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ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Uzbekistan for 2024

Action Document for Digitalisation and Integration of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Uzbekistan

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the annual 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

<p>1. Title</p> <p>CRIS/OPSYS business reference</p> <p>Basic Act</p>	<p>Digitalisation and integration of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Uzbekistan</p> <p>OPSYS number: ACT-62831</p> <p>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)</p>
<p>2. Team Europe Initiative</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3. Zone benefiting from the action</p>	<p>The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Specific targeted activities will take place in Namangan and Samarkand regions.</p>
<p>4. Programming document</p>	<p>Multi-annual indicative program 2021-2027 for Uzbekistan.</p>
<p>5. Link with relevant MIPs objectives/expected results</p>	<p>Priority Area 2: Inclusive, digital and green growth.</p> <p>This priority area focuses on supporting a digital green transition, climate change, sustainable management of natural resources (including water stress), and promoting an investment friendly and gender responsive environment that can create green jobs, including by strengthening digital literacy and the application of science and technology in a market-led green transition.</p> <p>Additionally, the Action aligns with expected MIP results to improve and modernise the public sector with effective and accountable management and reduced levels of corruption so that it is capable to deliver quality public services through reforms and digitalisation initiatives (MIP Priority Area 1).</p> <p>Expected results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced understanding of needed regulatory and institutional reform governing territorial planning and urban regeneration; - Evidence-based policy regarding territorial development produced;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity to implement climate-sensitive and inclusive territorial planning improved; - Interoperable digital platform for geospatial data enhanced; - Systemic usage of geospatial data for urban sprawl management; - Capacity for evidence-based urban development management improved. 			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Areas, sectors	130 - Population policies/programmes and reproductive health; 151 - Government and civil society, general; 160 - Other social infrastructure and services; 220 - Communication; 240 - Banking and financial services; 250 - Business and other services; 321 - Industry; 323 - Construction; 410 - General environmental protection; 430 - Other multisector			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 11 Other significant SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10			
8 a) DAC codes	43030 Urban development and management (34%) 43060 Disaster Risk Reduction (33%) 74020 Multi-hazard response preparedness (33%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	40000 – Multilateral organisations			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/	
energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020130 Total estimated cost: EUR 6 780 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 6 780 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Uzbekistan's system for urban and rural land planning dates more than half a century back and is based on a governance structure in which the full planning process is done by central State actors with little involvement of citizens or the private sector, who make an increasing share of the investments. The Government is weak in its regulatory role as responsibilities are distributed over an array of different Ministries and Agencies, who generally do not wish to cooperate with each other. There are multiple data sets on ownership, use, utilities, etc. which are not (yet) integrated in a single national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI), although this is essential for effective and efficient planning. The Government also struggles to capture the value of state-owned land when being developed and is unable to set clear preconditions or enforce for what the private sector can and cannot do. Although construction on irrigated farm land is forbidden, it is common practice and linked to corruption.

Approximately 60% of the current building stock is unregulated (i.e. did not receive planning permission or was not recorded).

The Agency for Strategic Reforms under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (ASR) which plays a pivotal role in driving reforms and bringing different government entities together, reached out to the EU Delegation for support, in particular in relation to the regulatory framework and a National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The NSDI is defined as a “set of technologies, measures, standards, implementation rules, services, human resources and other factors enabling efficient integration, management and maintenance of the sharing of spatial data”. In the EU, each Member State has developed an NSDI, which is an integral part of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure defined by the INSPIRE Directive.

In line with Global Gateway, the proposed action aims to improve spatial development visioning and strategic planning, decentralise municipal governance and budgets and introduce a new generation of urban and rural plans adjusted to new sustainable and inclusive development patterns in Uzbekistan. The EU will support the Uzbek government in developing new integrated planning and management strategies and tools to leverage inter-institutional coordination, digitalisation and data-driven decision-making. Partnership with relevant ministries, international organisations and IFIs will be crucial for successful implementation. The impact will be the substantial contribution to balanced and inclusive regional urban and rural development, improved liveability, enhanced sustainability in urban and rural areas and reduced environmental hazards. The action will also address the involvement of citizens and civil society organisations in planning decisions, the need for adequate compensation in case of expropriation and forced eviction, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

The action will directly serve the development in Uzbekistan of the regional Global Gateway Flagship, the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC), which will benefit from an improved regulatory framework, planning processes, and data access. In addition, improved planning can have a catalyst effect for attracting key infrastructure and logistical services needed for the TCTC network across regions.

The Action will provide technical assistance for the following main components:

1. Reforming the regulatory and institutional framework governing the territorial planning system and securing future sustainable and inclusive urbanisation through medium and long-term strategic policy planning;
2. Supporting the utilisation of spatial data in the preparation of territorial plans and ensuring accessibility to a digitalised and integrated NSDI.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan, country included in the list of ODA recipients. Specific targeted activities will take place in Namangan and Samarkand regions.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Uzbekistan is a lower-middle-income, mineral-rich, doubly landlocked Central Asian country facing significant longer-term challenges in creating high-productivity employment and reducing the urban-rural gap in living standards, which have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. With over 36 million inhabitants, Uzbekistan has the largest and fast-growing population in Central Asia. Over the past decade, the country has maintained high and stable economic growth rates (at 6.1 percent on average), but its economic achievements have largely relied on a model driven by the state’s dominance in the economy, limited economic freedoms and a restricted private sector. According to Human Rights Watch, Uzbekistan’s human rights record deteriorated in 2023, with a notable increase in the harassment and prosecutions of bloggers and journalists, a persistent lack of justice for human rights abuses and changes to Uzbekistan’s constitution that allowed President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to stand for re-election in snap presidential elections in July. Promised legislative reforms were further stalled¹.

¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/uzbekistan>

In late 2016, Uzbekistan initiated a comprehensive economic and social reform program to address issues such as state dominance and insufficient citizen-centric policies. The 2017-2021 Government Development Strategy emphasised the adoption of market-oriented approaches, the promotion of macroeconomic stability, and the improvement of the business climate. Despite global uncertainties, Uzbekistan's structural reforms, including trade liberalisation and tax system changes, have helped to sustain economic growth. Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the country maintained a 1.9 percent growth in 2020, rebounding to 7.4 percent in 2021. However, geopolitical shocks in 2022, linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, presented new challenges, yet also led to an influx of migrants and increased remittances, boosting domestic demand, and contributing to a 5.7 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2022² and 6 percent in 2023³.

As Uzbekistan continues to pursue structural reforms and economic growth, ensuring the availability of accurate and comprehensive land and geospatial data will be crucial. A new national development strategy Uzbekistan 2030⁴ endorsed on 11 September 2023, sets the directions for the development of a "New Uzbekistan – a people's and humane nation". The strategy emphasises sustainable territorial development and urbanisation and green and citizen-centric municipal services among the priority areas for ensuring the welfare of the population through sustainable economic growth. As Uzbekistan urbanises, and its cities grow, the country can reap substantial development benefits, such as opportunities for advancing private sector-led growth, innovation, productivity, jobs, and well-being. However, to achieve this and to address spatial inequalities, Uzbekistan needs to reform key systems that shape regions and cities, with land and geospatial sector reforms and modernisation being central among them. The way Uzbek regions develop, and cities grow will have implications on how they consume natural resources and how susceptible they will be to future resource constraints and vulnerabilities to climate change and disasters. Shifting towards more sustainable practices and inclusive development that increase the country's resilience requires more balanced growth across regions, more compact urban growth, and optimisation of land use, supported by robust land administration and management systems and informed by geospatial data analysis enabled by a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)⁵.

Climate change poses immediate risks to Uzbekistan's economic progress and urbanisation. Uzbekistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in Europe and Central Asia. It is at high risk for several climate-related threats and natural disasters, including high risk exposure to earthquakes, droughts, wildfires, floods, heat waves, landslides, and other dangerous phenomena. It is estimated that in Uzbekistan the average annual loss from earthquakes is US\$ 1.1 billion and from floods US\$ 633 million⁶. Mitigation and adaptation efforts are critical to address these challenges. Rapid urbanisation and population growth will further exacerbate the risks and challenges associated with disaster management and urban resilience. Urban resilience is a critical issue in Uzbekistan given the country's vulnerabilities to various natural hazards and climate change. The Government of Uzbekistan has recognised the importance of enhancing resilience particularly in urban areas and has taken several measures to strengthen disaster preparedness and response, improve infrastructure, and promote sustainable territorial and urban development. These measures include the development of national policies and strategies on disaster risk reduction such as the establishment of a national emergency management agency, and the promotion of community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives, such as the implementation of water conservation practices and technologies in farming and the use of climate-resilient crops. However, there is still much work to be done to enhance resilience in Uzbekistan, particularly in terms of land management, territorial planning and ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of policies and strategies along with strengthening institutional capacity and coordination.

While Uzbekistan has experienced remarkable economic growth, spatial inequalities persist with a significant gap in income and the provision of services and infrastructure between regions. This disparity is further exacerbated by an urban-rural divide, with employment opportunities concentrated in big urban centers. This is attributed to limitation in internal migration, higher cost of living in urban areas, and a mismatch of skill sets with urban

²<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/12/21/pr23472-uzbekistan-imf-staff-concludes-staff-visit#:~:text=%E2%80%9C%20Uzbekistan's%20economy%20has%20demonstrated%20remarkable,of%205.7%20percent%20in%202022.>

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uzbekistan/overview#economy>

⁴ https://gov.uz/en/pages/2030_strategy/

⁵ NSDI is a foundational framework crucial for addressing societal and environmental challenges while supporting diverse applications across sectors. An established system aims to facilitate seamless data development, information sharing, and collaborative data-driven decision making across multiple sectors of the economy, in areas like infrastructure asset management, urban planning, environmental monitoring, disaster management, and public service optimisation.

⁶ Earthquakes and Flood Risk Assessment in Central Asia (GFDRR, www.gfdr.org).

employment opportunities. Tashkent dominates the urban hierarchy and hosts much stronger urban economic activities and quality of urban infrastructure than all other cities.

Uneven territorial development is further exacerbated by rapid urban growth in Uzbekistan which generates a new set of challenges resulting in significant pressure on land. In the past 30 years, the country has experienced a significant demographic shift from predominantly rural to increasingly urban living, with over 50 percent of the population now residing in urban areas. As migration restrictions ease, rural-to-urban migration is expected to rise further, intensifying the demand for housing and land⁷. This growth has been and continues to be largely spontaneous and unmanaged, leading to increased vulnerability to climate change and disasters and unmet needs for infrastructure and services, which hampers residents' quality of life, diminishes cities' attractiveness to investors and limits job creation.

Gender inequality is holding back Uzbekistan's development potential. The 2022 Global Gender Development Index, which measures gaps in human development outcomes in health, knowledge and living standards, ranks Uzbekistan 106th out of 189 countries. In 2019, a Law on Gender Equality was passed, and in 2021 the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in Uzbekistan in 2020-2030 was adopted. These include guarantees of equal opportunities for women and men, non-discrimination provisions, equal access to public services, promotion of equal participation in state affairs and improved access to economic opportunities for women. Nevertheless, there are significant gender inequalities in the decision-making processes and meetings of local communities. The struggle with economic inequality between women and men is particularly acute in the labour market. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), women's participation in the labour force fell from 50 per cent in 2010 to 45 per cent in 2021⁸.

The officially reported number of persons with disabilities - 2.1 per cent of the population - is likely to be an underestimate, as an estimated 16 per cent of the world's population has some form of disability and around 80 per cent of them live in developing countries. While the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2020) is a significant step forward, it is largely based on the medical model of disability, does not address the civil and political rights of persons with disabilities, lacks enforcement, implementation and monitoring mechanisms, and does not address the multiple forms of discrimination faced by women and girls with disabilities and persons belonging to marginalized and invisible groups⁹.

