nature of the action requiring a degree of experience and expertise in the field of democracy support,
- (ii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks;
- (iii) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work,
- (iv) operational capacity and familiarity with EU project cycle management and EU financial and contractual procedures,
- (v) ability and willingness to work closely with the EU in jointly steering the action as well as to promote and enhance EU visibility.

In the event that direct management cannot be pursued due to factors beyond the Commission’s control, the implementation of the aforementioned activities in Section 4.3.1 would instead be carried out using the indirect management modality with an entrusted entity. This entity will be selected applying the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.

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

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

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.5. Indicative budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2025</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2026</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR) 2027</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3			
<b>Objective 1 – Civic engagement</b>			
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1		8 500 000	
<b>Objective 2 – Women’s Leadership</b>			

Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.3.2		4 000 000	
<b>Objective 3 – Parliaments</b>			
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.3.2		2 000 000	
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision		
<b>Totals</b>		<b>14 500 000</b>	

#### 4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

This action will be implemented in a Team Europe approach in complementarity with the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Democracy.

An overall **Coordination Committee** has been established to provide strategic guidance, ensure coordination among WYDE components and review overall implementation. It is co-chaired by the European Commission's DG INTPA and by one of the implementing partners on a rotational basis. It comprises the following members:

- EU institutions: European External Action Service (EEAS), European Parliament (EP) and other relevant European Commission departments and services
- Participating EU Member States
- Implementing partners

Each of the programme components may in turn have a Steering Committee to provide specific guidance and review implementation for the relevant component. It will be chaired by the European Commission's, will include the implementing partners and may comprise any other member considered relevant under each component.

Finally, each project, under each of the different components, may have an Implementation Task Forces (ITF) that will be in charge of overseeing the technical implementation of the Action on a regular basis, deciding on concrete activities. It will be chaired by the European Commission's DG INTPA and will comprise the relevant implementing partners.

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.

#### 4.7. Pre-conditions

N.A.

### 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 are responsible for data collection and feeding logframes using the appropriate digital tool put in place by the Commission’s services. Monitoring relies on three layers: implementing teams within each project, task managers and/or project officers at the Commission’s services, and ROM review teams contracted by the European Commission.

## 5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner. It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that this action is a flagship program implementing the Youth Action Plan of EU external actions.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners 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.

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

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

## 5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

# 6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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.