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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX 5

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2021 Annual Action Plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity)

Action Document for Knowledge Hub Digital (Part I)

ANNUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Knowledge Hub Digital (Part I) CRIS ¹ number: 2021/43509 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Worldwide – Partner Countries
4. Programming document	Global Challenges Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	Priority Area 3: Prosperity * Digital transformation
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	220 – 250 Digital economy and governance, digital connectivity, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, space & earth observation, science, technology and innovation (STI)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 3 (Health), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), , 10 (Reduced inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

¹ Depending on the availability of OPSYS at the time of encoding, a provisional CRIS number may need to be provided.

8 a) DAC code(s)	220 – Digital (Communications) - 90% 250 - Business & Other Services - 10%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	Private sector in provider country - 61000 European Commission budget – 42000			
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 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"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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): BGUE-B2021-14.020242-C1-INTPA - PROSPERITY - GLOBAL CHALLENGES Total estimated cost: EUR 23 600 000.00 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 23 600 000.00 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 21 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2021 and for an amount of EUR 2 600 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement - Service Level agreement with JRC - Grants Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.4			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Digital technologies are at the core of the geopolitical strategies of the most important global state-actors. Digital solutions help create jobs, advance basic and higher education, boost competitiveness and innovation and can improve the lives of citizens everywhere. However, the benefits of digitalisation are not for all. As such, Digitalisation is essential to combat inequalities, to forge new societies and new economic areas and to contribute achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The latest Digital Compass Communication² reaffirms the European way to digitalisation, which not only defines ambitious domestic targets, but also calls international ambitions promoting inclusiveness, equality, prosperity, respect of fundamental rights and sustainability. Given the dramatic pace and intensity of the international commercial and geopolitical competition and inherent risks

² Communication Europe's digital Compass – 2030 digital targets, COM(2021) 118

for human rights and democracy, a strong EU leadership is needed. The EU is uniquely placed to act by upholding its values and its standards, promoting the human-centric approach to digitalisation and bridging the digital divide along democratic and economic principles. Promoting investments and dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) contributes to sharing EU values and standards and promotes its global leadership in innovation for sustainability and as a vehicle to speed up progress towards achieving all Sustainable Development Goals.

Digitalisation is a top priority for international partnerships and at the same time a new topic of cooperation, without an existing fully-fledged technical facility and with an important knowledge gap within DG INTPA and relevant Commission services, EU delegations and our partners. To answer to those pressing needs, the Action covers the establishment of the first components of the “Knowledge Hub on digitalisation and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)”. It will establish a sound knowledge base for and provide thematic support to the articulation, design, implementation of actions and to policy dialogue in support of the EU’s digital and STI ambitions at the global, regional and national level. The Action therefore responds to a strong need for addressing digitalisation and innovation as a strategic priority for EU cooperation. It will provide thematic guidance and highly specialised technical assistance. This action is designed such that future components of the Knowledge Hub on digitalisation can be adequately integrated.

The Action aims will be implemented through direct management and indirect management.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The use of digital technologies is transforming economies and societies at unprecedented speed and scale, simultaneously creating immense opportunities as well as pressing challenges. Due to the speed of transformation, the direct impact of digital services and products in people’s lives, digitalisation and STI have been recognised as a critical enabler for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The digital sector is also key for the achievement of the EU’s external policy objectives, including the European Neighbourhood Policy and the EU’s Enlargement policy.

The Communication on Shaping Europe’s Digital Future (COM(2020)67), ongoing work on the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act, the EU’s Digital Decade / the ‘Digital Compass’ Communication, the recent EU Communication on the Trade Policy Review, and the planned Communication on ‘Connectivity’, to name a few, show the importance the EU is now paying to digital the agenda and policies. This includes also similar ongoing developments with the EU’s key allies, as well as with regards to geopolitical competitors. In the context of International Partnerships, some examples include the African Digital Transformation Strategy and the UN’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

Highly specialised knowledge and technical assistance will be required to deliver on the international dimension of the Commission’s digital agenda and cooperation priorities.