The proposed action is expected to lay down the basis for possible Global Gateway infrastructure projects by aiming to improve spatial development visioning and strategic planning, decentralise municipal governance and budgets and introduce a new generation of urban and rural plans adjusted to the new sustainable development patterns. New integrated planning and management strategies that leverage inter-institutional coordination, digitalisation and data-driven decision-making will be introduced. Supporting government efforts in digitalising the NSDI and using earth observation, the Action will link in with the Global Gateway TEI Flagship on Digital Connectivity. Domestically, the action fits into the goals set out by President Mirziyoev in the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy.

2.2 Problem Analysis

⁷ Sivaev, D., Kamilov I., Rossitti G., Orlova, N., Vaggione 2022, P. The Time is Now: How Can Uzbekistan Leverage Urbanization as a Driver of Sustainable Development? Washington, DC: World Bank.

⁸ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099052824010093257/pdf/P1756961bcc2a50811a9d21c373fd390418.pdf>

⁹ https://unprpd.org/situational_analysis/?wpv-document-category=situational-analysis&wpv-country=uzbekistan&wpv_aux_current_post_id=1274&wpv_aux_parent_post_id=1274&wpv_view_count=1610

Current reform efforts aimed at addressing spatial development, enhancing urban competitiveness, productivity, and livability in line with the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy are unlikely to succeed without utilising spatial data for an evidence-based reform process. Recent initiatives to promote land development and ease labor mobility constraints could lead to poorly coordinated urban expansion, informal sprawl, and encroachment on agricultural land, resulting in costly long-term consequences if complete and accurate cadastral and other geospatial data are not available. Similarly, urban renovation based on planning that ignores actual land uses can cause inefficient growth, high infrastructure costs, social risks and increased vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, thereby undermining economic development.

Uzbekistan is at a critical point in its development trajectory, where the current urbanisation trend will significantly impact its sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change and resource constraints. The present pattern of urban growth, characterised by sprawl and inefficient land use, challenges resource consumption, infrastructure provision, and equitable access to services. Addressing these issues requires a shift towards more compact urban development, supported by robust land administration systems, informed by geospatial data analysis and carried out in consultation with the population to ensure that their diverse needs are taken into account. It is particularly important to involve women and people with disabilities to address equity and accessibility in urban planning..

The urgency of sustainable, inclusive urbanisation is underscored by Uzbekistan's vulnerability to climate change, with high exposure to a range of climate-related threats and natural disasters. Mitigation and adaptation efforts are imperative to safeguard economic progress and human well-being. The government's commitment to equitable and sustainable urban development, as outlined in the Uzbekistan 2030 strategy, presents a clear vision for fostering resilient, citizen-centric cities. However, realising this vision necessitates comprehensive reforms, including the development of the urban land market, enhancement of city planning, and improvement of resilient infrastructure and land administration systems. As well as, increasing participation and consultation of local communities and their representatives.

While urbanisation has been a catalyst for economic growth and job creation in Uzbekistan, the prevailing pattern of sprawl undermines the potential benefits of agglomeration and exacerbates challenges such as traffic congestion and inadequate infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires a paradigm shift in urban planning, away from outdated Soviet-era approaches towards more inclusive, context-sensitive strategies that prioritise sustainability and inclusivity. Strengthening local government capacity, enhancing transparency and promoting citizen's participation in the urban planning process are essential steps towards fostering adaptive, accessible, safe and resilient cities capable of navigating the complexities of contemporary urbanisation.

A key issue to be addressed is accessibility. Current legislation provisions on accessibility which pertain mainly to the physical accessibility of public infrastructure are not effectively enforced. Lack of understanding of universal design-based accessibility, lack of enforcement and dissuasive sanctions and failure to consistently include organisations of persons with disabilities in the development, implementation and monitoring of standards have been identified as challenges. Despite the theoretical existence of sanctions for failure to provide barrier-free access to buildings, transport and information and communication technologies since 2008 (Law on Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities), up to 85% of infrastructures in the capital city Tashkent remain inaccessible due to absence of concrete enforcement mechanisms. The 2020 Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities addresses these only partly. On the one hand, it states in Article 9 that accessibility for persons with disability must be ensured 'on an equal basis with others, and demands in Article 23 that organisations of persons with disabilities be involved in the standardisation work and quality control of new infrastructures. The disability community has long called for the adoption of a nationwide programme on accessible environment, complete with measurable objectives and indicators and an earmarked budget¹⁰.

In addition, implementing NSDI can play a crucial role in supporting a shift to a more compact, inclusive, and sustainable growth model. NSDI implementation supports countries, cities, and regions in transitioning to digital economies and services, creating socio-economic value by enhancing citizen services, informing evidence-based government decisions, and advancing digital transformation initiatives. It allows governments to offer better service provision through e-government and online platforms, reducing costs, stimulating private sector growth, and generating jobs. It is integral for environmental monitoring, transportation logistics, and other governmental functions. Availability of geospatial data and the promotion of data sharing and evidence-based planning and decision-making will also enhance disaster risk management and resilience to climate change. Critical to this

infrastructure is the ability to geospatially locate a nation's assets on accessible digital platforms – land, natural resources, and infrastructure – facilitating effective asset management crucial for development planning and climate change mitigation.

