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

**ANNEX I**

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

**Action Document for Youth Empowerment, Gender Equality and Human Rights for All in the Kyrgyz Republic**

**ANNUAL MEASURE**

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

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Youth Empowerment, Gender Equality and Human Rights for All in the Kyrgyz Republic OPSYS number: ACT-61908 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Central Asia, Kyrgyz Republic
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	The action will contribute to the MIP Specific Objective (SO-2) to support: Gender equality, Youth empowerment and Human rights with the expected result being: increasing the capacity of CSOs and of national human rights institutions to defend human rights, supporting the combat against gender-based violence and strengthening the environment for civic engagement of youth.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Priority area 2 of MIP: Human Development, DAC Code 150: Government and Civil Society
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG 5 (gender equality) Other significant SDGs, and where appropriate, targets: 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions)
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC-code 2 – 15180 Ending violence against women and girls 40% DAC-code 3 – or 15160 Human Rights 20% DAC code 4 – 11231 Basic Life skills for Youth 20%

<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	41 100 United Nations entities				
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance				
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>	
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>	
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
		Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>		

	energy transport health education and research	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration <a href="#">@</a> <sup>1</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities <sup>2</sup> <a href="#">@</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020130 Total estimated cost: EUR 5 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 5 000 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen the protection of human rights, to enhance the combat against gender-based violence, and to contribute to the empowerment of youth organisations in the Kyrgyz Republic. For this reason, the action has three sub-components aiming at having an impact on human rights, gender-based violence and youth empowerment respectively. The action supports the broad aims of the EU Road Map for Engagement with Civil Society (2021-2027) in the Kyrgyz Republic, the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Relations 2020–2025 (GAP-III), the Youth Action Plan (YAP) for EU External Action 2022-2027 as well as the Global Gateway geopolitical priorities. The action will follow on from the work done in the Spotlight Initiative bilateral programme for the Kyrgyz Republic 2020-2023 fighting violence against women and girls. Synergies and coordination will be ensured with the the Global Gateway regional Team Europe Initiatives on Digital Connectivity in Central Asia and the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change. The Action is complementary to the Water Sector Reform Contract as it supports Youth, Women and Civil Society to protect their rights and to ensure a more participatory engagement on policies and reforms affecting their role in life.

Kyrgyzstan faces a range of human rights issues, including torture, inadequate detention conditions, fair trial concerns, discrimination, and increasing restrictions on civic space. The National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture (the National Centre for the Prevention of Torture of the Kyrgyz Republic - NCPT) and the Ombudsperson Institute (Akyikatchy) of the Kyrgyz Republic, have key roles in protecting human rights in Kyrgyzstan. While widely considered an effective NPM, the NCPT still experiences certain shortcomings in its institutional capacity and resources, including human and financial, to advocate for the implementation of its recommendations and perform some of its intended tasks, as foreseen by the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The Ombudsperson Institute faces capacity, budgetary and resource-related constraints, along with institutional weaknesses also resulting from gaps in the legal framework that is not fully compliant with the Paris Principles. Targeted support for both institutions, focusing in particular on their

<sup>1</sup> Guidance note available in [ARES](#).

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please consult: The European Commission inequality marker - Publications Office of the EU ([europa.eu](#)) and Inequality Marker – Complementary Guidelines Application of the I-Marker to SSC fiches and Action Documents | Capacity4dev ([europa.eu](#))

institutional capacity and on their engagement with the Parliament and civil society, will make an important contribution to the protection of human rights in Kyrgyzstan. Enhancing the effectiveness and visibility of both human rights institutions will also contribute to insulating these institutions from political pressure and to bolstering their political standing as two separate independent institutions ready to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights in line with their different, but complementary, mandates, and as prescribed by the international human rights commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic. Therefore, the Specific Objective of this sub-component is to enhance the technical, analytical and communication capacity of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute, to increase the capacity to support the implementation of selected GSP+ relevant conventions and to increase effectiveness (including adherence to the Paris Principles). Increasing the capacity of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute and improving their outreach and communication will enhance their ability to implement their mandates and will strengthen the understanding of their mandates and activities among key stakeholders and the public. Better engagement with civil society and UN human rights mechanisms and structures will increase the effectiveness of the Ombudsperson Institute and support its efforts to achieve “A” status accreditation with Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). Support to NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute will contribute to improved human rights protection in Kyrgyzstan.

With regard to gender issues, Kyrgyzstan has invested considerable efforts in advancing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment policies the last years. The legislative framework has been further improved, a new Gender Equality Strategy was adopted in 2022, and the institutions for combating gender-based violence have been strengthened. However, despite progress, violence against women and girls remains a critical issue requiring immediate attention and action. The second sub-component of this action aims to support gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), particularly in relation to violence against women and girls (VAWG) - including the abduction of women and girls for forced marriages - by taking a gender transformative approach. Building on the Spotlight Initiative programme during 2020-2023, the second sub-component of the action will encourage the creation of an effective space and leadership for civil society actors, to co-create a local, community-led environment that can effectively combat VAWG. The Specific Objective is empowering women's rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations to be influential in ending gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan. This sub-component foresees three interlinked outputs: i) building both technical and adaptive management and leadership capacity and skills of 115 women and youth organisations especially in rural areas as well as supporting them in practising new social norms, ii) developing, testing, iterating and institutionalising ‘zero VAWG community’ models (that is a system of relations, support and services co-created by the community residents, local authorities and other actors on preventing and responding to VAWG in line with the normative frameworks and positive social norms), iii) digitising new and existing knowledge and practices on ending violence on women and girls for wider dissemination through academia and media.

In 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)<sup>3</sup>, which promotes the full and effective inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society, but implementation mechanisms have not been put into motion yet and persons with disabilities and the organizations that represent them do not yet feel the impact of the ratification of the Convention on their lives<sup>4</sup>

With regard to youth empowerment Kyrgyzstan's unique demographic situation sees 30% of its population aged 14 to 29, a group with significant socio-economic, cultural, and creative potential. Yet, they face various challenges. Adolescents and young people often face exclusion in the country's development and they are frequently overlooked by government, CSOs, and donors, limiting their participation in decision-making and hindering their ability to shape their environment. This exclusion challenges social cohesion, leading to growing frustration and discontent. The need for networking platforms, and building the capacity of organised and unorganised youth groups and Civil Society Organizations is paramount. These organizations can empower adolescents and young people to become active participants in shaping the future of their country. By helping them

<sup>3</sup> UN General Assembly (2007). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Resolution / adopted by the General Assembly, 24 January 2007, A/RES/61/106

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF. SITUATION ANALYSIS: Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in Kyrgyzstan: <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/media/7256/file/Situation%20Analysis%20of%20Children%20and%20Adolescents%20with%20Disabilities%20in%20Kyrgyzstan.pdf>

organise their networking, exchange of experiences, and co-learning, providing skills development opportunities and access to needed expertise, promoting their involvement in decision-making processes, and addressing the gender disparities they face, youth groups and CSOs can continue delivering the voice of adolescents and youth on critical aspects of national development. The Specific Objective of this strand of the action is to empower young people's organisations in Kyrgyzstan by providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to effectively address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country. Synergies with the Civil Society Reference Group created by the Spotlight Initiative in 2020-2023 can be explored. The Action is aligned with the EU Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025 in particular to its thematic area of engagement "Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women" as well as "Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence".