For this purpose a Digital Knowledge Hub will be established to support the implementation of the digital agenda and cooperation initiatives in partner countries. The mobilisation of the best available international expertise will be crucial to address common challenges and seize the opportunities of digitalisation across regions and countries. It will be done drawing on EU know-how in a cost-effective way, taking advantage of economies of scale and promoting knowledge development and the sharing of best practices.

The Knowledge Hub will cover the key digital priority areas: digital economy and governance, digital connectivity, entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, space & earth observation, science, technology and innovation (STI).

The action is in line with the first 3 pillars of the European Commission’s ‘digital compass’:

- ensuring that all citizens and professionals enjoy basic digital skills;
- provide sustainable digital infrastructure and
- promoting the digital transformation of private business and public administrations.

In terms of topics to be covered, this action, in line with EU D4D Strategy will address:

a. Governance, policy and regulatory frameworks

This through the human-centric approach, leading to an inclusive and fair digital transformation reducing the impact of the inherent challenges and threats of digital transformation. EU ambition is to focus on equality, including gender equality, and inclusion through the key principles, experience and founding values of our Digital Single Market (DSM). In this context, this action will promote EU's internal policies, such as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive), or international legal instruments such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and the ethical approach to Artificial intelligence and use of Data remain a key part of the EU policy framework of reference. Fairer market access and business opportunities for European and partner countries can be achieved through cooperation on ICT standards models and the capacity building to foster participation on digital trade. The action will also promote environmental policies and regulations for the digital sector, in order to ensure alignment to the Green Deal objectives

b. Supporting universal access to enhanced, affordable and secure connectivity

Lack of infrastructures, limited affordability, poor digital skills, unreliable sources of electricity and the regulatory bottlenecks remains some of the key barriers to the uptake for effective use of Internet. This action will address the digital divide gap providing technical assistance in order to promote the improvement of the regulatory environment; boost of investment in digital infrastructures; support measures increasing affordability of enhanced connectivity to citizens and protect them from cyber threats; address the socio-economic and cultural causes of gender digital divide.

c. Digital literacy, skills, and entrepreneurship

Along with skills allowing individuals to both use digital devices and create digital solutions to local development challenges, a whole set of transversal competencies proves necessary, especially for women and young people entering the labour market. In addition, capacity building support for the digital start-up eco-system is fundamental in topics such as marketing, regulations, legal requirements. Access to finance and lack of financial services are amongst the major issues for start-up and digital companies and need to be addressed. The Green Digital Economy is particularly relevant to the new EU international partnership strategy. Supporting science, technology and innovation is instrumental to Digital Transformation in order to help the public and the private sector to take full advantage of new technologies and innovative business in an environmentally sustainable and responsible way. The European scientific and industrial excellence plays a fundamental role for partner countries to take advantage of European assets such as Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS.

d. Accelerating the adoption of eServices for achieving the SDGs

This action will address TA and capacity building towards several e-services and in particular eGovernance services such as digital identity, fin-tech and digital financial services, eCommerce, eAgriculture, as well as e-health, education, e-energy, smart mobility, smart cities, etc.

In order to foster for a stronger and more coherent role for EU in international partnership as regard to digitalisation this action will also support the Digital 4 Development Hub (D4D Hub), the platform for digitalisation promoting stronger and more strategic collaboration between EU, MS and their stakeholders towards a human centric digital transformation.

It is designed to support the Digital Transformation Agenda through providing input and assessment on best practices in order to :

- Provide capacity and highly specialised technical assistance to EU HQ, Delegations, EU MS, partners countries and other actors;

- Build partnerships, at country level, in collaboration with Member States also through the D4D Hub, leveraging on EU comparative advantages and assets and bringing together actors and digital ecosystem;
- Promote major initiatives and integrated interventions at national, regional and multilateral level (TEIs, programmes, flagships) supported by policy dialogue, digital diplomacy and Technical Assistance;
- Promote EU human centric approach to digitalisation based on international standards in line with EU policy and regulations, including Gender Action Plan III (GAPIII), in particular GAP III objectives related to digitalisation and environmental sustainability.
- Foster investments through a mix of EU, INTPA, NEAR, financial institutions, private sector and other partners' financial tools;
- Leveraging on Public Private Partnerships;
- Mainstream the digital agenda across EU cooperation policies, programmes and investments, in particular for the Green Deal and Human development.