Uzbekistan has made some progress in implementing the NSDI. The government has adopted a forward-looking agenda to facilitate transparent and efficient sharing of geospatial data among various actors. In 2021, the Law No. ZRU-702 established the foundation for the NSDI, governing its implementation to support regional planning, land use, forest and water resource management, and more. The 2022 Presidential Resolution No. PP-405 further clarified the roles of the Cadastre Agency and other key actors, set targets and indicators for monitoring progress until 2026, and identified necessary investments and spatial data standards. Despite these advancements, challenges remain in fully establishing an NSDI in Uzbekistan and making geospatial data accessible. A lack of data-sharing culture has led to data silos and duplication, with decision-making often based on incomplete information. While some institutions have created standalone geoportals, a common standard for data specifications and services is absent, leading to data held in various formats and systems, which hampers sharing and usability. Many geospatial data sets still use the SK-42 coordinate system¹¹, limiting open use and interoperability. Data sharing frequently relies on physical media or File Transfer Protocol sites, resulting in multiple versions and redundant efforts. There is currently no overarching technical architecture for an NSDI in Uzbekistan, nor a comprehensive understanding of technology and human resource needs among relevant agencies.

Due to its overarching and comprehensive nature, the Action has a wide range of stakeholders including: Ministry of Economy and Finance, Cadastre Agency, Ministry of Construction, Housing and Communal Services, Ministry of Justice and Agency for Strategic Reform, amongst others, such as those that cover persons with disabilities, childhood and women.

The interventions under this Action will focus on government agencies performing back office functions in service delivery, regional and local governments in target regions, as well as other subordinated or contracted providers of public services, as well as communities and community-based organisations (NGOs, volunteer groups, community groups and women).

The Action will consult and encourage participation of communities, individual citizens and their representatives (particularly associations representing women and persons with disabilities) in pilot regions. Cooperation with and participation of central, regional, and local authorities and agencies and their staff will be also encouraged. The conclusions of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate Housing following his mission to Uzbekistan in August 2024 will be also taken into account.¹²

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to improve availability of geospatial data to support climate-resilient, inclusive territorial planning in Uzbekistan.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

- 1.1 Enhance the regulatory and institutional framework governing territorial planning;
- 1.2 Expand and mainstream the usage and analysis of spatial data for sustainable and inclusive territorial development and urbanisation.

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

¹⁰https://unprpd.org/situational_analysis/?wpv-document-category=situational-analysis&wpv-country=uzbekistan&wpv_aux_current_post_id=1274&wpv_aux_parent_post_id=1274&wpv_view_count=1610

¹¹ The SK-42 reference system, also known as the Krasovsky 1940 ellipsoid, is a coordinate system established in the Soviet Union and provides parameters, which are linked to the geocentric Cartesian coordinate system PZ-90 defined for use in the GLONASS system operated by the Russian Defence Forces.

¹² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/08/uzbekistan-urbanization-must-not-trample-constitution-and-human-rights>

- 1.1 Enhanced understanding of needed regulatory and institutional reform governing territorial planning and urban regeneration;
- 1.2 Improved evidence-based policy regarding territorial development;
- 1.3 Reinforced capacity to implement climate-sensitive and inclusive territorial planning;

- 2.1 Enhanced interoperable digital platform for geospatial data;
- 2.2 Systemic usage of geospatial data for urban sprawl management;
- 2.3 Improved capacity for evidence-based urban development management.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Output 1.1

The Output 1 will focus on enhancing the regulatory and institutional framework governing territorial planning. This will involve a comprehensive policy review and legal and institutional analysis of existing primary and secondary legislation related to territorial planning and management. Through policy advising, reform recommendations to address immediate bottlenecks while also addressing long-term systemic challenges in territorial planning in Uzbekistan. In addition to delivering comprehensive analytical work, activities will combine various instruments such as advisory support, round table and policy dialogues, as well as regular check-ins. Efforts will be centered on implementing sectoral reforms that make territorial planning more aligned with the country's economic and urban growth, well-being, and prosperity, ensuring practices adhere to best international standards. Attention will be paid to the consultation and involvement of communities and their representatives, in particular women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Relevant activities:

1. Development of a policy note on the regulatory and institutional framework governing territorial planning based on the review of legal and policy documentation.
2. Based on the results of the policy note, development of an action plan for transforming the institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing territorial planning. This plan will address areas for improvement and alignment of national territorial planning systems with best practices, ensuring they support efficient and effective land use, territorial development and mainstreaming of climate resilience and inclusive actions.
3. Support and organisation of round table discussions with the different stakeholders involved in territorial planning. They may include national ministries as well as local governments, CSOs and local communities' representatives (specially youth, women and person with disabilities)

Output 1.2

Based on the assessment and action plan, this output intends to support the preparation and implementation of Territorial Development Strategies.

Relevant activities:

1. Preparation of a National Development Strategy including actions to enhance urban regeneration, climate resilience, encroachment on rural land and spatial inequality.
2. Preparation of 2 regional Territorial Development Strategies.
3. Support feasibility studies for urban regeneration and/or climate-resilient and inclusive investments.
4. Organisation of round table discussions and workshops to validate and present the results. Involving state and non-state actors and community representatives.
5. Establishment of a framework for monitoring territorial development based on geospatial data and other indicators.

Output 1.3

This output focuses on enhancing the abilities of relevant stakeholders to improve territorial planning processes while effectively integrating climate considerations. The goal is to equip local government officials, urban planners, and other key actors with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to design and implement planning

strategies that are sustainable, inclusive and resilient to climate variability and change. Activities will include targeted training sessions and the establishment of best practices that address inclusivity, climate risks and sustainability. By improving the capacity for climate-sensitive planning, this output aims to ensure that urban and rural development efforts are sustainable, environmentally sound, and aligned with national and international climate adaptation and mitigation goals. Activities will also focus on not only reducing the gender gap in the sector and promote training and boosting opportunities for women to work in territorial planning, but also to ensure that women's needs and priorities are reflected in territorial planning. Inclusion of persons with disabilities will be also encouraged. Lastly, activities will also support the development of partnerships with local academic institutions to enhance the offerings for educational programs to develop the country's capacity to form urban planners.

Relevant activities:

1. Creation and implementation of a series of training modules focused on modern territorial planning techniques, legal frameworks, and best practices.
2. Implementation of strategies to specifically encourage the participation of women and persons with disabilities in all training and capacity-building activities.
3. Development of specialised trainings aimed at empowering women and persons with disabilities with leadership skills in the field of territorial planning.
4. Establishment of a programme aimed at building partnerships between universities and governmental bodies focused on territorial planning.
5. Development of a network of mentorships and internships involving state and non-state actors to facilitate knowledge transfer and practical experience in territorial planning.