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Kyrgyzstan maintains a comparatively more open civic and democratic space than other countries of the region. However, the human rights trends of the past years have been assessed as negative in several areas by both international observers and national civil society groups. Extensive legislative and other reforms in particular in the criminal justice area, which are being introduced since 2021, have raised concern about their potentially negative impact on human rights. The country's incomplete criminal justice reforms, weak justice institutions, inconsistent policies, disorganised lawmaking, lack of accountability, and corruption contribute to gaps in human rights enjoyment. Human rights concerns in Kyrgyzstan include reports of torture and other ill-treatment, in particular by the police and in custodial settings. Against this backdrop, the NPM established under the OPCAT, the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute have fundamental roles in strengthening and protecting the national human rights architecture in the Kyrgyz Republic. The NCPT is expected to adopt and begin implementation of its next three-year strategic plan in 2024. The Ombudsperson Institute is accredited with "B" status (partially compliant with the UN Paris Principles) by the GANHRI. The Ombudsperson Institute is expected to undergo a capacity assessment in 2024, jointly facilitated by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for Central Asia and the UN Development Programme. Targeted support for these institutions will significantly contribute to Kyrgyzstan's human rights protection and promotion as well as to increasing civic space.

Domestic violence is a significant problem in the Kyrgyz Republic. In 2023, there were 13,104 registered cases of domestic violence (from 9,880 in 2022) resulting in 11,357 temporary protection orders (from 8,725 in 2022). However, only 25% of reported domestic violence cases in 2023 reached the court, while the rest were dropped, according to the Ministry of the Interior. Additionally, 13 cases of abduction for forced marriage were registered in 2023 (28 cases in 2022) on the "Unified Register of Crimes and Misdemeanors". The concept of gender equality and the women empowerment is being often perceived as foreign and pro-western, leading to further divisions. The above points are reflected in major international indexes: The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index for 2022 indicates that Kyrgyzstan has its lowest score since 2015. Kyrgyzstan's performance in the Global Gender Gap index has been volatile in recent years while in 2023 it recorded a score of 0.7 with ranking of 84<sup>th</sup> place out of 146 countries. This highlights the significant gaps in representation of women in decision-making roles and the overall position of women in the society. The Kyrgyz Republic hosts a robust and thriving civil society, with an estimated of 22,000 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) operating throughout the country. However, the practical implementation of their role faces major gaps and challenges as CSOs, especially in the area of GEWE/EVAWG, are broadly underfunded with low capacity and often are not recognised as independent development actors. This directly contributes to the slow attainment of results in the GEWE/EVAWG area.

Kyrgyzstan has a growing young population. However, the youth participation index has dropped from 0.53 in 2017 to 0.41 in 2022. Data also indicates that 20.5% of young individuals are not engaged in education, employment, or training (NEET), with 29.4% being young women and 12% young men. In the current social and political climate, civic space is shrinking due to increasing conservatism and polarisation within the country. The prevalence of social media and digital platforms exacerbates this divide through the spread of "fake news." The



education system's insufficient attention to essential 21st-century skills limits young people's capacity to effectively navigate these challenges. Gender disparities persist in Kyrgyzstan, affecting girls' access to education and future opportunities. They face challenges leaving secondary school and transitioning into adulthood, unlike boys who have more favourable prospects. While adolescent boys have lower upper secondary enrolment, their significantly lower NEET rates suggest they often transition into work or training before completing upper secondary education. This gender gap is influenced by enduring gender stereotypes that limit women's roles and discriminatory traditions re-emerging in some parts of Kyrgyzstan. The increased regulation of civil society organizations has a detrimental impact, particularly on youth groups, activists, and organisations. Vague definitions in laws like the Law "On Measures to Prevent Harm to Children's Health, Physical, Intellectual, Mental, Spiritual and Moral Development in the KR" and draft Laws "On Mass Media," "Foreign Representatives," and "Non-Commercial Organisations" may lead to arbitrary interpretations, potentially banning critical information for children and adolescents. Young people increasingly choose not to formalise their organisations, opting for safe online spaces for collaboration and information sharing. However, prosecution of active bloggers and media outlets discourages youth engagement in civic activities, hindering both formalised and non-formalized youth groups' access to funding and preventing their empowerment.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

With regards to human rights, despite the importance of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute in protecting and promoting human rights in Kyrgyzstan, both human rights institutions face challenges. The NCPT, established in 2012, has a positive record of advancing the fight against torture inhumane treatment and all types of places of deprivation of liberty as defined by the OPCAT provisions. However, it is confronted with weak capacity and insufficient human and financial resources allocated to it through state budget as noted by various UN human rights mechanisms. These factors negatively impact on the NCPT institutional capacity to implement its mandate in full compliance with OPCAT requirements and hinders its ability to advocate for the implementation of its recommendations at the national and local level and, to a certain extent, to create political leverage that would facilitate the implementation of its recommendations. The Ombudsperson Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic, created on the basis of the 2002 Law on Akyikatchy, has a broad mandate to protect and prevent violations of human rights enshrined in national law and international treaties. However, the Law is not fully compliant with the Paris Principles. In 2012, GANHRI and its Sub-Committee on Accreditation accredited the Ombudsperson Institute with status "B" and provided a number of recommendations to ensure compliance of the Ombudsperson Institute with the Paris Principles. These recommendations remain relevant today. The Ombudsperson Institute faces budgetary and resource-related constraints, compounded by institutional weaknesses also resulting from gaps in the legal framework which require legislative changes to be addressed. Engagement with civil society is a specific area recognised as requiring attention, through the establishment of more formalized, regular and systemic working relations between the institution and NGOs.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, in Kyrgyzstan, there are about 193 thousand citizens with disabilities both mental and physical. According to the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, over 90 per cent of people of employable age in this category do not have work. In the country, it is uncommon for persons with disabilities to be socialised and employed, making such instances exceptions rather than the standard practice<sup>6</sup>.

It should be noted that improved and more regular engagement with civil society does not necessarily require legal changes. A planned capacity assessment, expected to be conducted in 2024, will provide additional indications of priority areas for capacity strengthening and institutional development of the Ombudsperson of Kyrgyzstan. The general population of Kyrgyzstan will benefit from enhanced human rights protection. Key stakeholders affected by the issues addressed by this action include: the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic as main beneficiaries, the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) as the key state institution appointing the Ombudsperson

<sup>5</sup> See International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, *Report and Recommendations of the Session of the Sub-Committee on Accreditation*, 26-30 March 2012, available at: [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/NHRI/GANHRI/SCA\\_MARCH\\_2012\\_FINAL\\_REPORT\\_ENG\\_WIT\\_H\\_ANNEXURES.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/NHRI/GANHRI/SCA_MARCH_2012_FINAL_REPORT_ENG_WIT_H_ANNEXURES.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Institute for war and peace reporting. CABAR

and to which both the NCPT and the Ombudsperson report, the Coordination Council on Human Rights (CCHR) responsible for follow up with the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, a series of line Ministries (the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration), which play an important role in relation to a range of human rights issues covered by the mandates of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute, the Judicial system, the Office of the General Prosecutor, other relevant Ministries and organs of the Executive, as well as local authorities, the NCPT Coordination Council, Civil society organisations, Persons deprived of their liberty, Victims of human rights violations, UN human rights mechanisms which provide recommendations and the normative framework for human rights promotion and protection in Kyrgyzstan.