The action will also support the establishment and strengthening of new and existing partnerships and collaborations with IOs, IGOs and CSOs, to empower partner countries and regions to access and use EU space technologies and data (including Copernicus data) and process it into usable information according to their own protocols.

Good governance, human rights, gender equality, disabilities, environment and climate change will be mainstreamed through this action. In particular for digital governance, aspects such as data protection, cybersecurity and actions to fight the digital divide will be mainstreamed throughout the activities related to this action

This intervention will primarily contribute to achieve SDG 3 (Health), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender), 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

2.2. Problem Analysis

The digitalisation sector is evolving extremely fast and has become a priority for the EU internally and geopolitically in its international partnership. This entails stronger need to rely on highly specialised expertise than for other more traditional cooperation topics that can build on several years of experience in EU HQ and delegations. Furthermore, the narrative on what our digitalised future society should look like, risks being monopolised by parties which do not share EU values related to democracy and human rights. Lessons learnt show that EU digital interventions in the past lacked coherent strategy and were not supported by a strong vision. This Action therefore responds to the need of providing consistent guidance and highly specialised technical assistance and establishing a solid knowledge base towards a new EU digital agenda with partner countries

A knowledge hub with extensive and readily available expertise on digitalisation and its latest trends is crucial for the EU to be able to strengthen its policy analysis, pave the road for future interventions in digital sectors, build a consistent knowledge base and cope with the economic and geopolitical issues digitalisation represents nowadays. Particular attention will be paid to how the knowledge produced will manage and made accessible to staff and partners.

The KH will have global scope. It will serve in particular the European Commission, both headquarters and Delegations, partner countries' governments and other key Digital4Development (D4D) stakeholders, with the aim to improve the effectiveness and accountability of the EU's international cooperation in the area of Digital4Development and support to Digital Transformation. EU relevant services will be involved in the action, such as for example DG CNECT, the EEAS and DG JRC. In order to contribute to the EU Digital Agenda in line with the Team Europe approach, the Knowledge Hub will support the establishment and

functioning of the D4D Hub and its regional branches, providing support for the design and implementation of the D4D Hub initiatives.

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

The actors concerned are EU Delegations, European Commission Headquarters, EU Member States, partner countries governments and various stakeholders in the partner countries, working in close collaboration with EU Delegations in a Team Europe approach, as well as development partners (such as International Financial Institutions (IFIs) - Development Finance Institutions (DFIs); implementation agencies), CSO (including women and youth organisations) and International Organisations. The risk of doing harm is negligent with this action.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to contribute to the fulfilment of EU global ambition of promoting a fair, inclusive, gender responsive, green and human centric digital transformation worldwide, inspired by the principles enshrined in the EU Digital Single Market, EU values, communications, regulations and standards for data and technology. The action will carry out actions which ultimately contribute to the relevant SDG's (3 (Health), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); The Action aims through the provision of high level and targeted technical assistance to achieve the below:

The **Specific(s) Objective(s)** (Outcomes) of this action are :

1. A Knowledge Hub on digital for development and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is established.
2. The role of EU in international partnerships as regard to STI and digitalisation is strengthened through improved collaboration and policy dialogue among EU and non EU key actors also through the D4D Hub.
3. knowledge-management regarding the European Commission's role in the Digital for Development and STI domain is strengthened.

