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ANNEX VII

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the of the Annual Action Plan for Planet (Global Challenges) for 2021

Action Document for Green Deal Knowledge Hub (Planet) – Part I

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

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

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Green Deal Knowledge Hub (Planet) - Part I CRIS number: 43524 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Global
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme Global Challenges 2021-2027 - Planet
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	Priority 4.2 Planet, Specific Objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean) and 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas)
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 2 – Planet
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG : 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable Cities) and 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 5, 8, 13, 14, 15
8 a) DAC code(s)	14010 – Water Supply and Sanitation 43030 – Urban Development and management 32130 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	Other (52000)
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	(methodology for marker and tagging under development)			
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14 02 02 41 — Planet — Global Challenges Total estimated cost: EUR 17 200 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 17 200 000. The contribution is for an amount of EUR 15 700 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2021 and for an amount of EUR 1 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing¹	Direct management through: Procurement –contract(s) for services			

1.2. Summary of the Action

The action concerns the establishment and management of a Green Deal Knowledge Hub (GDKH), crucial to support the implementation and monitoring of the European Green Deal’s external dimension towards a global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, nature-positive, circular, resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways.

The Knowledge Hub will constitute a central element in strengthening quality and impact of EU cooperation in support of the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal. The knowledge hub will provide on-demand technical assistance and knowledge support to partner countries, EU Delegations and services in Headquarters. It will promote knowledge development and sharing of best practices to address common challenges and support the European agenda on green transition. The support will include short term technical assistance missions, help desk services, information and communication, knowledge and capacity development, policy support, methodological work, technical backstopping and quality support, which will be coordinated between EU Delegations and geographic and thematic services of the Commission. This should necessarily translate in a stronger coordination between Global Knowledge Hubs and national/regional pool/mechanisms of expertise and facilitate the effective overall coordination with relevant partners and EU Member States actors.

The Knowledge Hub will cover the key priorities of the Green Deal: climate change, biodiversity and forests, circular economy and zero pollution, water and oceans, sustainable agriculture and food systems, green cities and sustainable mobility. **This Action establishes the first components of the Hub, covering the following areas: water, circular economy, and urban development.** The part covering water and circular economy will build on existing technical assistance facilities. The urban development component entails, apart from the technical assistance facility, the establishment of a platform for exchange and engagement with other EU MS agencies active in development cooperation on field of urban development, underpinning, where relevant, a team Europe approach for support to urban development.

The knowledge hub will also contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III, notably its specific part on “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition”

The Action mainly contributes to Specific objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean) and Specific objective 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas) of the Planet area and to specific objective 2 (Circular economy) and 3 (Quality infrastructure and connectivity) of the Prosperity area of the MIP Global Challenges 2021-27 as well as to the achievement of SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 14 (life below water)

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The success of the European Green Deal will depend on the EU success in mainstreaming sustainability coherently across all its policies. It will also depend on close international cooperation with partners with the objective to support their efforts to *'Build Back Better'* and increase global ambition.

Therefore, the European Green Deal and its components have a **strong international dimension** that commits the EU to lead international negotiations and action on climate, energy and biodiversity and to use its green diplomacy, multilateral engagements, trade policy, external investments and international cooperation to shape and support the global sustainability transition.

The EU has committed to use the European Green Deal² as its “compass” for the post-COVID-19 recovery and to help partner countries to build back better.

The world is **not on track** to meet most of the international commitments on climate change and environmental degradation, notably SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15 and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. On the contrary, recent reports, notably by the International Panels on Climate Change and on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, highlight an acceleration of the climate and biodiversity crises and the risk of irreversible damage and tipping points. They also highlight that the climate and environmental crises are deeply interconnected and require transformative action in key areas. Efforts to meet SDG 2 (food), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 11 (cities) and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) must be stepped up in a context where the COVID pandemic risks delaying or reversing progress in these areas.

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise, with women and girls most affected. 42% of the world's population lives in transboundary basins³ that are subject to increased pressure on water resources. Enhanced international water governance, addressing the energy-water-food-ecosystem nexus and collaboration among riparian countries is needed to ease international tensions in already fragile areas (Tigris-Euphrates, Mekong, Nile, Himalaya, Orange, Lake Chad and Central Asia). At the same time, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water and, each day, nearly 1.000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases. It is therefore necessary to accelerate the pace of investments to protect water-related ecosystems, promote sustainable water management and water infrastructure as well as strengthening coordination and collaboration at all levels to achieve SDG 6 and ensure that water security supports all other SDGs.