Output 2.1

Activities will support the collection and analysis of relevant spatial data to inform the development of territorial plans at the national, regional and local levels. They will also improve the access to the NSDI through digitalisation and integration of datasets for integrated asset management.

Relevant activities:

1. Provision of technical support on the development of NSDI architecture, focusing on standards for data accessibility, interoperability, and integration. Interventions will draw on EU standards and experience and offer dedicated support to local municipal offices and line ministries such as the Ministry of Transport.
2. Collaboration with EU experts to provide recommendations for the development of a user-friendly geoportal that integrates various datasets, making them accessible and interoperable. This portal will serve as a central resource for climate-sensitive territorial planning.
3. Provision of technical support to selected municipalities on how to standardise data collection and preparation of a roadmap to improve data ecosystem locally for the purposes of creating a municipal spatial data infrastructure.
4. Organisation of seminars, workshops, study tours where EU specialists can share insights and best practices related to spatial data standardisation, geoportal functionality, and climate-sensitive inclusive planning strategies.

Output 2.2

This output aims to refine the regulatory and institutional frameworks governing the integration and utilisation of geospatial data for urban planning and sprawl management. The focus will be on identifying and addressing gaps in the current system to better support effective land use and control of urban expansion, in line with global best practices and climate resilience objectives.

Relevant activities:

1. Production of a detailed policy note that evaluates the current regulatory and institutional framework for geospatial data, focusing on the integration, operationalisation and utilisation of geospatial data in managing urban sprawl.
2. Following the insights gained from the policy note, formulation of an action plan aimed at transforming the institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks. This plan will pinpoint improvements necessary for effective

land use and urban sprawl management, aligning with best international practices and enhancing the mainstreaming of climate resilience and inclusive actions.

3. Organisation of roundtable discussions and policy dialogues involving key stakeholders such as national ministries and local governments. These discussions will focus on the practical application of geospatial data in urban planning and sprawl management, aiming to foster collaborative approaches and informed decision-making.

Output 2.3

This output aims to bolster the capabilities of urban development professionals and relevant stakeholders in utilising geospatial data for evidence-based decision-making. The activities are designed to enhance skills, promote inclusivity, and foster collaboration across different sectors, focusing on improving urban planning processes and effective management of urban sprawl. Activities will draw on EU expertise and INSPIRE guideline as much as and whenever possible.

Relevant activities:

1. Development and delivery of comprehensive training programmes and certification courses on geospatial data application in urban planning. These programmes will target professionals at all levels and include specialised initiatives to increase women's participation in this field.
2. Organisation of a variety of events such as workshops, seminars, and an annual conference to facilitate knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration among urban planners, geospatial experts, and other stakeholders.
3. Establishment and strengthening of partnerships between state and non-state actors, including educational institutions, government bodies, non-government organisations, and private companies to enhance educational programmes and practical applications of geospatial data in urban development.
4. Development of assessments to identify barriers for women in the field and delivery of targeted actions to promote gender equality and leadership by women in geospatial data and urban planning roles.

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 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 no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

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 considerations will be embedded whenever possible, including integrating gender-responsive enhancements to regulatory and policy frameworks, provision of e-government services and provision of capacity development support. Therefore, capacity development and awareness raising activities will address specific needs of women with regards to territorial planning strategies and usage/accessibility of geospatial data through the geoportals. Advancement of women in public administration on the principles of “strong consideration if not outright preferential treatment” or “affirmative action” will be in the focus of discussions initiated with national partners, with the possibility of further implementation, including through the inclusion in the relevant trainings of topics related to gender-legal expertise and gender sensitivity. Moreover, the action will contribute to the GAP

III areas of women's socio-economic rights by promoting women's participation in territorial planning, as well as green transition and digitalisation.

Human Rights

The proposed Action is designed to promote sustainable and resilient territorial planning with a rights-based approach, aimed at advancing the basic, social, and economic rights of citizens, including in rural areas. This includes a focus on groups in situation of vulnerability such as women, children, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The initiative will integrate participatory planning systems within local governments to ensure that territorial development strategies effectively meet the most critical needs of these populations. Special attention will be paid to the inclusion of women, children, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities in rural and remote areas when preparing territorial development action plan and strategies. This inclusive, rights-based approach is central to the Action, ensuring that activities are equitable and supportive of the community's most vulnerable members, while promoting sustainability and resilience in territorial planning processes.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the Action has been screened for disability inclusion, with disability as a significant objective of the action. Geospatial data and sustainable territorial planning significantly enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities by improving accessibility and safety. By utilising geospatial data, planners can identify and address barriers in public spaces, transportation, and building access, ensuring that all areas are navigable and barrier-free. This data also aids in optimising the placement and accessibility of essential public services like healthcare and education, reducing travel barriers for those with mobility challenges. In emergency situations, geospatial analysis is crucial for mapping out safe evacuation routes and accessible shelters, enhancing disaster preparedness for vulnerable groups. Furthermore, these tools support data-driven advocacy, providing concrete evidence to push for policies and resources that address the specific needs of people with disabilities. Overall, by integrating these approaches into urban development, cities can become more inclusive, allowing people with disabilities to participate fully in community life. The inclusion of people with disabilities and/or their representatives will be encouraged in all activities. Their priorities and needs will be taken into account when reviewing policies and planning.