As it concerns gender issues, over the past decade, the Kyrgyz Republic has shown significant progress in legislative and policy actions to eliminate violence against women and girls, including the abduction of women and girls for forced marriage. However, the implementation of these legislative acts and policies is still weak, fragmented, often underfunded and not properly monitored, as reflected in the CEDAW 2021 Committee's concluding observations. In the current situation, civil society's involvement in decision-making processes has been significantly decreased with the main channels of engagement being the Government Committee on Gender Equality and the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) Council on Gender Equality, Women, and Child Rights, where they act as observers or associate members without voting rights. CSO's and women organisation often lack of digital, communication, and partnership skills as well as of knowledge-sharing technological tools. This prevents them from advocating with decision-makers, from communicating effectively with the wider public and from partnering with various stakeholders. The role of gender-sensitive media in eliminating violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan is critical as many actors in the sector lack of sufficient capacity and knowledge on how to cover gender-based violence issues. To overcome these challenges, a more integrated approach is required focusing on gender-transformative actions that target social norms and practices among key stakeholders at both local and central levels. The proposed sub-component will target and partner with actors such as: women and youth organizations, and other local activists, non-governmental organisations and community based organizations representing left behind groups (eg persons with disabilities, women living with HIV, ethnic and linguistic minorities), and others, working on the prevention and protection of women, girls and children's rights and combating gender discrimination and violence, as well as business leaders, media, academia, arts, influencers. At the central, regional and local levels: representatives of State bodies on gender and women's rights (such as the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration) education, health, police, justice, representatives of local government authorities, school administrations, health posts/centres, local imams and other religious leaders, district police commissioners and juvenile affairs inspectors of the internal affairs agencies, free legal aid officers, district departments for social security. Civil Society Organisations led by young women and men represent the target group through which skills, knowledge, and opportunities to effectively address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country can be channelled.

As regards the sub-component for youth, adolescents and young people often face exclusion in the country's development. They are frequently overlooked by government, CSOs, and donors, limiting their participation in decision-making and hindering their ability to shape their environment. This exclusion challenges social cohesion, leading to growing frustration and discontent in a country where the 35% of the population age between 14 and 35 years. Consistent with the EU Road Map for Engagement with Civil Society (2021-2027) in the Kyrgyz Republic, the main objective of this initiative is to empower young people's organisations in Kyrgyzstan by providing them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to effectively address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country. Youth-Led CSOs, Youth-Focused Organisations, Movements, and Communities are expected to be among the beneficiaries of the action. The Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Migration responsible for Youth and Gender issues is expected to be a key stakeholder.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to strengthen the respect of human rights and gender equality (including the combat against gender-based violence) and to empower youth in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The specific objectives of the intervention are as follows:

Specific Objective 1 (OS1): to increase the effectiveness of NCPT and of the Ombudsperson Institute steer the implementation of selected GSP+ relevant conventions and to monitor the adherence to the Paris Principles.

Specific Objective 2 (OS2): to enhance the influence of women's rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations in ending gender-based violence in Kyrgyzstan.

Specific Objective 3 (OS3): to increase the influence of young people's organisations in Kyrgyzstan in addressing youth-related issues, promoting human rights, and fostering inclusivity and gender equality in the country.

The outputs of the intervention are the following:

Output 1.1: Increased capacities of the NCPT to monitor, analyse and report on human rights and gender equality

Output 1.2: Increased technical and analytical capacity of the NCPT for evidence-based policy recommendations and to engage in outreach and external communication

Output 1.3: Improved advocacy opportunities for the NCPT at the national and local level

Output 1.4: Increased capacities of the Ombudsperson Institute to monitor, analyse and report on human rights and gender equality trends

Output 1.5: Increased opportunities for the systematic engagement of the Ombudsperson Institute with UN human rights mechanisms and long-term relations with civil society

Output 1.6: Increased advocacy opportunities for the Ombudsperson at the national and local level

Output 2.1: Strengthened capacities of targeted women and youth organisations to manage and lead community organisations and groups

Output 2.2: Strengthened capacities of targeted community level women and youth organisations, authorities, media and other actors to partner for a 'unified model of violence prevention' ('zero VAWG community') model

Output 2.3: Increased digital means for communication and dissemination of new social norms and good practices to prevent violence against women and girls, especially forced marriage

Output 3.1: Increased knowledge of youth-led CSOs on policy issues and youth challenges, including faced by marginalised youth groups

Output 3.2: Increased youth leaders' capacities and opportunities for their active participation in consultative meetings and shadow reporting

Output 3.3: Strengthened networks among youth groups and CSOs for joint reflection and grant funding

As of the adoption of this Action Document, a legislation regarding foreign-funded NGOs in Kyrgyz Republic has been adopted in the Kyrgyz Republic. It includes provisions that increase administrative requirements and state controls on foreign-funded NGOs as well as provisions which might lead to arbitrary interpretations as regards to their operations. The action may assist through its activities the CSOs involved in the action to adopt to the new legal framework while continuing safeguarding civic space.



## 3.2 Indicative Activities

With regard to the sub-component for human rights, activities relating to Output 1.1 (Increased capacities of the NCPT to monitor, analyse and report on human rights and gender equality) include:

- Provision of ad-hoc expert support (including through, but not limited to, the engagement of external experts and cooperation with civil society) to the NCPT to prepare thematic and ad hoc reports and analyses on specific human rights and gender equality issues and/or to support advocacy with the authorities and engagement with UN human rights mechanisms
- Training sessions for NCPT staff on specific human rights and gender equality issues, including persons with disabilities challenges
- Provision of other training and professional development opportunities for staff of the NCPT (depending on specific needs, and including to build the institutional and management capacity of this body, to promote professional exchanges among peers, to address staff burnout)

Activities relating to Output 1.2 (Increased technical and analytical capacity of the NCPT for evidence-based policy recommendations and to engage in outreach and external communication) include:

- Provision of expert support (including longer-term, and embedded in the NCPT structure) to prepare immediate analyses and recommendations following NCPT visits (including gender responsive analyses and recommendations)
- Development of standard operating procedures for the NCPT to systematize its analytical work following monitoring visits
- Develop effective gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system
- Training sessions for NCPT staff, to build their capacity and institutionalise the practice of preparing and publishing post-visit analyses
- Provision of expert support (including longer-term, and embedded in the NCPT structure), to increase the capacity of the NCPT to engage in outreach and external communication
- Training sessions for the NCPT staff on effective human rights and gender responsive external communication with special attention to persons with disabilities (including using social media)
- Convening of working groups and other meetings at the national level, involving (as needed and as appropriate) representatives of the NCPT, representatives of state institutions including the Parliament, civil society, external experts, to discuss and agree practical steps in the implementation of the recommendations of the NCPT
- Convening of similar meetings at the local level to discuss and agree practical steps to advance the recommendations of the NCPT at the local level

Activities relating to Output 1.3 (Improved advocacy opportunities for the NCPT at the national and local level) include: capacity assessment of the Ombudsperson Institute, to identify concrete areas for capacity development of the institution

- Provision of ad-hoc expert support (including through, but not limited to, the engagement of external experts and cooperation with civil society) to the Ombudsperson Institute to manage and deliver its activities, to prepare thematic and ad hoc reports and analyses on specific human rights and gender equality issues and/or to support advocacy with the authorities
- Provision of expert support in bringing legal framework regulating the Ombudsperson Institute in line with the Paris Principles
- Training sessions for Ombudsperson staff on specific human rights and gender equality issues
- Provision of other training and professional development opportunities for staff of the Ombudsperson Institute (depending on specific needs, and including to build the institutional and management capacity of this body)
- Meetings between the Ombudsperson Institute and civil society and women's organisations, including at the regional level, with a focus on engagement with UN human rights mechanisms (including on gender-based violence), to assess the degree of implementation of their recommendations, and promote their full implementation, and on the establishment of long-term (and issue specific, as needed) relations between the Ombudsperson Institute and relevant civil society organisations