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

- 1.1 Quality and timely technical ad- hoc advice is provided to the relevant services of the European Commission, DG International Partnerships (INTPA) Headquarter staff, EU Delegations and other key partners and stakeholders on digital technologies and solutions –including Space and Earth Observation, and STI- to trigger an inclusive, human centric, green and gender responsive digital transformation and foster jobs and growth in specific partner countries/regions,
- 2.1 Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and Partnerships on digital transformation between EU and partner countries are facilitated, also through the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub,
- 3.1 Supporting horizontal actions, ongoing project management and coordination, project monitoring, knowledge management, policy dissemination

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1 :

Technical Assistance

The technical assistance will be wide ranging and include studies and research, policy advice, ad hoc and on request thematic and technical support, support to policy dialogue, analysis and design of strategies, analytical and capacity

development, policies and programmes based on INTPA HQ's needs, the demand from EU Delegations and partners and based on the D4D priorities. Technical cooperation may include consulting services, public sector expertise, Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (Taix³), staff exchanges, study visits and support for a wide range of field research –including gender analysis in the area of digitalisation, and follow up strategic seminars and conferences.

Activities related to Output 2.1 :

Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and partnerships.

The Action will contribute to the establishment and facilitation of multilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue and the establishment of partnerships and forms of collaboration in the field of STI and digital transformation among D4D stakeholders (EU institutions, private sector, financial institutions, CSOs, think tanks and academia), partner countries and regional counterparts. Types of activities include analysis, workshops, ad hoc meetings, high level events, etc.

This action will also aim to contribute to the Team Europe coordination and operationalisation of the Digital 4 Development Hub (D4D Hub). This entails technical and operational support to the establishment and functioning of the D4D Hub organs, such as the Board, the Secretariat, regional branches (e.g. Africa, Latin America and the Caribbeans (LAC), Asia-Pacific (APAC) and the thematic and regional working groups; coordination of EU Members States and other members of the hub, facilitation of coordination meetings between the D4D Hub regional branches; coordination of the annual work plan; support to the design and implementation of digital projects/investment proposals, mapping of D4D Hub stakeholders' digital activities and initiatives, matchmaking between EU expertise and investments opportunities.

Activities related to Output 3.1 :

Horizontal actions, knowledge management:

These activities will support horizontal actions, ongoing project management and coordination, project monitoring, knowledge management, improved information and communications systems, sustaining organisational performance improvement, policy dissemination,

These activities will be designed to establish and sustain robust processes for building knowledge management and organisational learning processes within DG INTPA and with stakeholders and partners. These may include reviewing current systems and needs, developing action plans for knowledge management and information systems.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming in AAP is very general and provided possibly before the mandatory analysis at action level are realised. This sections is based on the mainstreaming annex. We suggest to keep it.

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Digital and STI solutions can be instrumental to the achievement of Green Deal objectives (e.g. earth observation systems, sustainable mobility, energy efficiency). However, digital solutions also entail environmental risks such as greenhouse gas emissions associated to energy consumption and manufacturing of digital terminals, as well as e-waste management that need to be addressed. The digital knowledge hub will promote the greening of digital solutions, which may include for example the promotion of solutions to e-waste management, energy efficiency and the building of circularity principles in digital equipment.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per 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 this action. The Knowledge Hub will mainstream gender equality in many of its actions. The objective is twofold: to digitally empower women and girls and to support the development of policies and actions that reduce the gender digital divide through, for example, trainings, ad hoc studies, and technical assistance. It contributes to the overall objective of the GAPIII related to the thematic area of engagement on Digitalisation: "Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, can equally participate in shaping the digital world of tomorrow".

Human Rights

³ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/funding-and-technical-assistance/taix_en

This action directly targets the protection of Human Rights in the digital domain. The overall objective of this action is to promote a human centric digital transformation inspired EU values, communications, regulations and standards. The action will promote capacity building of rights-holders and duty-bearers, to foster through digitalization, the principles of applying all rights, participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency. “Leave no one behind” and “do no harm” will be the guiding principles this action. This will be reflected through efforts on policy, regulation and standards, as well as through partnerships, dialogue and connectivity.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0 as it doesn’t directly target persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, some of the interventions under this action document will target all citizens and thus will have consequences largely improving the conditions of disabled people.

