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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Thailand for 2025-2027

Action Document for EU-Thailand Cooperation Facility II

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

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU-Thailand Cooperation Facility II OPSYS number: ACT-62731 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No but coordination will be ensured with the ASEAN Team Europe Initiatives
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Thailand
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Thailand 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	The proposed action intends to enhance the EU-Thailand partnership through the Cooperation Facility to continue and reinforce EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogue. It will promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, complemented by increased understanding and visibility of the EU and its role in the country, region and the world. More specifically, the facility will promote universal and shared values on human rights, gender equality, disability-inclusion, democracy, security, the environment, business and trade relations. By doing so it will deepen bilateral trade and investment relations, based on shared principles on inclusive, sustainable production and consumption, strengthen environmental protection and conservation, while supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more broadly, the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the Global Gateway. It will also allow the EU to uphold universal human rights values, and to better respond to global challenges and build resilience in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner in its relationship with Thailand and other partners.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	430 – Other multisector

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 17 (partnerships for the goals) Other significant SDGs and where appropriate, targets: 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 13 (climate action), 15 (life on land) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multisector aid			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	60000 – Private sector institution			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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): 14.020131 South and East Asia Total estimated cost: EUR 8 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 8 000 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 3 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2025 and for an amount of EUR 3 000 000 EUR from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2026, and for an amount of EUR 2 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2027, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants - Twinning grants - Procurement Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.3			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The proposed action intends to enhance the EU-Thailand partnership, through the Cooperation Facility to continue and reinforce EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogue. It will promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, complemented by increased understanding and visibility of the EU, its role and values in the country, region and the world. More specifically, the facility will promote universal and shared values on human rights, gender equality, inclusion, democracy, security, the environment, business and trade relations. By doing so it will deepen bilateral trade and investment relations, based on shared principles on sustainable production and consumption, strengthen environmental protection and conservation in Thailand, while supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more broadly, the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the Global Gateway. It will also allow the EU to uphold universal human rights values, and to better respond to global challenges and build resilience in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner in its relationship with Thailand and other partners. The Cooperation Facility will consist of a wide range of tools, initiatives and activities to achieve the objective of advancing EU strategic interests and priorities in Thailand, of enhancing the EU-Thailand partnership, and of strengthening strategic communication (via public campaigns) and public diplomacy (where relevant).

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to strengthen the EU-Thailand partnership and cooperation for sustainable and inclusive development for all.

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

1. Enhance the effectiveness of the dialogue between the EU and Thailand.
2. More closely align the interests, principles, policies and values of the EU and Thailand, including on human rights and gender equality, focussing on the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Gateway;
3. Increase the approval of the EU and of its role in the country, the region and the world.

The key assumption is that the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and the resumed negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will provide the main framework and impetus for engagement, as well as the external dimension of EU internal policies that may affect Thailand in the years to come.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Thailand, an upper middle-income country, has a difficult contemporary political history punctuated by military coups—the latest having occurred in May 2014. The general election that took place in May 2023 saw the overwhelming victory of two opposition parties, with the former opposition and second-runner Pheu Thai Party eventually forming a coalition with conservative parties from the previous pro-military government. Thailand's economy is the second largest in ASEAN. According to the human development index, Thailand has a “very high human development”, and a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.310, ranking it 74 out of 166 countries in the 2022 Index. Nevertheless, several challenges persist in achieving gender equality and ensuring women's rights. Furthermore, people living in marginalised situations (i.e. youth, people with disabilities, indigenous people, LGBTI persons, etc.) continue to face inequalities or vulnerabilities, and significant regional disparities exist. In the deep south of Thailand, a protracted crisis and low-intensity conflict has been ongoing for many years.

Thailand has been falling behind several other countries that have achieved high-income status and has been trapped among the ranks of upper middle-income countries for a long time, despite its success in maintaining economic stability. As a tourism and manufacturing hub, Thailand was particularly impacted by the pandemic. The recovery has been slower than in other major ASEAN economies and growth continues to diverge from ASEAN peers. The 13th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2023-2027) recognises that Thailand needs to increase investment by no less than 600 billion baht to escape from the middle-income trap, as well as urgently use the surplus from its economic expansion to reduce inequalities through investments in transport infrastructure to connect with neighbouring countries, economic decentralisation from Bangkok to regions throughout the country, and an increased private sector role in services.