- Provision of expert capacity and advice to the Ombudsperson Institute, in support of the preparation of alternative reports and other submissions to UN human rights mechanisms

Activities relating to Output 1.4 (Increased capacities of the Ombudsperson Institute to monitor, analyse and report on human rights and gender equality trends), include:

- Convening of working groups and other meetings at the national level, involving (as needed and as appropriate) representatives of the Ombudsperson Institute, representatives of state institutions including the Parliament, civil society, and women's organisations, external experts, to discuss and agree practical steps in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ombudsperson Institute (including when possible in the topic of gender-based violence), and for discussion and improvement of the legislative framework regulating the work of the Ombudsperson
- Convening of meetings at the local level to discuss and agree practical steps to advance the recommendations of the Ombudsperson Institute at the local level

Activities relating to Output 1.5 (Increased opportunities for the systematic engagement of the Ombudsperson Institute with UN human rights mechanisms and long-term relations with civil society) include:

- Development of collaboration platforms and of Standard Operating Procedures for systematic engagement of the Ombudsperson Institute with UN human rights mechanisms and long-term relations with civil society

Activities relating to Output 1.6 (Increased advocacy opportunities for the Ombudsperson at the national and local level) include:

- Convening of structured meetings and working groups for the Ombudsperson Institute to influence policy-making and to promote the implementation of their recommendations at the national and local level

With regard to the sub-component on gender, activities under Output 2.1 (Strengthened capacities of targeted women and youth organisations to manage and lead community organisations and groups), include:

- Identification in each community of at least six organisations and groups to be part of the Change Leaders Core Group (CG). Synergies with the Civil society reference group of the Spotlight Initiative will be explored
- Reception by the group of capacity building (including training of trainers) on organisational management and adaptive leadership skills to lead community efforts on ending violence against women and girls.
- Capacity co-development, testing, and iteration of individual and organizational behaviour models and strategies by the group that will enable preventing violence against women and girls in collaboration with government, media, and other actors
- Capacity development in women and youth organizations, in Local Self-Governments, and in other key actors including training of trainers
- Capacity development of social workers in communities to prevent and address incidents of gender-based violence in collaboration with the Central and the Local-Self Governments

Under Output 2.2 (Strengthened capacities of targeted community level women and youth organisations, authorities, media and other actors to partner for a 'unified model of violence prevention' ('zero VAWG community') model), activities include:

- Mapping of effective community prevention practices related to violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan and abroad
- Identification of social norms that are proactively practiced and advocated by the Core Group
- Organisation of dialogues with communities and individuals, including surveys using technology, to develop a community model on "zero VAWG."
- Preparation of the "zero VAWG" model with the participation of women and youth organisations, and organisations of persons with disabilities, in partnership with authorities (including local authorities), media, and other actors
- Dissemination of the practices of institutionalised "zero VAWG communities" to the wider public with the help of media and bloggers, academia, women and youth organizations, Local Self-Governments.

Under Output 2.3 (Increased digital means for communication and dissemination of new social norms and good practices to prevent violence against women and girls, especially forced marriage) activities include :

- Involving the wider public (through targeted campaigns on EVAWG and through learning and sharing knowledge and practices using digital tools) at both national and local levels in preventing violence against

women and girls, especially abduction for the purpose of forced marriage, in targeted communities and academia in Kyrgyz Republic.

- Development of new and use of existing digital platforms, as well as of local means of communication and learning. Synergies with digital tools such as GBV awareness raising games, Central Asia GBV Alliance knowledge network and Media knowledge platforms developed within the Spotlight Initiative for Kyrgyzstan will be explored and utilised when possible.
- Establishment of a sustainable mechanism for gathering and sharing knowledge products and practices related to ending violence against women and girls, through the participation of academia, education institutions both in the public and the private sector. Such mechanism will explore and, when possible, contribute and benefit from interconnections with Government, Academia and NGO led digital platforms in line with the State's digital transformation agenda.

With regard to the sub-component on youth empowerment, the action takes into account the EU Road Map for Engagement with Civil Society (2021-2027) in the Kyrgyz Republic which highlights the importance of ensuring youth participation to the decision-making process as well as to policy dialogue under a challenging environment. Activities under Output 3.1 (Increased knowledge of youth-led CSOs on policy issues and youth challenges, including faced by marginalised youth groups), include:

- Mapping organised and unorganised youth groups, organisations of persons with disabilities and CSOs: Establishing a Unified Database for Youth-Led CSOs, Youth-Focused Organisations, Movements, and Communities. The centralised database is essential in the youth sector. It streamlines data management, fosters collaboration, and supports informed decision-making. This database will efficiently consolidate information from various youth-led CSOs, organisations, movements, and communities, simplifying resource allocation, promoting transparency, and facilitating collective impact.
- Consultative meetings: youth groups, movements, existing advisory structures (such as UN Youth Advisory Board members) and youth organisations will be invited to co-design the series of capacity building workshops and grant modality proposed under this concept note. Consultations will be designed to allow an inclusive approach to diverse youth groups, and their contribution to both the process and the outcomes. These consultations will be organised on a quarterly basis to allow for joint reflection on their current challenges, skills and expertise they need in the changing context, and jointly strategise on their advocacy efforts. These meetings will also include a session when development partners and relevant government authorities can attend and learn first-hand what youth groups' needs and calls are.

Under Output 3.2 (Increased youth leaders' capacities and opportunities for their active participation in consultative meetings and shadow reporting), activities include:

- Series of Capacity Development Workshops: Conduct series of workshops and training based on the consultative meetings. Co-create training either by writing new sessions or picking existing sessions and consolidating them into one package. Conduct capacity-building activities to enhance critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, constructive advocacy, developing evidence-based arguments, learning how to manage disagreements, media and information literacy, and digital competencies among youth-led and youth-focused CSOs as well as youth movements and communities.
- Empowering participants of consultative meetings, Volunteers and EU – UN Youth Advisory Board for CRC Shadow Reporting: Focusing on equipping 100 UNICEF volunteers and members of the UN Youth Advisory Board with the skills needed to conduct youth-led shadow reporting for the Child Rights Convention (CRC). This approach is key to ensuring young people are involved in child rights promotion and advocacy of child rights and monitoring CRC implementation and enabling youth to be the voice supported to advocate for the interests and needs of adolescents and youth. Volunteers, through their dedication and expertise in shadow reporting, play a pivotal role in safeguarding children's rights and holding duty bearers accountable.
- Promote Inclusivity and Gender Equality: Encourage increased engagement of girls and women as well as young people with disabilities in all project activities with targeted interventions to bridge the gender gap and ensure equal opportunities for participation and leadership among all participants.

Under Output 3.3 (Strengthened networks among youth groups and CSOs for joint reflection and grant funding) activities include:

- Grant Fund to support participating youth groups and organisations: participants of consultative meetings will identify an umbrella organization to administer grant funds, co-develop grant fund goals, objectives and award criteria and elect selection committee members.