Democracy

This action targets Democracy. The overall objective of this action is to promote a human centric digital transformation inspired EU values, communications, regulations and standards. The digital knowledge hub will support concepts related to a free and open internet, privacy protection, disinformation and open access to information. In this sense it will support the EU’s geopolitical influence in opposition of autocratic powers and tendencies.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action does not directly target conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience. Nevertheless, digital transformation does provide important resilience mechanisms to society, as proven during the COVID pandemic.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The knowledge Hub digital will directly or indirectly strengthen systems and skills related to earth observation, machine learning and evidence-based policy. These will support Disaster Risk Reduction, and facilitate post-disaster response.

Other considerations if relevant

This action is aimed to create specialised knowledge and to provide technical assistance to deliver on the international dimension of the European Commission’s digital agenda and cooperation priorities. Reducing the digital divide, improving digital connectivity, supporting the digital transformation will contribute to implementation of the SDGs and to the mainstreaming of all the relevant areas for the Commission.

For example, 1) the digital transformation of the public sector will improve transparency and accountability and thus, contribute to the democratic process and respect of human rights; 2) ensuring basic digital skills for everyone, will empower also the most vulnerable; 3) building sustainable digital infrastructures will contribute to tackle the climate challenges. This action will support activities that build/work with digital solutions that have a reduced environmental impact and that contribute to environmental sustainability and resilience (including disaster risk reduction through satellites and data management). The human-centric approach to digital transformation promoted by the EU is essentially to ensure the respect of the human rights and the promotion of democracy.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Quality	Given the nature of the action the main risk is most probably linked to finding quality expertise	Medium	High	This will be mitigated through the tendering procedure by elaborating clear Terms of references, putting clear requirements and guidance and closely monitoring the contract once implementation starts. Working with EU Member States in a Team Europe approach can help mitigate such risk.
Organisation	Overlapping and possible duplication with other initiatives	Medium	Low	Close cooperation and involvement of the EU Delegations for coordinating activities at local level will be ensured to avoid duplication.
External environment	Difficulty of measuring prevalence of issues	Low	Medium	Relying on partners with relevant expertise, and developing adequate monitoring measures: For example the

	related to rights, and impact of proposed measures			prevalence of disinformation and the impact of proposed actions with regards to Human rights.
Lessons learned: <p>The lesson learned in terms of achieving both relevance and effectiveness is to fully involve EU Delegation in the conception, design and the management of the different actions while ensuring, in parallel, cross-fertilisation of knowledge and practices via the centralised management mode of the contract and its direct link to DG INTPA thematic expertise.</p> <p>Another lesson learned is that technical assistance actions in countries should go hand in hand with policy dialogue led by the EU Delegation, EU Member States present and other development partners. The full involvement of the EU Delegation will ensure a hands-on management for in-country activities, while the thematic expertise can ensure that these actions largely benefit from the knowledge and information produced from the Action in other countries.</p>				

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The Action covers the establishment of the first components of the Knowledge Hub Digital. The Knowledge Hub Digital (Part I) will cover the key digital priority areas: digital economy and governance, digital connectivity, cybersecurity, space & earth observation, science, technology and innovation (STI). It will be designed such that future components can build upon it or can be adequately integrated.

The Technical Assistance activities will be designed to increase the know-how and capacity that is need at relevant European Commission Services (in particular DG INTPA and DG NEAR) and its partners in order to achieve the EU's policy objectives. They will also facilitate the collaboration and partnerships required as well as the outreach and communication, and knowledge management.

The Action is foreseen to be setup in a flexible way, which will allow to use direct and indirect management modes to assure the best sourcing of knowledge, and the most adequate allocation of resources. This will also pave the way to structure the future components of the Knowledge Hub Digital.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

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	The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to the fulfilment of EU global ambition of promoting a fair, inclusive, gender responsive, green and human centric digital transformation worldwide, inspired by the principles enshrined in the EU Digital Single Market, EU values, communications, regulations and standards for data and technology. The action will carry out actions which ultimately contribute to the relevant SDG's .	1. Number of countries promoting a human centric digital transformation			1 evaluation study	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	A Knowledge Hub on digital for development and STI is established	1.1 Number of actions identified or supported; 1.2 Number of countries/partners supported 1.3 Number and quality of networking and training activities for institutional capacity and know-how of the digital / space/STI	To be defined during inception	1.1 X actions supported. 1.2 X countries/partners supported. 1.3 X activities and HR satisfaction	1.1 and 1.2: 6 month annual and final reports of project implementers 1.3 reports and specialised surveys or feedback forms from HR	