There is only one planet Earth, yet by 2050, the world will be consuming as if there were three⁴. Consumption of materials such as biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals is expected to double in the next forty years⁵, while annual waste generation is projected to increase by 70% by 2050⁶. As half of total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing, the European Green Deal launched a concerted strategy for a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy. Scaling up the **circular economy** in the EU and in partner countries, from front-runners to the mainstream economic players, will make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use, while ensuring long-term competitiveness and leaving no one behind.

By 2050, more than two-thirds of the world population, close to 7 billion people, will live in **urban areas**. This will put increasing pressures on resources but will also provide opportunities for meeting basic human development needs and creating jobs while minimizing negative environmental impacts, including climate change, pollution and waste. Cities will play a central role in shaping future consumption and production patterns and in the transition to climate neutrality and resilience, circularity, sustainable urban mobility, zero pollution and the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems. To harness these opportunities, it will be key to adopt an integrated sustainable urban development approach that works for all people and respects the environment.

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/green-deal_en

³ http://ihp-wins.unesco.org/layers/geonode:transboundary_river_basins

⁴ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>

⁵ OECD (2018), Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060.

⁶ World Bank (2018), What a Waste 2.0: A Global Snapshot of Solid Waste Management to 2050.

2.2. Problem Analysis

The external dimension of the Green Deal entails a range of complex and multidimensional concepts where effective actions by EU Delegations (and Headquarters) would require a structured access to and engagement with a wider field of technical expertise and methodological approaches. Being of a cross-cutting nature, they encompass policy, legal, social, economic, environmental, cultural and financial aspects in addition to their technical aspects.

This is valid also for Government counterparts in developing countries: the European Commission usually interacts with central governments, while the provision of basic services like waste management and water supply and sanitation, are the responsibility of municipal/metropolitan authorities, often lacking the necessary competences and resources to manage this complexity (especially when the decentralisation process is still incomplete). EU Delegations often do not have strong partnerships with sub-national authorities.

Several EU Member State agencies, development partners (International Financial Institutions, DFIs), CSOs and International Organisations are active at various levels in these fields. In some areas, such as urban development in partner countries, they have a broader experience than the European Commission. Nonetheless, the potential of their multiple instruments and programmes is not necessarily fully exploited, due to the multi-sectoral nature of the challenges and the difficulty to coordinate approaches between partners.

Achieving climate neutrality and circularity also entails innovation in economic policies, regulatory frameworks, finance and investment and business models and practices: the generation and dissemination of knowledge, the development of capacities and the provision of high-level technical assistance is required to support public and private actors in this transition in partner countries. There are many opportunities to leverage EU expertise in these areas and promote partnerships.

Actions in and by cities will be central for the achievement of the wider SDGs and in particular the Green Deal objectives. This is not only for actions specially targeting urban development but also across a multitude of interventions that will take place or be implemented by cities. A more integrated approach to urban development will be called for, building on work undertaken under other initiatives, including for example Global Covenant of Mayors.

Water security will ensure ecosystemic, cultural, economic and social impacts not only if governance, finance and skills are developed together but also if strong cross-cutting elements are put forward: the digital transition should improve transparency and effectiveness at all level; the EU Human rights guidelines for safe drinking water and sanitation need to be further implemented; Water Access, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) actions are integral part of Human Development and need to be mainstreamed in public services such as schools and health centres; gender needs to be central to water action; the use of conflict sensitive approaches needs to be further pushed for peace and security and all stakeholders, including civil society needs to be associated in the decision making process. It will be instrumental to the implementation of the EU Council Conclusions on Water in external action of 19 November 2021.

Considering the complexity to support the sound implementation of the external dimension of the Green Deal, the generation of robust knowledge, innovation and technical assistance, together with harmonisation, coordination and dissemination will be required.

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub will support international policy and normative work and provide expertise, knowledge development and sharing, and capacity development to partner countries, EU delegations and EU services in headquarters. It will mobilise the best available international expertise in required areas and project EU know-how in a cost-effective way, realizing economies of scale. It will also support the development of improved institutional coordination and dialogue mechanisms (notably through the Urban Development Platform), addressing the needs identified.