EU-Thailand relations have taken off in recent years, after the post 2014 coup freeze. The signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in December 2022 is an important milestone. In March 2023, the EU and Thailand announced the relaunch of negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) and three rounds of negotiations have taken place since. Thailand's renewed strive to green its economy might open up spaces for dialogue and cooperation on climate change and the environment. Thailand's candidacy to the Human Rights Council 2025-2027 creates a window of opportunity to engage, particularly supporting the implementation of the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearances Act B.E. 2565 (2022). Thailand's interest to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) can spur cooperation on economic governance. Thailand is part of two Global Gateway flagship projects, the Laos Road (financed by the Laos envelope), and a Poland-led initiative: the upgrading of the critical infrastructure of Thailand's main energy operator, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).

The Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Thailand 2021-2027 is limited to a Cooperation Facility designed to enhance the EU-Thailand partnership. The intervention strategy is geared towards supporting the PCA implementation and the FTA negotiations, as well as supporting other policy areas relevant to EU-Thailand relations. For the implementation of the action plan for 2021-2023, an amount of EUR 12 million has already been committed to a single action (the EU-Thailand Cooperation Facility, ACT-60435). The proposed action is a continuation and replenishment of the facility to support the EU-Thailand partnership until the end of the current MIP and during the

start-up of the next programming cycle. The intervention logic and objectives will remain the same and include a focus on the implementation of the Global Gateway. The action is a flexible tool box that can be rapidly mobilised through various implementation modalities in order to seize opportunities for cooperation on areas of mutual interest and the promotion of EU priorities, in particular in the context of the PCA and FTA or any emerging issues. Implementing partners are chosen, among others, based on their capacity to bring added value to the EU-Thailand partnership, especially experience of promoting alignment with EU interests, policies and values.

Under the Cooperation Facility, several actions and activities are promoting policy dialogue on shared values and interests, supporting the external dimension of the Green Deal, and helping to protect the environment and the climate. Ongoing interventions aim to strengthen the EU-Thailand partnership towards the goals of the Agenda 2030 and achieving the SDGs in Thailand by supporting actors at provincial level. On human rights, the facility is strengthening the national capacity to prevent and respond to torture and enforced disappearances. In order to support compliance with the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) planned support will target Thai smallholders in the rubber sector.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Through the Global Gateway the EU aims to provide a positive offer for its partners, to forge links and not create dependencies, to deliver on today's global challenges. This positive offer is built on the principles of: democratic values and high standards, good governance and transparency, equal partnerships, green and clean, security-focused, catalysing private sector investments. As highlighted in the EU Strategy for the Indo-Pacific, given the interdependence of the economies, the geopolitical dynamics and the common global challenges, the EU's rationale for cooperation in the region is a strong basis for a mutually beneficial relationship, all the while recognising the centrality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Within this regional and global framework, the EU's cooperation with Thailand takes place in the context of the country's transition to a high-income economy. To compete with other high-income countries, factor accumulation is no longer sufficient to maintain growth. Instead, broader economic development, focusing on the quality, rather than quantity, of economic growth is needed. This transition requires a complex reform agenda in order to: make growth more inclusive, sustainable and resilient; address structural inequalities and vulnerabilities; encourage investments in human and natural capital, social and physical infrastructure, innovation. At the same time, political tensions and the extent to which democratic politics can bring change to Thailand's political economy, could play out in various ways.

This perspective opens up various entry-points and areas for dialogue to foster mutual understanding and policy alignment. Flexibility will be key to responding and adapting to changes and to new or expanding areas of potential cooperation, and the action will target mutual interests, highlight benefits and support peer-to-peer exchanges. Fostering collaboration between Thailand and European stakeholders will also be key, notably by leveraging existing ties between business communities, academia, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). A more strategic approach to communication, tailored to the local context, will also be implemented.