- Support EU Youth Events and cooperate with the Government Youth Action Plan
- Collaboratively Tackle Youth Issues and Promote Human Rights: Create an inclusive civic space where diverse youth-led and youth-focused CSOs as well as youth movements or communities in close collaboration with the local self-government bodies (LSGs) and women networks in local authorities work together to identify youth issues, including the issue of gender-based violence, and develop projects that address the needs of marginalized groups, such as out-of-school, unemployed, or undertrained youth (NEET), girls, and discriminated ethnic minorities. These initiatives not only align with promoting human rights among youth but also focus on promoting messages to counter violence against girls, early marriage and extremist and violent narratives.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Outcomes of the SEA screening** (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

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

**Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

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

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G2. This implies that gender equality is one of the main objectives of this intervention. Indeed, the second sub-component of this action aims at increasing the technical and adoptive capacity of women and youth civil society organisations in Kyrgyzstan to prevent and to respond to violence against women and girls. The action's first Specific Objective, also has a strong emphasis gender equality as the Ombudsperson Institute has a clear mandate on equality and non-discrimination, and support provided to this institution will be aimed, inter alia, at strengthening its ability to address gender-based discrimination and challenges to women's empowerment. The third sub-component of this action is also expected to make a strong contribution to gender equality issues as it will empower youth organisations that foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country.

#### **Human Rights**

One of the strands of this action is to strengthen the protection of human rights in Kyrgyzstan through targeted support to two key human rights institutions. Human rights are therefore central to this intervention and are mainstreamed in all its components. Both the second and the third sub-component are expected make a strong contribution to human rights as they both aim at supporting women and youth rights respectively.

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that while the inclusion of persons with disabilities is not the main goal of the action, it is one of its important objectives. The Ombudsperson Institute has a mandate which covers the rights of persons with disabilities and combating discrimination against them. The NCPT, in addressing conditions of detention and conditions in other places of deprivation of liberty (such as institutions for persons with disabilities, social institutions for children and elderly), has already analysed the situation of persons with disabilities deprived of their liberty or living in various types of semi-closed or closed facilities. It is expected that this work will continue, including in closed psychiatric hospitals and similar facilities. Support provided to both these institutions will enhance their ability to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Both the other sub-components of the action are expected to work with marginalized groups of women and youth and to promote inclusion. Therefore, they are expected to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

#### **Reduction of inequalities**

According to the latest UNDP Human Development Report, 0.4% of the population of Kyrgyzstan (25 thousand) are multidimensionally poor while 5.2% are classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (330 thousand).<sup>7</sup> Monetary poverty climbed up to 33% in 2022 from 25.2% in 2021. The GINI Coefficient stood at 0.29 (in 2020) indicating broadly modest inequality in income distribution. However, the income gap between urban and rural areas is reported as being significant, and there are disparities in access to basic rights, such as education and health care. Discrimination against women, ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities is an important driver of inequalities in Kyrgyzstan and limits access to justice, education, health care, and employment opportunities. Some groups of children, especially girls, children in rural areas, children from ethnic and linguistic minorities, and children with disabilities are lagging behind in a number of areas.<sup>8</sup>

All the three Specific Objectives of this action contribute to the reduction of inequalities. Exclusion from access to rights (including economic and social rights as well as the rights of persons deprived of their liberty), and discrimination in their enjoyment, clearly fall under the mandate of the Ombudsperson Institute and of the NCPT. Both women and youth civil organisations are expected to increase their capacity to advocate against recorded inequalities as well as to increase their access and influence to local and national decision-making fora.

### **Democracy**

As noted above, Kyrgyzstan has been recently experiencing a reduction in civic space, which may weaken democratic processes, institutions, and the overall enjoyment of the right to political participation by its population. Overall, both the Ombudsperson Institute and the NCPT can play a significant oversight and accountability role vis-à-vis state institutions and power structures. If empowered, they can formulate recommendations on civic and democratic space, they contribute to the fight against impunity for human rights violations and to strengthening of the overall rule of law architecture. With women and youth organisation being the focus of the second and third sub-component, the action will enhance the role of women and young people as rights-holders, and decision-makers for democratic good governance, rule of law and promote their access to justice and basic services.

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

The periodic flare ups of the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border tensions have serious human rights consequences and threaten the stability of Kyrgyzstan and the region. Interethnic tensions within Kyrgyzstan, and internal political instability characterized by growing political polarization and weakened system of checks and balances, are other important manifestations of Kyrgyzstan's fragility. Poverty, insufficient economic and education opportunities in the border region, scarce water and other resources, lack of participation of all members of local communities (including youth, women and ethnic minorities) in policy-making affecting their livelihoods, have been identified as contributing factors to the border tensions. In strengthening human rights, enhancing gender equality and promoting the rights of youth and women in Kyrgyzstan, this action will contribute to increasing Kyrgyzstan's resilience, social cohesion, and ability to respond to conflict in a human rights, compliant manner. In the longer term, strengthened human rights protection resulting from more effective national human rights institutions may also reduce grievances, and/or provide channels to address them, reducing the conflict and instability potential.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Significant natural disaster risks in Kyrgyzstan include the risk of earthquakes, floods, droughts and landslides (in mountainous regions). Through its support to national human rights institutions, this action will indirectly contribute to making risk preparedness plans and measures, and responses to potential national disasters, more participatory, inclusive, and human rights compliant. The action will take into account Kyrgyzstan's particular vulnerability to natural disasters and through its work with women and youth organisations is expected to contribute to increasing the preparedness of women and youth communities and civil organisations to climate change impacts.

## **3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt**

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures

<sup>7</sup> See UNDP, *Multiple crises halt progress as 9 out of 10 countries fall backwards in human development, says UNDP*, 12 September 2022, available at: <https://www.undp.org/kyrgyzstan/press-releases/multiple-crises-halt-progress-9-out-10-countries-fall-backwards-human-development-says-undp-report>

<sup>8</sup> See UNICEF, *Situation of Children in Kyrgyzstan. Summary report, 2022*, available at: <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/media/7816/file/Situation%20of%20children%20in%20Kyrgyzstan.pdf>



		(High/ Medium/ Low)	(High/ Medium/ Low)	
External environment	Political pressure on the Ombudsperson Institute and the NCPT, affecting their independence, ability to implement their mandate and the security of tenure of their Heads	High	Medium	<p>Awareness raising and advocacy about the advantages of strong national human rights institutions.</p> <p>Legislative support to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsperson Institute in line with the Paris Principles embedded in the Action.</p> <p>Political dialogue with government representatives.</p>
External environment	Growing influence of radicalisation and/or Conservative approach of state actors with limited to no openness to engage the community residents, especially women and youth	Medium	Medium	Engage religious leaders, and traditionalist groups at local and central level in the dialogues through ‘positive deviants’ among these groups. Open invitation and safe space for key actors (government, local authorities etc) and civil society on jointly searching for new effective ways of planning and operations, including through direct partnership with central level authorities, such as Ministry of Economy, etc.
	Significant deterioration in the overall human rights situation in Kyrgyzstan, affecting the ability of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute to fulfil their mandates	Medium	Low	Both national human rights institutions have worked in a period (the last five years) marked by a deterioration in the overall human rights situation, so certain coping mechanisms are in place (at least at the NCPT). Reinforcing the Ombudsperson Institute legal basis may be expected to partially mitigate this risk.
	Shrinking civic space due to legislative changes, coupled by massive attacks on civil society actors might affect on gender equality, persons with disabilities and youth CSOs.	Medium	Medium	Dialogue and joint actions by civil society and state actors to prevent from reverse negative effects. Capacity building of civil society organisations on how to protect the Women, Youth, Persons with disabilities, and Human Rights as well as on how to groom a new generation of actors. Facilitate the creation of new engagement platforms between the state actors and civil society organisations and groups.