The components of the action will intervene at a different level, supporting the identification of needs and of possible future areas of intervention, delivering technical assistance in a flexible way and on a short-term basis, disseminating lessons and best practices, as well as supporting coordination and visibility. As such, it will help to improve the effectiveness of EU and partner countries cooperation on the urban development, water management and circular economy.

The Green Deal Knowledge hub will work with a number of stakeholders, being direct beneficiaries of technical assistance, EU delegations and services in Headquarters or counterparts in the dialogue with EU actors. Partner governments, EU Delegations and EC services will be able to request technical assistance for specific circular economy, water and urban development related initiatives. EU Member States' development agencies, CSOs and International Organisations will interact with the Knowledge Hub at various levels both for exchange of best practices and information and, in specific cases, for provision of expertise. The final beneficiaries of the action will be the governments, local authorities together with the citizens and private sector of the partner countries, for whom the relevant cooperation programmes are designed and implemented, with the support of the Knowledge Hub.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

In line with the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 of the NDICI Global Challenges programme (Planet area), the Overall Objective of this action is “to support the global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways”.

This action concerns the establishment of the first components of a Green Deal Knowledge Hub, crucial to support the implementation of the European Green Deal's external dimension, covering the following two areas: water and circular economy; and urban development.

Each of the two components of the action follows specific objectives, outputs and activities that are coherent with this broader objective, as follows:

Component 1: Circular Economy and Water window

Specific Objective 1: Improve the quality and impact of European Commission's external actions in support of circular economy and water sector at national, regional and global level

- Output 1.1: Improved identification, formulation and delivery of EU circular economy and water related actions, with a special reference to WASH;
- Output 1.2 Enhanced dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences and innovation on circular economy and water cooperation between the EU and development partners;
- Output 1.3: Knowledge creation, communication and capacity development on green and circular economy and water issues.

Component 2: Urban Development window

Specific Objective 2: Improve the quality and impact of European Commission's external actions in support of urban development at local, regional and global level

- Output 2.1 An EU Platform for greater coordination and alignment on sustainable urban development is active;
- Output 2.2 Dialogue, identification, formulation and delivery of EU urban development related actions are improved ;
- Output 2.3 Knowledge on sustainable urban development is created and shared within the EU Commission, development partners and partner countries.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Component 1- Circular Economy and Water window

Activities under Output 1.1 will include:

- Review of any type of programme document presenting cooperation priorities and individual projects to be funded by the EU for quality support and to support mainstreaming (in particular environment, climate change, gender, human rights and conflict sensitive approaches);
- Mobilisation of short term expertise for identification / formulation missions, or other project related Technical Assistance missions;

- Support to policy dialogue and policy work at global, regional, water basin or national level (e.g. field missions, field or desk analysis, policy or normative text revision, sharing of good practices, good governance support, etc.).
- Analytical work in support of EU cooperation (e.g. geographic or thematic assessments and mappings of stakeholders and EU expertise, needs analysis, projects data quality and analysis including sex-disaggregated data, analysis of the social, cultural and political contexts of projects, case studies, documentation of lessons and best practices);
- Development and update of tools such as guidance on indicators, projects mapping, mainstreaming guidance.

Activities under Output 1.2 will include:

- Prepare inputs, events or material to support the institution work on communication in relation with water and circular economy;
- Support and/or participate in partners communication and visibility activities including side events and conferences;

Activities under Output 1.3 will include:

- Methodological support and Development and dissemination of knowledge products and tools on circular economy, water resources management, WASH, or access to finance;
- Development and delivery of trainings and other capacity development activities for EU staff and development partners.
- Develop knowledge sharing and communication activities for practitioners, including on research and innovation and exchange of data (EUDs and technical partners).

Component 2- Urban Development window

Activities related to Output 2.1 will include:

- Support to the creation and to the technical work of the EU Urban Development Platform, whose aim is to strengthen the cooperation and alignment of EU actors on sustainable urban development in partner countries;
- Support the organisation of (bi-annual) meeting of the EU Platform on sustainable urban development
- Support to the organisation of events promoted by the Platform;
- Support the data and lessons gathering from experiences of EU actors in urban development;
- Support to regional networks and exchanges on urban development.
- Support development of knowledge on gender equality and human rights based approach in urban development areas

Activities related to Output 2.2 will include:

- Mobilise on demand expertise to support the design and implementation of project/programmes on sustainable cities;
- Mobilise on demand expertise to support policy dialogue with partner countries (e.g. field missions, field or desk analysis, policy or normative text revision, sharing of good practices, etc.) for the advancement of their sustainable urban development agenda;
- Elaborate tools (e.g. maps, guidelines, digital tools, etc.) to strengthen the thematic knowledge of European Commission Services ;
- Provide guidance to partners for the integration and mainstreaming of the urban development aspects in other relevant interventions (e.g. climate change, social inclusion, etc.).