Through the policy dialogues and partnerships with government and non-government actors, underpinned by strategic communication, the facility will aim to tackle the following (non-exhaustive) challenges and priority areas:

- **Delivering on the Global Gateway offer and mobilising investments from the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) will require cooperation on two fronts.** Firstly, European development financial institutions (DFIs) should be encouraged and supported to actively explore partnerships with local actors through a Team Europe approach (areas to consider could include digitalisation, renewables production and green energy grids). Secondly, an enabling environment for sustainable and inclusive trade and investments will be supported.
- **Dialogue on an EU-Thailand economic partnership, also in support of relevant areas in the context of the FTA negotiations:** this may include cooperation with respect to good governance, anti-corruption, ASEAN integration, regulatory cooperation/convergence, standards, market access and liberalisation, digital, economic governance, economic diplomacy, green economy, green finance, sustainable consumption and production, trade and sustainable development, decent inclusive work, environmentally and socially responsible supply chains, business and human rights, innovation and skills, science and research, cooperation between European and Thai businesses.

- **Protecting the environment and supporting the fight against climate change is a vital and shared objective** between the European Union and Thailand. With the BCG strategy (bio-economy, circular economy, green economy) launched in 2020, Thailand seeks to balance its economic recovery with environmental and social dimensions, notably by tackling challenges on environment, human and labour rights. Thailand is vulnerable to climate change: frequent flash floods threaten the livelihood of millions of people living in the northeast of Thailand, and because of rising sea levels and its location in the middle of the delta Bangkok is sinking slowly. Thailand's contribution to global emissions is growing, but the Country is attempting to fulfil its carbon neutrality and net-zero emission targets by mainstreaming the climate change agenda in its national plans and seeking to create a regulatory framework for carbon pricing instruments under a potential Climate Change Bill, currently under development. Thailand has a large, untapped renewable energy (REN) potential: private investment is key to address this. Thailand has a significant natural heritage and is a regional leader in its protection, investing considerably in its national parks.
- **Strengthening the human rights dialogue will seek to promote an effective Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)** in policy-making and implementation. Thailand has been a crossroad for migration within South-East Asia for centuries and unsafe, irregular and unordered migration constitutes a major challenge. The situation of people displaced by the ongoing conflict in Myanmar is also of particular concern. In less than a generation, Thailand has transitioned from being a net-sending to a net-receiving nation for labour migration, mainly from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Women migrant workers are generally employed in lower-skilled, lower-wage functions than men. Furthermore, a wide variety of other groups within the country do not hold citizenship status, including stateless persons, asylum seekers and refugees. 82,400 refugees reside in nine refugee camps along the Thailand-Myanmar border, while there are over 5200 refugees and asylum-seekers residing in urban areas (January 2024). Thailand also hosts over half a million stateless people. Thailand is the first country in Asia to adopt a standalone National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP) in 2019. Under the Second NAP (2023-2027), businesses are encouraged to voluntarily implement human rights due diligence in their conduct and operational supply chains. Thailand has made progress in promoting rights of LGBTI persons with legislation on marriage equality expected to be adopted soon. However, LGBTI persons continue to experience discrimination, limited job and housing opportunities, barriers to accessing many common services, and other challenges. Engagement on civil and political rights could help strengthen democratic processes.
- **Reduction of inequalities and SDG dialogue:** in 2021, with an income Gini coefficient of 43.3 percent, Thailand still had the highest level of income-based inequality in East-Asia and the Pacific, and it ranked as the 13th most unequal of the 63 countries for which income Gini coefficients are available. Inequality is particularly high when considering the concentration of income and wealth, as over half of the country's wealth is held by the richest 10 percent of the population. Several structural factors contribute to the persistence of inequality, most notably inequality of opportunity in education. Learning outcomes are significantly higher for students from wealthier families than those from poorer ones. This reduces employment opportunities later in life for students from poorer families, constraining their prospects for upward mobility. COVID-19 exacerbated the existing gap in learning outcomes and household debt challenges. Spatial disparities across and within regions also contribute to the persistence of income inequality. In 2020, the average per capita GDP in Bangkok was more than 6.5 times that of the Northeast region, which had the lowest GDP per capita in the country. Despite progress made towards gender equality, persistent gaps continue to impede development and socio-economic growth. The labour force participation rate for women is only 59% compared to 75% for men. Challenges are more acute for certain groups and in rural areas, including for women from ethnic minorities, older women, migrant women and women in the southern border provinces. There are more than 2 million people with disabilities in Thailand (people who have received a disability identification card), which is over 3 percent of the population. Of these, only 12 percent have completed secondary education and 36.5 percent are employed.
- **Security sector dialogues** could include cyber-security, maritime security, trafficking of people, fighting disinformation, combating radicalisation.