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

Awareness raising and advocacy about the advantages of strong national human rights institutions will be a main element of this action. Also, legislative support to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsperson Institute in line with the Paris Principles is embedded in the action. Political pressures which affect the ability of the institutions to protect human rights should be countered by advocacy targeting policy and decision-makers at the highest level, based on existing international human rights obligations (inter alia OPCAT), UPR and other UN human rights mechanisms’

recommendations, as well as Voluntary Pledges and Commitments prior to Kyrgyzstan's membership at the UN Human Rights Council in 2023-2025.

Experience from the implementation of the Spotlight Initiative in the Kyrgyz Republic has shown that, capacity building and awareness raising efforts of the right holders and or the duty bearers would not naturally lead to behaviour change. Ending VAWG is a systemic issue that requires a systemic approach to achieve transformative results. That includes targeted behaviour change actions that are carefully designed, tested, and scaled up using culturally aware terms and approaches that take into account the dominant traditions and customs in the country. Past experience has shown the importance building diverse partnerships with CSOs, NGOs, media institutions, and individuals across the country who have prioritised network-building, partnerships, and coalitions to pool their resources and expertise.

Young people and youth organisations have often the perception that their problems are often poorly understood by the government and therefore young people are often seen as criticising and being prejudiced against state and civil service performance. Regular dialogues and interactions between diverse youth-focused organisations and the government at central and local level should be planned to ensure social listening and confidence building between stakeholders. In addition, building strong relationships with youth communities, including vulnerable and marginalised and engage in transparent communication can help to challenge misperceptions and regain trust from the public. Digital platforms can facilitate this process.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The action seeks to Human Rights in the Kyrgyz Republic. It is articulated around three interlinked Specific Objectives aiming at contributing to full realisation of Youth, Women and Human Rights.

More specifically, the underlying intervention logic for this action is that, **IF** the NCPT has increased capacity to monitor, analyse and report on human rights and gender equality, **IF** the NCPT increases its technical and analytical capacity to provide evidence-based policy recommendations and to engage in outreach and external communication, **IF** the NCPT has improved advocacy opportunities at national and at local level, **IF** the Ombudsperson Institute increases its capacities to monitor, analyse and report on human rights and gender equality trends, **IF** the Ombudsperson Institute has increased opportunities for systematic engagement with UN human rights mechanisms and long-term relations with civil society, **IF** the Ombudsperson Institute increases its advocacy opportunities for the at national and at local level, **IF** targeted women and youth organisations have strengthened capacities to manage and lead community organisations and groups, **IF** targeted community level women and youth organisations, authorities, media and other actors have strengthened capacities to partner for a 'unified model of violence prevention' ('zero VAWG community'), **IF** digital means for communication and dissemination of new social norms and good practices to prevent violence against women and girls, especially forced marriage, are increased, **IF** youth-led CSOs increase their knowledge on policy issues and youth challenges, including faced by marginalised youth groups, **IF** youth leaders' increase their capacities and opportunities for their active participation in consultative meetings and shadow reporting, **IF** networks among youth groups and CSOs for joint reflection and grant funding are strengthened, **THEN** the NCPT and the the Ombudsperson Institute will be able to strengthen the protection of human rights, women's rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations will enhance the combat against gender-based violence, and youth-focused organisations will be empowered to effectively advocate for and address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality **BECAUSE** a more enabling environment for the protection of citizens', women and youth rights will have been created based on enhanced institutional capacity, inclusive social dialogue and effective governance through better practices, social norms, laws, policies that would protect better civil, women and youth rights.

### 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 (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To strengthen the protection of human rights, to enhance the combat against gender-based violence and to contribute to the empowerment of youth organisations in the Kyrgyz Republic	1 WJP Rule of Law Index 2 Freedom House freedom in the world index 3 UNDP Gender Inequality Index 4 Civic Participation of Youth	1 0.46 (2022) 2 27/100 (2023) 3 0.345 (2022) 4 0.41 (2022)	1 0.49 (2027) 2 31/100 (2027) 3 0.340 (2027) 4 0.45 (2027)	1 WJP site 2 Freedom House site 3 UNDP site 4 UNDP site	Not applicable
Outcome 1	Enhanced technical, analytical and communication capacity of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute, increased capacity to support the implementation of selected GSP+ relevant conventions and increased effectiveness (including adherence to the Paris Principles)	1.1 Overall outcome of the Analytical self-assessment tool for National Prevention Mechanisms (NPM)  1.2 Accreditation status of the Ombudsperson Institute  1.3 Degree of implementation of NCPT recommendations by state bodies, as included in Annual Report to Parliament  1.4 Number of complaints and appeals processed by	1.1 TBD (to be administered at project inception)  1.2 B (2023)  1.3 3% implemented; 5% partly implemented; 72% in the process of being implemented; 20% not implemented (2023)  1.4 13034 (2021)	1.1 qualitative improvement in: - cooperation and communication; systematization of experiences; internal capacity building; monitoring visits reports; contributions to the legislative process  1.2 Progress towards achieving accreditation status A and towards adherence to Paris Principles (2027)  1.3 10% implemented; 20% partly implemented; 60% in the process of being implemented; 10% not implemented  1.4 15000 (2027)	1.1 Analytical self-assessment tool for NPMs administered at project inception and conclusion  1.2 GANHRI  1.3 NCPT website / reports  1.4 Ombudsperson website / reports, capacity assessment	The NCPT will remain an independent and autonomous institution, able to fulfil its mandate Political pressure on the Ombudsperson and the Ombudsperson Institute, as well as on the NCPT, will not be an absolute impediment to the strengthening of these institutions  Media freedoms will not deteriorate significantly

		the Ombudsperson, per year				
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Women's human rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence	<p>2.1 Extent to which women civil society organisations working on violence against women and girls have been engaged on policy development and / or implementation of the action</p> <p>2.2 Proportion of women's rights organisations, autonomous social movements and civil society organisations, including persons with disabilities and those representing young people and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination / marginalisation in a partner country, report having greater influence and agency to work on ending gender based-violence.</p> <p>2.3 Share of communities having initiated formal partnerships with women persons with disabilities and youth organisations to advance VAWG into local planning, budgeting, and implementation</p>	<p>2.1 X % of women civil society organizations that have been involved in the development of policies or actions related to violence against women and girls over a specific period of time</p> <p>2.2 TBD during inception phase via baseline survey (2023)</p> <p>2.3 0% (2023)</p>	<p>2.1 20% increase from the baseline of participation of women civil society organizations in policy development or actions related to violence against women and girls by the end of the intervention (2027)</p> <p>2.2 30% increase from the baseline (2027)</p> <p>2.3 70% (2027)</p>	<p>Reports/data of CSOs, baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>Policy and legal documents, Reports published by civil society organizations working on preventing violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>Women and youth organisations in the communities are openly practising adaptive leadership through their close partnership with Central and Local authorities in target localities.</p> <p>The community groups and institutions are willing to co-create and sustain an enabling environment and mechanism for preventing VAWG.</p> <p>The groups and institutions are interested in 'Zero tolerance to VAWG' model and join it to create an enabling environment in their own localities.</p>
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Young people's organizations are	3.1 Number of youth empowered by the EU	3.1 0 (2024)	3.1 60 (2027)	3.1 Reports/data of CSOs, baseline and	Youth-led CSOs are willing to increase