Reduction of inequalities

As per Inequality Marker, this action is labelled as I-1. This means that inequality reduction is a significant objective of this Action. In Uzbekistan, the government's strong commitment to ongoing reforms faces significant challenges, including increasing inter-regional inequalities and a stark urban-rural poverty gap. With nearly half of the population residing in rural areas, the nation struggles to efficiently tackle gender-based inequalities and the urban-rural divide while striving to provide employment for a rapidly growing youth demographic. Utilising geospatial data and sustainable territorial planning offers a strategic approach to these issues. Geospatial data enables the precise identification and targeting of underdeveloped regions, allowing for tailored investments and projects that specifically meet the needs of these areas. This data-driven approach helps in pinpointing rural locations lacking in essential services such as healthcare and education, thereby guiding the strategic placement of these services to bridge the urban-rural divide. Furthermore, geospatial analysis facilitates the identification of potential areas for economic activities, aligning development with local strengths, which can stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities, particularly for the youth. Additionally, mapping areas with specific challenges faced by women can direct initiatives to enhance access to resources and opportunities, addressing gender inequalities effectively. Managing resources sustainably and ensuring environmental protection are crucial, particularly for rural communities dependent on natural resources, thereby preventing development from leading to environmental degradation. Improved transportation networks that connect rural and urban areas can also enhance access to markets and services, reducing regional disparities. Incorporating geospatial data into Uzbekistan's development strategy supports evidence-based policymaking, enabling the creation of more equitable and directly targeted policies to reduce inequalities. By harnessing detailed geospatial analysis and sustainable planning principles, the government can promote equitable growth and improve the quality of life across both urban and rural communities.

Democracy

The proposed action is set to strategically bolster democracy, human rights, civil society organisations and efforts toward stability, sustainable urban and territorial growth while simultaneously strengthening Uzbekistan's

democratic institutions. Specifically, this initiative will overhaul the institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks of national and local government agencies involved in territorial and urban planning as well as managing geospatial data, thus enhancing government transparency, combating corruption, and bridging the gap between the state and its citizens. This transformation will actively involve civil society and ordinary citizens in the decision-making process, thereby promoting a more participatory democracy.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The proposed action is designed to incorporate conflict sensitivity across all activities to enhance peace in areas vulnerable to social tensions and conflicts. By addressing key underlying causes of conflict such as exclusion, inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change, the action aims to have a positive, indirect impact. The outputs of the action will tackle these issues in a coherent and comprehensive manner, ensuring that efforts to stabilise fragile regions are both effective and sustainable.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Geospatial data and sustainable territorial planning are vital in enhancing disaster risk reduction in Uzbekistan. By accurately mapping and assessing risk zones for natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, these tools guide strategic infrastructure development and ensure that building standards are met to withstand potential disasters. They facilitate the optimal placement and resilience of essential infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and emergency facilities, incorporating environmentally sound practices and adhering to rigorous safety regulations. Additionally, geospatial analysis aids in effective emergency response and resource allocation, prioritising high-risk areas for disaster preparedness measures and community education. It also supports long-term adaptation strategies that address the impacts of climate change, ensuring that development plans are sustainable and resilient. Through community engagement and environmental management, these planning tools play a crucial role in mitigating disaster impacts and enhancing public safety and awareness.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1-External environment	Risk 1. Possible reluctance of government institutions, motivated by self-preservation and institutional inertia, to adopt the policy recommendations generated by the Action	Low	High	This risk will be addressed through targeted advocacy and communication of the interlinked nature of the governance issues and importance of adopting a holistic approach to the overall reform process. To overcome this resistance, the Action will engage the Presidential Administration to advance the difficult change management processes.
3 – People and organisation	Risk 2. Low absorption capacity of the government to bring forward the proposed changes and innovations	Low	Medium	The risk will be mitigated through prioritisation building human and technical capacities of the national partners in critical areas of the NSDI.
4 – legality and regularity aspects	Risk 3. Lack of clarity, adequacy and coherence of applicable laws, regulations and rules	Low	Medium	The Action will put in place clear mechanisms and established protocols accompanied by continuous monitoring of the processes.

	<p>leading to mismanagement or even fraud</p> <p>Risk 4. Objections from the security apparatus to data sharing and amending existing legislation in this regard</p>	Medium	High	<p>This risk will be addressed through targeted advocacy and communication of the importance data sharing to the effective use of spatial data. To overcome this resistance, the Action will engage the Presidential Administration and the Ministry of Interior.</p>
5 – Communication and information	<p>Risk 5. The low public awareness about their rights, benefits and opportunities decreases public demand for the reforms</p>	Medium	Medium	<p>The Action will develop and agree with stakeholders and beneficiaries of a comprehensive communications strategy, including dedicated information campaigns aimed at public awareness using all available means of communication.</p> <p>The action will proactively reach out to communities and their representatives, inviting them to express their priorities and needs. This is particularly important for those who are usually less represented in decision-making (children, young people, women and people with special needs).</p>

Lessons Learnt:

Previous interventions experience shows that a participatory design process and associated common vision are crucial to ensure ownership and impact of reform programmes. Hence, this proposed Action shall be based on extensive, direct consultations with the national partners and international partners active, fully aligned with their priorities and built around commonly agreed areas of work. The coherence of policies and programmes is crucial to ensure the transformative change. It is therefore vital that all stakeholders are brought together sharing a common vision. Ongoing public administration reforms and constantly changing functions and roles are a major common risk for the implementation of the action. However, the involvement of the Presidential Administration as the common denominator will ensure a strong political will and a solid high level decision-making base that will help make timely adjustments, maximise the sustainability of the results and mark the irreversibility of the reforms.

Other pre-conditions for achieving overall and specific objectives of the proposed action include strong political will (expressed in support from the Presidential Administration), professional and technical capacity of the national back-office, central, regional and local government and regulatory institutions’ staff, but also committed and active CSOs, including those focusing on women empowerment and disability rights.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that **IF** needs assessment and thorough review of the legal and policy documents essential for the regulatory and institutional reforms to support sustainable territorial development is conducted in line with international standards; and critical draft laws and other normative documents to facilitate urban sprawl management aligned with international standards are developed based on the results of the needs assessment, functional analyses and review of the legislation; and national strategic policy documents on territorial development are advanced in line with the international standards to ensure that the ongoing national policy is strategic in nature, reflects long term, multidimensional vision with a view of coordinating national action, and this ecosystem will be duly implemented and enforced **THEN** full-fledged legal and institutional reforms to enhance the availability of geospatial data, develop evidence-based policy, and support climate-resilient territorial planning will be developed and implemented with mainstreaming gender equality, inclusiveness, rural development and climate resilience.