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

The Cooperation Facility will continue to engage and benefit a wide range of stakeholders as appropriate and in line with HRBA principles. It will respond and seek to facilitate cooperation with all the stakeholders whose engagement may benefit the EU-Thailand partnership, including for example: government at national and subnational levels as duty-bearers; civil society and non-governmental organisations; business and industry associations, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), financial institutions; education, scientific and cultural institutions; the media; youth, women and marginalised groups as rights holders (people with disabilities, LGBTI persons, indigenous people, etc.); EU Member States; other like-minded/development partners.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen the EU-Thailand partnership and cooperation for sustainable and inclusive development for all.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Enhance the effectiveness of the dialogue between the EU and Thailand;
2. More closely align the interests, principles, policies and values of the EU and Thailand, including on human rights and gender equality, focussing on the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Gateway;
3. Increase the approval of the EU and of its role in the country, the region and the world.

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

- 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): Broadened scope and inclusiveness of the policy dialogues on a wide range of issues relevant to EU-Thailand relations.
- 2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): Strengthened cooperation with a diversity of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector.
- 3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3): Enhanced awareness of the benefits of the cooperation with the EU among a larger and more diverse audience.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

Policy dialogues between the EU and Thailand on:

- All areas mentioned in the EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement;¹
- All areas relevant to a potential, future EU-Thailand Free Trade Agreement;
- EU policies, strategies and investment priorities, including the Green Deal, the Indo-Pacific Strategy, and the Global Gateway;
- Global and multilateral frameworks and conventions, in particular the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- Regional or sub-regional priorities, including within the framework of ASEAN;
- Thailand's domestic and international agenda, including triangular cooperation, also in relation to the above.

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

In partnership with the relevant stakeholders and in the afore-mentioned policy areas:

- Peer-to-peer exchanges;
- Institutional support and organisational reform;
- Technical assistance, training and capacity development;
- Development/review of plans, policies, legislation, regulations, and standards;
- Awareness-raising and outreach activities (communication, media advocacy, event organisation, etc.);
- Promotion of enabling environment and catalysing investments, such as green and renewable energy projects, through feasibility studies or other types of intervention;

¹ See the [text](#) of the agreement.

- Implementation of strategies and plans, including of the roadmap for EU engagement with civil society, the EU Gender Action Plan², the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy, the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Targeted, integrated support to communities and/or ecosystems with a strong demonstration effect;
- Support to specific groups or sectors, especially to facilitate compliance or adaptation to new regulations (for example, support to smallholder farmers to comply with the EUDR);
- Mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues into sector policies and practices, with particular attention to groups in situation of vulnerability and to environmental protection.

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

New audiences will be targeted through the following strategic communication and (where relevant) public diplomacy activities, with attention paid to the accessibility and inclusivity of the activities, events and materials:

- Design and roll out at national level of data-driven, public campaigns aimed at the general public, primarily in the 18-35 age cohort, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, understanding and approval of the EU's partnership with the country;
- Where relevant, public diplomacy activities may be supported to strengthen networks and long-term relationships with key target audiences and partners (e.g. youth, students, academics, think tanks, CSOs, business, creative industries), as part of a broader campaign;
- Data collection, monitoring and evaluation of communication outcomes and public perception.