Outcome 2	<p>The role of EU in international partnerships as regard to STI and digitalisation is strengthened through improved collaboration and policy dialogue among EU and non EU key actors, also through the D4D Hub</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of policy dialogue products (joint Reports, official national/regional policies) produced or informed in collaboration and/or in agreement with partners.</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of international policy processes informed and supported in D4D context, including through the provision of EU Space data and service information through EUDs, partner countries, regional associations, CSOs etc.</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of international entities with which there is a space-related collaborations established with EU entities (including through support contracts, co-creation of content, organisation of events).</p> <p>2.1.4 Number of Team Europe Initiative (in digital/space/STI) initiatives identified through the D4D Hub</p>	<p>To be defined during inception</p>	<p>2.1.1 – 20 policy products</p> <p>2.1.2 – 10 international policy processes informed</p> <p>2.3 X entities for space supported</p> <p>2.7 10 actions supported for the D4D Hub</p>	<p>6 month annual and final reports of project implementers</p>	
Outcome 3	<p>knowledge-management regarding the European Commission's role in the Digital for Development and STI domain is strengthened .</p>	<p>3.1 Number of stakeholders reached through outreach events</p> <p>3.2 Number of entities (partner countries, International Organisations, civil society organisations) benefitting from / involved in knowledge creation, awareness raising and advocacy activities by the EU.</p> <p>3.3 No of occurrences of countries and regions that have used knowledge and examples developed in other regions and countries</p> <p>3.4 No of occurrences of donors and project structures that have used knowledge created from other donors and structures</p>	<p>To be defined during inception</p>		<p>6 month annual and final reports of project implementers6 month</p>	

Output 1 related to Outcome 1	Quality and timely technical ad- hoc advice is provided to the relevant services of the European Commission, DG International Partnerships (INTPA) Headquarter staff, EU Delegations and other key partners and stakeholders on digital technologies and solutions –including Space and Earth Observation, and STI- to trigger an inclusive, human centric, green and gender responsive digital transformation and foster jobs and growth in specific partner countries/regions	1.1 Number of support missions carried out; 1.2 Number of studies / research papers / policy documents / briefings /thematic notes prepared 1.3.1 Number of completed assignments for ad-hoc support to INTPA HQ, EUDs, partner countries or other key partners 1.3.2 Number of persons (and persons/projects/ using) trained to use Copernicus / EU Space data and technologies and/or number of beneficiaries benefitting from EU Space programmes enabled services;	To be defined during inception		6 month annual and final reports of project implementers	
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	Multilateral and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue and Partnerships on STI and digital transformation between EU and partner countries are facilitated, also through the D4D Hub	2.1 Number of public/private stakeholders involved (detailing for EU and regional stakeholders) 2.2 Number of ad hoc events organised to support EUDs and partners; Number of country and regional stakeholder mappings produced 2.3 Number of support (matchmaking, workshops, etc.) events carried out 2.4 Number of D4D Hub supporting actions carried out (policy dialogue facilitation, technical support, stakeholder forum, etc.)	To be defined during inception	2.1 X stakeholders 2.2: 15 policies 2.3 x support 2.4 x support provided	6 month annual and final reports of project implementers	
Output 1 related to Outcome 3	The Knowledge Hub Digital will support horizontal actions, ongoing project management and coordination, project monitoring, knowledge management, policy dissemination of the EU Digital4Development policies and interventions, event organisation	3.1 Number of policy dissemination activities organised 3.2 Number of policy material produced 3.3 Impact on stakeholders 3.4 Number of Knowledge management concepts and tools implemented	To be defined during inception	3.1 X assignments completed 3.2 X stakeholders reached 3.3 Perception of stakeholders on D4D matters improves	3.1 project reports 3.3 Specialised surveys	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

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 **48** 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 appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant(s) will be used to achieve Objective 1 (Knowledge Hub is established) and Objective 2 (International partnerships, dialogue, and D4D hub).