IF full-fledged legal and institutional reforms to create a solid geospatial data infrastructure in the country are developed and implemented and enabling e-government systems and tools are extended at the regional and local levels, **THEN** data-driven decision-making, in line with best international practices, will be improved, planning capacities and asset management of the regional and local government authorities will be strengthened, and more dynamic transformations in the regions of Uzbekistan will be deployed.

IF national administrative and people serving policy, legal and institutional frameworks are improved in line with best international practices with mainstreaming, gender equality, and climate resilience; integrity capacities of the regional and local government authorities are strengthened and more dynamic digital transformations in the regions of Uzbekistan deployed; as well as civic engagement are enhanced in society, **THEN** the strategic, long-term and multi-dimensional administrative reforms in the Republic of Uzbekistan will be promoted which are solid, comprehensive, effective, inclusive and fully integrated into national, regional and local development agendas, leading to the empowerment of all citizens, to enjoy equal opportunities for human development.

IF technical assistance on how to conduct impact assessments, how to systematise and streamline regulatory frameworks and how to establish a modern inventory of technical regulations is delivered **THEN** the government will be able to create a high-quality and compact system of normative and technical regulations.

BECAUSE, in this way, the full operation of the system of checks and balances is ensured, the legislative production and archiving is systematised and accessible by the population where progressive, democratic legislation that takes into account the interests of all sections of society ensures complete public control of an active, capable civil society over the state, preventing all manifestations of bureaucracy especially in those strata and geographically distant regions, where the most vulnerable segments of the population live and work, preventing them from being left behind.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

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 improve availability of geospatial to support climate-resilient territorial planning in Uzbekistan.	1. Number of climate-resilient territorial plans at the national, city and regional levels informed by spatial data. 2. Number of people accessing the NSDI geoportal	1: 0 (2024) 2: 0 (2024)	1: 3 (2028) 2: 200,000 (2028)	1: Government reports 2: Government /Cadastré Agency reports	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Regulatory and institutional framework governing territorial planning enhanced	1.1. Number of regulatory/institutional reforms to enhance governmental decisions	1.1: 0 (2024)	1.1: 4 (2028)	1.1: Government /Cadastré Agency reports	Strong political will supporting implementation of Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy
Outcome 2	2. Usage and analysis of spatial data for sustainable and inclusive territorial development and urbanization expanded	2.1. Number of geospatial data use cases	2.1: 0 (2024)	2.1: 5 (2028)	2.1: Government /Cadastré Agency reports	Strong political will supporting implementation of Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy as well as cooperation from line ministries
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1. Enhanced understanding of needed regulatory and institutional reform governing territorial planning and urban regeneration	1.1.1 Number of policy documents produced 1.1.2 Number of events/roundtables/policy dialogue meetings to discuss the regulatory and institutional reform	1.1.1: 0 (2024) 1.1.2: 0 (2024)	1.1.1: 3 (2028) 1.1.2: 4 (2028)	1.1.1: Annual programme reports 1.1.2: Annual programme reports	Strong political will supporting implementation of Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Evidence-based policy regarding territorial development produced	1.2.1 Number of Territorial Development Strategy produced 1.2.2 Number of Territorial planning policy dialogues supported	1.2.1: 0 (2024) 1.2.2: 0 (2024) 1.2.3: 0 (2024)	1.2.1: 3 (1 national + 2 regional pilots) (2028)	1.2.1: Government reports 1.2.2: Annual	Strong political will supporting implementation of Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy

		<p>1.2.3 Number of cities taking actions to enhance urban regeneration, spatial inequality reduction and/or mainstreaming climate resilience and accessibility</p> <p>1.2.4 Number of identification and/or feasibility studies for urban regeneration, spatial inequality reduction and/or climate-resilient and inclusive investments prepared</p> <p>1.2.5. Framework for monitoring territorial development established</p>	<p>1.2.4. 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.2.5. 0 (2024)</p>	<p>1.2.2: 8 (2028)</p> <p>1.2.3: 2 (2028)</p> <p>1.2.4: 2 (2028)</p> <p>1.2.5: 1 (2028)</p>	<p>programme reports</p> <p>1.2.3: Government reports</p> <p>1.2.4: Annual programme reports</p> <p>1.2.5: Government reports</p>	
<p>Output 3 relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.3. Capacity to implement climate-sensitive, inclusive territorial planning improved</p>	<p>1.3.1. Number of officials receiving trainings on territorial planning/development, disaggregated by sex and disability status Number of women in attendance</p> <p>1.3.2. Number of meetings, trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. organised and number of participants, disaggregated by sex and disability status.</p> <p>1.3.3. Number of partnerships between state and non-state actors in Uzbekistan to enhance territorial planning education</p>	<p>1.3.1. 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.3.2. 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.3.3. 0 (2024)</p>	<p>1.3.1. 120 (2028)</p> <p>1.3.2. 20% (2028)</p> <p>1.3.3 8 (2028)</p>	<p>1.3.1: Annual programme reports</p> <p>1.3.2: Annual programme reports</p> <p>1.3.3: Annual programme reports and Government reports</p>	<p>Strong political will and resources available supporting the implementation of the capacity development interventions and initiatives</p>
<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.1 Interoperable digital platform for geospatial data enhanced</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of data standards related to NSDI supported</p> <p>2.1.4 Number of agencies/institutions at the national</p>	<p>2.1.1: 0 (2024)</p> <p>2.1.2: 0 (2024)</p>	<p>2.1.1: 5 (2028)</p> <p>2.1.2: 3 (2028)</p>	<p>2.1.1 Government reports</p>	<p>Strong political will supporting implementation of Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy</p>