3.3 Mainstreaming

The mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues underpins the added-value of the EU's Global Gateway offer. Interventions and activities under this action will promote integrated approaches and EU best practice, seek to foster interlinkages between SDGs and address any cross-cutting issues relevant to the specific dialogues and to EU-Thailand relations, such as: climate change, environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality, while also targeting people living in vulnerable and marginalised situations (such as marginalised communities, minorities, migrant workers, stateless people, forcibly displaced people, the poorest, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, vulnerable women, children and youth). Policy dialogues and technical assistance for the development of national strategies and investments may be considered in environmentally sensitive sectors, such as energy, infrastructure, transport, private sector development, or natural resources management (including forestry, fisheries and waste management). If this is the case, an SEA will be conducted. The facility may also support the conduct of environmental and social impact assessments, analysis and mitigation of climate risks, or application of safeguards for specific investment projects.

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 key environmental and climate-related aspects need to be addressed during design.

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

² The [Gender Action Plan III](#) is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through [EU Presidency Conclusions](#) of 16 December 2020 endorsed by 24 Member States.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is a significant objective of the Cooperation Facility. Interventions will support the implementation of the Country-Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) and be informed by a gender analysis (based on the gender equality country profile or other relevant sources, such as the forthcoming CEDAW eighth periodic report). Specific activities targeting gender-sensitive issues will be implemented, for example in the context of structured dialogues with CSOs that will include women's rights organisations and through gender-sensitive communication approaches. The action will contribute to the thematic areas of engagement of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III), such as: the promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination on the basis of gender in the workplace, EU institutional engagement on dialogue in gender equality and women's empowerment. The gender-responsive impact of the action will be measured during monitoring and evaluation.

Human Rights

Strengthening the human rights dialogue with Thailand and aligning the legal framework (ratification of international human rights treaties) is a significant objective of the Cooperation Facility. The action will support the implementation of the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy. The design and implementation will pay attention to those who are most marginalised, excluded or discriminated against and living in vulnerable situations, by applying HRBA principles.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that disability is a significant objective of the Cooperation Facility. The needs of people with disabilities will be addressed with respect to their participation in the activities and to ensure accessibility of materials and events supported by the action. People with disabilities may be targeted by specific activities. People with disabilities and their representatives will be involved in consultations and policy dialogues.

Reduction of inequalities

The action is labelled as I-1. The intervention will seek to address the inter-related gaps of the SDGs that can contribute to the alleviation of multi-dimensional poverty. Marginalised communities, minorities, the poorest, indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities and people living in severe poverty, vulnerable women, children and youth will be targeted or included by specific activities.

Democracy

Supporting democratic processes and good governance in Thailand is a significant objective of the facility. The action will aim to strengthen the democratic system and the inclusiveness of the dialogues, including on participation, transparency, anti-corruption and the rule of law.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The dialogue on the SDGs will continue to associate local authorities, and other activities at the local level may be envisaged, for example in the three Southern Border provinces, which can foster peacebuilding and community dialogue. Building resilience will also target communities living within or in close proximity to forest and water resources that are affected by natural disasters, as well as those living along the Thai-Myanmar border, or displaced by the conflict in Myanmar.

Disaster Risk Reduction

DRR will be integrated where relevant, especially with relation to climate resilience and the risk of environmental degradation or flooding for communities living within or in close proximity to forests and water resources, and concerning people displaced by climate-induced disasters.