	empowered with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to effectively address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country	intervention (disaggregated by age group, sex)* MIP indicator			endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	their share of participation in the public life of the local and central governance.
<b>Output 1.1 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.1 Increased capacity of the NCPT to carry out monitoring activities, prepare thematic reports and analyses on human rights and gender equality taking into account people with disabilities, engage in advocacy with the authorities, and provide internal training and support to its staff	<p>1.1.1 Total number of special reports produced per year by the NCPT with the support of the EU</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of NCPT staff trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on specific human rights and gender equality issues, disaggregated by sex</p> <p>1.1.3. Number of submitted alternative reports to the UN human rights mechanisms with the support of the EU.</p>	<p>1.1.1 0 (2022)</p> <p>1.1.2 0 (2024)</p> <p>1.1.3 0 (2022)</p>	<p>1.1.1 5 (2027)</p> <p>1.1.2 TBD</p> <p>1.1.3 3 (2025-2027)</p>	<p>1.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, NCPT website / reports</p> <p>1.1.2 Pre-post training reports, list of attendance</p> <p>1.1.3 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, NCPM website / reports OHCHR website</p>	

<b>Output 1.2 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.2 Increased technical and analytical capacity of the NCPT to provide timely analyses and recommendations and engage in outreach and external communication.	1.2.1 Total number of short public reports or analytical ad hoc products produced by the NCPT immediately after individual monitoring visits with the support of the EU	1.2.1 0 (2022)	1.2.1 5 per year for 2025-2027	1.2.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, NCPT website / reports	Publication of immediate results of NCPT visits will contribute to an improvement in the human rights situation of persons deprived of their liberty;
		1.2.2 Number of SOPs (Standard operational procedures) developed by the NCPT to systematize its analytical work following monitoring visits with the support of the EU	1.2.2 0 (2022)	1.2.2 1 (2027)	1.2.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, NCPT website / reports	
<b>Output 1.3 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.3 Increased opportunities, in the form of structured meetings and working groups, for the NCPT to influence policy-making and to promote the implementation of its recommendations at the national and local level.	1.3.1 Number of roundtables and working meetings organized by / under the auspices of the NCPT with the support of the EU	1.3.1 0 (2022)	1.3.1 4 per year for 2025-2027	1.3.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, NCPT website / reports	Publication of immediate results of NCPT visits will contribute to an improvement in the human rights situation of persons deprived of their liberty; media freedoms will not deteriorate significantly
<b>Output 1.4 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.4 Increased capacity of the Ombudsperson Institute to carry out monitoring activities, prepare thematic and ad hoc reports and analyses, engage in advocacy with the authorities and provide internal training and support to its staff.	1.4.1 Total number of special reports and ad hoc analytical products, advocacy statements produced by the Ombudsperson with the support of the EU  1.4.2 Total number of submissions to UN human rights mechanisms by the Ombudsperson with the support of the EU	1.4.1 0 (2023)  1.4.2 0 (2023)	1.4.1 6 per year for 2025-2027  1.4.2 2 per year for 2025-2027	1.4.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, Ombudsperson website / reports  1.4.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, Ombudsperson website / reports, capacity assessment	The Ombudsperson Institute will retain the ability to perform its mandate and political pressure will not be an absolute impediment to the discharging of its functions; Kyrgyzstan will continue to regularly engage with UN human rights mechanism Kyrgyzstan will continue to regularly engage with UN

						human rights mechanisms
<b>Output 1.5 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.5 Increased opportunities for systematic engagement of the Ombudsperson Institute with UN human rights mechanisms and long-term relations with civil society.	1.5.1 Number of platforms enabling long term and systematic relations with civil society organizations on joint consultations / activities and other forms of collaboration created/strengthened with the support of the EU  1.5.2 Number of SOPs adopted developed by the Ombudsperson with the support of the EU on engagement with civil society and UN mechanisms.	1.5.1 0 (2023)  1.5.2 0 (2023)	1.5.1 2 (2027)  1.5.2 2 (2027)	1.5.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, Ombudsperson website / reports  1.5.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, Ombudsperson website / reports	The Ombudsperson Institute will retain the ability to perform its mandate and political pressure will not be an absolute impediment to the discharging of its functions; Kyrgyzstan will continue to regularly engage with UN human rights mechanisms
<b>Output 1.6 relating to Outcome 1</b>	1.6 Increased opportunities, in the form of structured meetings and working groups, for the Ombudsperson Institute to influence policy-making and to promote the implementation of their recommendations at the national and local level, and for discussion and improvement of the legislative framework regulating the work of the Ombudsperson Institute	1.6.1 Number of roundtables and working meetings organized by / under the auspices of the Ombudsperson, with a focus on the implementation of its recommendations, with the support of the EU  1.6.2 Number of inter-agency working groups where the Ombudsperson is a member with the support of the EU	1.6.1 0 (2023)  1.6.2 TBD (2023)	1.6.1 12, with an increase of at least 20% from baseline (2027)  1.6.2 increase or at least 20% from baseline (2027)	1.6.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, Ombudsperson website / reports  1.6.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, Ombudsperson website / reports	The Ombudsperson Institute will retain the ability to perform its mandate and political pressure will not be an absolute impediment to the discharging of its functions; Kyrgyzstan will continue to regularly engage with UN human rights mechanisms
<b>Output 2.1 relating to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 Enhanced capacities of targeted women and youth organisations, and other actors to manage and lead community organisations and groups.	2.1.1 Number of women and youth organisations and other actors trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on to manage and lead agile community organisations	2.1.1 0 (2024)	2.1.1 112 (2027)	2.1.1 Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention Sources of verification: pre-post training test reports	Members of women and youth organisation and of other institutions are willing to actively participate to the capacity building and are interested to use

		<p>and groups to prevent from and respond to VAWG at various levels disaggregated by type: youth organizations, women organizations</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of target communities and organisations with home grown behaviour model elaborated at individual and group levels to prevent from and respond to VAWG with the support of the EU</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of grassroots civil society organisations and groups benefitting from (or reached by) EU support (GERF 2.28)</p>	<p>2.1.2 0 (2024)</p> <p>2.1.3 0 (2024)</p>	<p>2.1.2 112 (2027)</p> <p>2.1.3 60 (2027)</p>	<p>2.1.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.3. Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>acquired knowledge to review and model their own behaviour and practices</p>
<p><b>Output 2.2</b></p> <p><b>relating to Outcome 2</b></p>	<p>2.2 Enhanced capacities of targeted community level women and youth organisations, authorities, media and other actors to partner to advance ‘unified model of violence prevention’ (‘zero VAWG community’) model</p>	<p>2.2.1 Number of stakeholders which have ‘unified model of violence prevention’ (zero VAWG community model) co-created, and iterated with the support of the EU, disaggregated by type: target communities and organizations)</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of practices of institutionalised "zero VAWG communities" disseminated to the wider public with the support of the EU</p> <p>2.2.3 Number of coordinated actions by women’s rights</p>	<p>2.2.1 0 (2024)</p> <p>2.2.2 0 (2024)</p> <p>2.2.3 200 (2023)</p>	<p>2.2.1 163 Target communities: 23 (2027) Organizations: 140 (2027)</p> <p>2.2.2 TBD (2027)</p> <p>2.2.3 1150 (2027)</p>	<p>2.2.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention Success stories</p> <p>2.2.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, list of practices identified</p> <p>2.2.3 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Target communities and LSGs are willing to co-create their own localized ‘zero VAWG community model’ based on the learning jointly done with the CSOs</p> <p>Partners are willing to openly share from their “What Works” practices on various elements that will constitute a safe and friendly environment for prevention VAWG.</p>