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Legal entities, public bodies, international organisations, NGOs. with a relevant expertise in the field of the action.

Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (Taix⁴), not budgeted in this action, can also be used as complementary tool.

4.3.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

Part of this action will be implemented through procurement of services. This will contribute to objectives 1, 2 and 3 ("Knowledge Hub is established", "International partnerships, dialogue and D4D hub" and Outreach, Knowledge Management").

A call could be launched in **November 2021** under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this Decision. This is justified because of the urgency of the action, given the urgent needs of expertise for HQ, Delegations and partners to further the Digital agenda.

⁴ Taix : https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/funding-and-technical-assistance/taix_en

4.3.3. Other actions or expenditure

Part of this action may be implemented through a Service Level Agreement(s) with JRC in order to mobilise the JRC expertise in the achievement of the 3 main objectives

4.3.4. Indirect Management with a EU specialised (traditional/regulatory) agency or international organisation

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: technical /political mandate of the entity (pillar-assessed organisations and EU decentralised agencies) in the related field of the action. The implementation by this entity entails specific actions, such as analysis/studies, or for programme and political flagship related elements.

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

With reference to 4.3.4, following negotiations results and in case of exceptional circumstances outside the Commission's control, direct management through grants will be considered along defined criteria in section 4.3.1 in support to Objective 1 (Knowledge Hub is established) and Objective 2 (International partnerships, dialogue, and D4D hub).

With reference to 4.3.1, following negotiations results and in case of exceptional circumstances outside the Commission's control, indirect management will be considered along defined criteria in section 4.3.4 in support to Objective 1 (Knowledge Hub is established) and Objective 2 (International partnerships, dialogue, and D4D hub).

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.

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	EU contribution (amount in EUR)

Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	23.600.000
Objective 1 (Knowledge Hub is established) Objective 2 (International partnerships, dialogue, and D4D hub) Objective 3 (Knowledge Management) composed of,	
Procurement (direct management) – cf section.4.3.2 and section 4.3.3	16.600.000
Grants (direct management) – cf section 4.3.1	1.000.000
Indirect management with an entity selected according section 4.3.4	6.000.000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Totals ⁵	23.600.000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The current action will be monitored annually via strategic meetings. Contributing partners to the Action, managers of different components and major stakeholders will be represented.

The action will be guided more regularly by technical committees in the form of meetings and/or networks in which project priorities, results of project monitoring and contractual issues will be discussed. DG INTPA will chair the above meetings, with the involvement of DG NEAR as relevant. The strategic meetings will approve the strategy of implementation and the strategic priorities. The technical committees will ensure coherence to the strategy and approve specific strategies and plans. The instrument will retain a certain level of flexibility in order to be able to respond rapidly to needs, requests and changes.

The implementing partners will be responsible for the actions that they manage. A suitable information sharing system will be developed for sharing documents and the modalities of sharing will be defined. The implementing partners will need to submit working plans for approval and ensure coherence to the policy objectives and coherence of the Action.

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. During the implementation of the Action the EU Delegations will be involved as necessary.

4.7. Pre-conditions [Only for project modality]

N/A

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the

⁵ in accordance with point 12 budgetary information, EUR 21 Million is expected to come from the general budget for 2021 and EUR 2.6 million are expected to be transferred from DG NEAR in 2022.

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:

Specific monitoring and reporting measures will be designed with the implementing partners and will be consistent with the logframe matrix of this action document.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term evaluation will 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 scope and multi-sectoral dimension of the action. The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month 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 shall be shared with the partner country 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, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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 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.

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

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

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of 'Group of actions' level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of 'Contract level', add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 4.6, Indicative Budget.

Option 1: Action level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSY#):
Option 3: Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Service Contract 1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Service Contract 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract ...	Service Contract... or Contribution Agreement...or Grants
	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	