Other considerations if relevant

The promotion of digital solutions and technologies will be ensured throughout the action, e.g. to support the green transition and other aspects of sustainable development.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Persistent discriminatory legislative framework and cultural-social norms and attitudes perpetuate inequalities.	High	Medium	Policy outreach and advocacy will be tailored to the local context and conducted in partnership with coalitions of local actors that include people in most marginalised situations (i.e. persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, indigenous people, etc.).
External environment	Partners do not prioritise gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women in their policies and actions.	High	Medium	The action will carefully prioritise partnerships with actors that share common values on the empowerment of girls and women, and HRBA. It will seek to sensitise others by mainstreaming gender into the activities through the appropriate tools.
Communication and information	Reputational damage from greenwashing or from being associated with investments or partnerships that are not sustainable.	Medium	High	Investments will be screened against Global Gateway principles. Partnerships and communication efforts will be based on tangible achievements or commitments. The action will support the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues.
Lessons Learnt: Overall risks are limited due to the nature of the facility, which is an on-demand instrument managed directly by the EU. Political tensions and the extent to which democratic politics can bring change to Thailand's political economy, could play out in various ways. Flexibility is key to responding and adapting to changes and to new or expanding areas of potential cooperation.				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

IF the scope and inclusiveness of the policy dialogues is broadened; the cooperation with a diversity of stakeholders (including civil society and the private sector) is strengthened; the awareness of the benefits of cooperation with the EU is enhanced **AND** a virtuous cycle of dialogues, partnerships on mutual interests, and strategic communication efforts is initiated **THEN** the effectiveness of the dialogue between the EU and Thailand will be enhanced; the interests, principles, policies and values of the EU and Thailand will be more closely aligned (including on human rights and gender equality, focussing on the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Gateway); the approval of the EU and of its role will increase. **IF** the effectiveness of the dialogue between the EU and Thailand is enhanced; the interests, principles, policies and values of the EU and Thailand are more closely aligned; the approval of the EU and of its role increases **AND** the PCA implementation, FTA negotiations, and external dimension of EU policies provide the impetus for engagement **THEN** the EU-Thailand partnership and cooperation will be strengthened for the sustainable and inclusive development of all stakeholders and groups.

The outcomes/outputs are mutually reinforcing. For instance, dialogues on specific policies, either in the context of formal processes or ad hoc discussions with government and/or non-government stakeholders, can lead to requests from partners for follow-up activities, such as capacity-building or technical assistance to support the implementation of specific measures or to deepen knowledge and understanding of particular issues, thereby strengthening the dialogue further. Conversely, policy outreach and advocacy based on solid evidence gathering can spur dialogue by raising awareness of key facts, issues, interests and the impact of policies on various groups and/or dispel misinformation. The key assumption is that the prospect of the implementation of the PCA and an eventual resumption of the negotiations for an FTA will provide the main framework and impetus for engagement, as well as the external dimension of EU policies that may affect Thailand in the years to come.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

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

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

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

Results	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (values & years)	Targets (values & years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Strengthened EU-Thailand partnership and cooperation for sustainable and inclusive development for all.	1 Inequality-adjusted Human Development score	1 0.681 (2022)	1 N.a. (2027)	1 Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (UNDP)	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1 The effectiveness of the dialogue between the EU and Thailand is enhanced.	1.1 Number of high-level dialogues with state or non-state actors (including on gender equality and women's empowerment, and/or with women's and girls' organisations).	1.1 Tbd (2024)	1.1 Tbd during inception (2027)	1.1 Joint press releases or other communiqués	<i>Impetus for engagement from PCA implementation, FTA negotiations, external</i>

Outcome 2	2 The interests, principles, policies and values of the EU and of Thailand are more closely aligned, including on human rights and gender equality, focussing on the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Gateway.	2.1 Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced (GERF 2.15).	2.1 Tbd (2024)	2.1 Tbd during inception (2027)	2.1 Official Gazette	<i>dimension of EU policies</i>
Outcome 3	3 Increased approval of the EU and of its role in the country, the region and the world.	3.1 Percentage of opinion survey respondents that approve of the EU disaggregated by sector, sex, age and disability.	3.1 Tbd (2024)	3.1 Tbd during inception (2027)	3.1 Opinion surveys	
Output relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Broadened scope of the dialogue and wider range of issues addressed.	1.1.1 Number of articles of the PCA for which a dialogue has been supported.	1.1.1 Nil (2024)	1.1.1 Tbd during inception (2027)	1.1.1 Project reports for the EU-funded intervention	<i>Virtuous cycle of dialogues, partnerships on mutual interests, and strategic communication efforts</i>
Output relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Strengthened diversity of stakeholders and inclusiveness of the dialogues, including civil society and the private sector.	2.1.1 Number of participants in policy dialogues disaggregated by sector, sex, age and disability.	2.1.1 Tbd (2024)	2.1.1 Tbd during inception (2027)	2.1.1 Records of attendance	
Output relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Enhanced awareness of the benefits of the cooperation with the EU among a wide range of audiences.	3.1.1 Number of people reached through public campaigns disaggregated by sex, age and other available metrics.	3.1.1 Nil (2024)	3.1.1 Tbd during inception (2027)	3.1.1 Social media analytics	