		organisations, autonomous social movements and relevant civil society organisations in partner country to advocate jointly on ending violence against women and girls				
<b>Output 2.3</b> <b>relating to Outcome 2</b>	2.3 Digital means for communication and dissemination of new social norms and concrete practices on the prevention from violence against women and girls, especially from abduction of woman and girls for the purpose of forced marriage, co-created and/or up-scaled.	<p>2.3.1 Number of digitized knowledge products co-created and upscaled with the support of the EU</p> <p>2.3.2 Number of civil society organisations actors trained by the EU-funded intervention to use various digital means for communicating and disseminating non-violent trend in their communities and targeted institutions with the support of the EU</p> <p>2.3.3 Number of people reached with EU-funded awareness raising campaigns (disaggregated by sex and age) (core OPSYS indicator)</p>	<p>2.3.1 5 (2024)</p> <p>2.3.2 0 (2024)</p> <p>2.3.3 0 (2024)</p>	<p>2.3.1 15 (2027)</p> <p>2.3.2 115 (2027)</p> <p>2.3.3 TBD during the inception phase reaching minimum 50% of target community population M: X, F: X Youth (under 35 years old): X</p>	<p>2.3.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.3.2 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.3.3 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Community members are willing to learn and overcome their own limitations and fear, including those among women and girls in accessing and using digital platform on zero VAWG community model'</p> <p>Local and National authorities are open and willing to learn how to engage with the wider communities for using digital platform</p>
<b>Output 3.1</b> <b>relating to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 Increased understanding and capacity of youth-led CSO on policy issues to address youth challenges, including those faced by marginalized youth group.	3.1.1 Number of youth-led CSO organisations staff trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on policy issues to address youth challenges, disaggregated by sex	3.1.1 0 (2024)	3.1.1 45 (2027)	3.1.1 Pre- and post-training test reports	Youth organisation are willing to step up their public engagement and upgrade their organisational structures
<b>Output 3.2</b>	3.2 Active participation in consultative meetings and shadow reporting of	3.2.1 Number of civil society organisations that have access/take part into	3.2.1 0 (2024)	3.2.1 10 (2027)	3.2.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention, registry	Youth organisation are willing to step up their public



<b>relating to Outcome 3</b>	youth leaders on issues related to marginalised youth, persons with disabilities, women and human rights fostered.	local and national decision-making fora, including digital fora with the support of the EU.			of presence of local and central bodies	engagement and tackle sensitive topics, while local and central governmental structure are open to a stronger youth participation.
<b>Output 3.3 relating to Outcome 3</b>	3.3 Enhanced collaboration among youth groups and CSOs for joint reflection and grant funding.	3.3.1 Number of public campaigns co-designed and launched with the support of the EU.	3.3.1 0 (2024)	3.3.1 10 (2027)	3.3.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention	Youth organisations are willing to co-create and participate in joint structures that could amplify their voices.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 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 rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>9</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity (or group of entities), which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria. While the fulfilment of all criteria for a given Specific Objective by the selected entity is preferable, they are non-cumulative. The Commission will select the entity (or group of entities) on the basis of the best possible fulfilment of the list of criteria.

For the sub-component related to Human Rights protection (Specific Objective 1):

- Strong mandate and experience in promoting the implementation of international standards and norms in human rights monitoring, with a particular focus on improving the efficiency and the capacity of national human rights institutions
- Mandated to develop statistical standards, frameworks and recommendations in the field of human rights, but also of crime and criminal justice and related experience supporting States to produce statistics on these matters.
- Incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men, including young men and women, in all areas of work is part of the entity's mandate.
- Proven track-record related to human rights institutions and youth organisations in Kyrgyzstan.
- Previous experience in implementing interventions in the field of human rights and youth organisation in Kyrgyzstan funded by the EU or by other donors.

For the subcomponents related to the rights of Women (Specific Objective 2) and Youth (Specific Objective 3):

- Strong existing operational footprint in Kyrgyzstan and its provinces or capacity to deploy one
- Proven ability to work across the women/youth rights development nexus
- Specific knowledge and experience in Kyrgyzstan and internationally of more than three years on the each of the 2 sub-components developed by the action (gender equality - ending gender-based violence, youth empowerment)
- Capacity to address normative, coordination and local governance challenges as part of gender equality/youth programming

<sup>9</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

- Previous experience in implementing interventions in the field of civil society women and youth organisation in Kyrgyzstan funded by the EU or by other donors.

These criteria can also be fulfilled collectively by a group of entities.

The implementation by this entity or entities entails the organisation of activities related to Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

#### Specific Objectives

1. To enhance the technical, analytical and communication capacity of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute, to increase the capacity to support the implementation of selected GSP+ relevant conventions and to increase effectiveness (including adherence to the Paris Principles)
2. . Women's human rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence.
3. Young people's organizations are empowered with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to effectively address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country.

#### 4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

Due to exceptional circumstances, the indirect management mode could be changed to direct management mode via grants to Civil Society Organisations selected through Calls for Proposals, with a total budgetary envelope equal to EUR 5 000 000. The Civil Society Organisations will be selected using the same non-cumulative criteria outlined in Section 4.3.1. This applies to all Specific Objectives.

#### 4.4. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3	
<b>Objective 1:</b> To enhance the technical, analytical and communication capacity of the NCPT and the Ombudsperson Institute, to increase the capacity to support the implementation of selected GSP+ relevant conventions and to increase effectiveness (including adherence to the Paris Principles)	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.3.11	2 000 000
<b>Objective 2:</b> Women's human rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence.	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.3.11	2 000 000
<b>Objective 3:</b> Young people's organizations are empowered with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to effectively address youth-related issues, promote human rights, and foster inclusivity and gender equality in the country.	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity - cf. section 4.3.11	1 000 000

<b>Evaluation &amp; Audit</b>	0 <sup>10</sup>
<b>Contingencies</b>	0 <sup>11</sup>
<b>Totals</b>	5 000 000

## 4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The overall implementation of each sub-component of the action will be guided at the strategic level by a Steering Committee, led by the EU and the Implementing Partner. The Steering Committee may include key line ministries and public institutions, civil society representatives, private sector and implementing partners, as relevant. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year.

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.

No preconditions are needed for starting the implementation of this Action

# 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 and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list.

A comprehensive monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan, to be agreed upon, will be developed and will seek to establish synergies and complementarities, in accordance with EC and the implementation partners' evaluation policies and practices to ensure optimal learning and accountability. The monitoring process will be conducted jointly by the implementation partners, ensuring gains of scale and cost-effectiveness of the action. Each progress and final reports shall be subject to review and approval by the Steering Committee for the action.

The action's log frame baseline values will be based on official data sources, including national surveys and administrative data, and credible studies. For indicators where data are not available, data collection will be conducted at the initial stages of implementation as a baseline study, including through the application of surveys, under the responsibility and cost of the implementing partners. This study will be repeated at least once to collect final data, and more when deemed useful to collect intermediary data.

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

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).

<sup>10</sup> May be covered by another Decision.

<sup>11</sup> May be covered by another Decision.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a(n) evaluation(s) will not be carried out for this action or its components.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>12</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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

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

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

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

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

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

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

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<sup>12</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)