		and subnational levels (local/ministries) with supported data standardization			2.1.2 Government reports	as well as cooperation from line ministries and local governments
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Systemic usage of geospatial data for urban sprawl management	2.2.1 Number of legal assessments on the regulatory and institutional governing urban sprawl 2.2.2 Number of meetings, trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. organised on urban sprawl management and number of participants (disaggregated by sex and disability status)	2.2.1: 0 (2024) 2.2.2: 0 (2024)	2.2.1 2 (2028) 2.2.3 8 (2028)	2.2.1 Annual programme reports and Government reports 2.2.2 Annual programme reports and Government reports	Strong political will supporting implementation of Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy
Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3 Capacity for evidence-based urban development management improved	2.3.1. Number of officials receiving trainings on spatial data usage/application, disaggregated by sex and disability status 2.3.2. Number of meetings, trainings, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. organised and number of participants, disaggregated by sex and disability status. 2.3.3. Number of partnerships between state and non-state actors in Uzbekistan to enhance spatial data usage, with a focus on managing urban sprawl 2.3.5. Number of partnerships between state and non-state actors in Uzbekistan to enhance spatial data usage, with a focus on managing urban sprawl	2.3.1. 0 (2024) 2.3.2. 0 (2024) 2.3.3. 0 (2024)	2.3.1 120 (2028) 2.3.2. 8 (2028) 2.3.3. 2 (2028)	2.3.1: Annual programme reports 2.3.2: Annual programme reports 2.3.3: Annual programme reports and Government reports	Strong political will and resources available supporting the implementation of the capacity development interventions and initiatives

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

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 measures¹³.

4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Expertise in the area the NSDI development;
- Established network with relevant government entities in Uzbekistan;
- Absorption capacity.

The implementation by this entity entails activities to improve availability of geospatial data to support climate-resilient, inclusive territorial planning in Uzbekistan as per specific objectives and outputs in section 3 which this modality will contribute to achieve.

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

Due to exceptional circumstances, the indirect management mode in the section 4.3.1, could be implemented in direct management (procurement).

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) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

¹³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Specific Objective 1.1 and 1.2 – Indirect management with an entrusted entity	6 680 000
Evaluation and Audit – cf. section 5.2 and 5.3	100 000
Totals	6 780 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

For the implementation of the proposed Action, it is foreseen to sign a contribution agreement with an entrusted entity.

The contribution agreement will follow a standard organisational set-up with the establishment of a Project Implementation Team (unit) to develop annual plans, programming and budgeting, and deliver activities within time and resource constraints. It will normally consist of Project Manager, Task Managers for each Output, staff for operations (administrative, finance, procurement and other tasks). The Action will be managed at the highest level by the Project Board, which will be responsible for making consensus-based strategic decisions for the project. The Board will provide strategic guidance to the project, oversee progress, review, and approve Annual Report and Workplans, as well as the Final Report. The Project Board will convene at least annually to hold regular reviews, assess the performance of the project and approve the Workplans.

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

The signature of the Financing Agreement with the Republic of Uzbekistan is a pre-condition before the start of activities.

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:

The project has preliminarily defined a set of milestones and results-oriented objectively verifiable indicators that will be reviewed in the Project inception phase. Attention will be paid to the simplicity, measurability, adequacy, relevance and timeliness of the objectively verifiable indicators included in the logical framework matrix. Where possible, the project will collect primary information to set up a baseline that will identify targets for specific indicators. This will be finalised during the inception phase or during the first months of the project, since some of these primary data will need to be drawn from specific assessments or studies.

The indicators are gender-sensitive as much as possible, and efforts will be made to get sex and disability disaggregated data from the various users or beneficiaries from this project. Gender expertise and disability rights expertise will be involved in the establishment of indicators, data collection and monitoring and evaluation. The work plan will be another important document for the purposes of monitoring and of assessing performance from the point of view of project management. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account inequality reduction.

The work plan will be prepared during the project formulation and finalised in detail during the inception phase. It will also be adjusted and updated as needed during the project implementation, in close consultation with the EU Delegation. Because of its importance in the process of shaping the work plan and the logical framework, the inception report will be a key milestone of the first part of the project and will serve to fine-tune some of the activities and expected results.

Regular monitoring of the progress of implementation of project activities will be ensured by all of the project staff in their specific roles. A proposed monitoring and evaluation framework will be prepared during the project inception phase. Continuous monitoring will generate quantitative feedback on the implementation, preventing deviations from operational objectives, ensuring accountability for spending and enabling the evaluation of the process.

The project reports will provide a clear picture of the status of the project at the various stages of implementation, ensuring the appropriate tracking of progress in terms of outputs and results, as set forward in the logical framework, through indicators, baselines and targets. The ultimate reporting responsibility will lie with the implementing partners. Direct responsibility for preparing all reports will lie with the project coordinators and advisors. All reports will be written in English. If necessary, working documents and reports should be translated into Russian. Formats for the inception, interim, final and mission reports shall follow the relevant guidelines for pillar assessed organisations, and their tables of contents shall be agreed upon. Reporting will include inception report, annual progress report, annual certified financial reports, mission reports of the Project experts, technical reports and the final project report.

Reporting will be carried out in compliance with the Special Conditions to the General Conditions and with the relevant framework agreements signed with the European Union.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants. It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to address all measurable questions for the programme. This will include the definition of an explicit theory of change against which the final evaluation will judge the worth of the

programme. Furthermore, it is expected that the evaluation will come up with specific and tailored recommendations on appropriate and relevant indicators at strategic and operational level that will be used and monitored during the implementation process. The mid-term evaluation/assessment will also suggest, if needed, adjustments to the course of action, in order to achieve the expected outputs, analyse the feasibility of launching a second phase of the action.

In addition, 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, disability inclusion and inequality reduction. Expertise on human rights, gender equality, disability and inequality reduction will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days 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.

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.

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.