4 IMPLEMENTING ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

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

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

i. Twinning actions

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

It is possible that grants will be signed to support the achievement of Outcome 1 and related Output 1.1. as well as Outcome 2 and related Output 2.1.

Twining projects might indicatively be linked to the green transitions standards and competition policy areas.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The primary type of applicants include EU Member State administrations and their mandated bodies.

ii. Other (non-twinning) actions

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

It is possible that grants will be signed to support the achievement of Outcome 2 and related Output 2.1.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants must:

- be legal entities, public and private sector operators, international organisations and economic operators such as SMEs
- be an organisation based in Thailand or in the EU, well established and active in the field of the intervention, so that it will be in a position to bring added value to the EU-Thailand partnership and dialogues

4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

In order to achieve the objectives under section 3.1, procurement contracts will be signed to implement outcomes 1, 2 and/or 3.

³ 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.

4.3.3 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:

- experience in working with public authorities;
- experience in promoting alignment of EU interests, policies and values in partner countries;
- expertise in providing advisory services, capacity building and/or technical assistance to public and private sector;
- knowledge of the Thai context;
- capacity to work in partnership with key bodies of the Royal Thai Government enabling smooth facilitation of one or more policy dialogues.

The implementation by this entity entails stronger results under Outcome 1 and related Output 1.1 as well as Outcome 2 and related Output 2.1.

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

In case grants envisaged under section 4.3.1 cannot be implemented as planned due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality will be indirect management based on the criteria set out under section 4.3.3.

In case procurement envisaged under section 4.3.2 cannot be implemented as planned due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality will be indirect management based on the criteria set out under section 4.3.3.

In case the part of the action envisaged to be implemented under section 4.3.3 cannot be implemented under the indirect management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality will be direct management (procurement) based on the same criteria.

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).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components (amounts in EUR)	EU contribution Total
Grants (direct management) – total envelope under section 4.3.1	2 600 000
Procurement (direct management) – total envelope under section 4.3.2	2 700 000
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – total envelope under section 4.3.3	2 700 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Contingencies	N.A.

Totals	8 000 000
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4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Under the chairmanship of the Head of Delegation, an advisory mechanism composed of the main sections of the EU Delegation will meet twice a year to provide strategic and policy guidance. It will review and endorse annual work plans, monitor results and achievements, and advise on how to address obstacles and challenges. The Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation will facilitate the meetings.

Sub-groups of the advisory mechanism may be set-up for specific areas, for example in the case of twinning (in which case, the organisational set-up and responsibilities will be defined in accordance with the applicable Twinning Manual). Specific groups may be set up also to facilitate coordination on Team Europe Initiatives, if any. The strategic communication and public diplomacy envelope will be managed by the Head of Cooperation, in agreement with the responsible communication unit in DG INTPA, fully respecting the cooperation facility guidelines.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews). In particular, the Commission may contract one or more public opinion surveys, either as part of this action or to be covered by another decision, to serve as a baseline and/or as an endline.

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring: the implementing partner is responsible for day to day monitoring and reporting based on the agreed indicators in the logframe. Adjustments to the agreed indicators will be subject to a discussion and approval of the advisory mechanism. The contracting authority will be responsible for the approval of annual reports. Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results and the implementation of HRBA principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disability when applicable.

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. 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 the action addresses a wide-range of issues. The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities. 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. In addition, all evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach, and how it contributes to gender equality, women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, gender equality and disability will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

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.