Activities related to Output 2.3 will include:

- Streamline methodological approaches and promote exchange of experiences;
- Develop knowledge products (e.g. thematic papers) on sustainable urban development
- Support communication and visibility on urban development in EU cooperation
- Organise and create content for events, conferences, trainings

A number of activity areas (across the three outputs) can be already identified such as: integrated urban planning and urban governance, urban finance, sustainable urban mobility, waste management, urban environmental quality, smart cities, linkages to jobs and growth (cities as engine of growth and innovation hubs), and countering inequality, including social inclusion in cities, prevention and upgrading of slum areas.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Environmental protection and climate change are strongly interconnected. Biodiversity loss is affected by climate change, and has negative consequences for cities to meet basic needs and ensure human well-being. However, biodiversity and water, through the ecosystem services it supports, also makes an important contribution to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Freshwater ecosystems are the most affected by biodiversity losses. A sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity is critical to addressing climate change while allowing cities and freshwater ecosystems to thrive. At the same time, increasing the resilience of water related ecosystems through Integrated Water Resource Management will participate to climate adaptation, climate mitigation (notably through soil and wetlands conservation) and biodiversity protection. The European Green Deal mainstreams this broader approach aimed at supporting the transition to sustainable, green and inclusive practices. The action will support environmental sustainability issues and address the impact of climate change on biodiversity dynamics, water and cities. The impact of development of infrastructures on biodiversity and climate change will be taken into consideration along the actions taken.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that special attention will be paid to gender aspects in the implementation of the action. The inclusion of women and girls will be sought in all components. Particular attention will be paid to recognising the role and rights of women and girls in relation with WASH access in order to fight gender inequalities. This action provides an opportunity to support areas (a) where women should be provided better access to resources and decision-making, (b) where girls and women could be specifically encouraged to develop new skills. This action will contribute to the EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III) which aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls, and safeguard gains made on gender equality. The Action contributes to the realisation of the “Thematic area of engagement – Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”, more specifically to the specific thematic objective “Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, addressing climate change in their daily lives and preserving the natural environment are supported”.

Human Rights

The action will support human-rights based approach. Specific attention will be paid to access to basic urban services such as clean water and sanitation, sustainable transport and waste management etc.

The Action will promote and support the implementation of the EU Human Rights Guidelines on safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Action will be implemented while applying the five working principles of the human rights based approach: a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data.

Rights Based Approaches will be thought in all activities, from support to policy dialogue to action design and communication. Multi-stakeholder involvement and benefits for local populations will be a key criterion for project selection.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that disabilities has not been identified as a significant objective, the action will seek to be inclusive in its communication and participation to people with disabilities and related provisions of the Human Rights guidelines for safe drinking water and sanitation will be implemented.

Democracy

The action will indirectly contribute to supporting the development of a more democratic systems by improving governance, at local, national, and regional levels. The action will support a culture of social inclusion, institutional

dialogue, data sharing and knowledge dissemination as well as participation of civil society and other partners in decision-making processes.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

To avoid unintended negative impacts of the selection of specific partners and beneficiaries (possible tensions and divisions between groups of interest), the action is designed with a participatory approach. Activities will be developed in an inclusive manner with a strong attention to facilitating dialogue, promoting peace, and mitigation and management conflicts. In the water sector, a conflict sensitive and sustainable management of the resources is a recognised mean to support and promote a peaceful development. In this regard, conflict sensitive approaches will be promoted whenever required and related support will be offered.

The link between climate change impacts on conflict and fragilities is well known, although it is certainly not a linear link. Energy production, for example, even if clean, has social and environmental implications (land, gender implications), as well human rights impacts (on communities, indigenous peoples, environmental defenders, etc). Therefore, conflict sensitivity issues (e.g. risks of doing harm, exacerbating tensions, conflicts, divisions and/or dimensions of fragility) and resilience, as well as all other related cross cutting issues should be taken into account systematically.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Integration of DRR has particular importance in the case of sustainable urban development and water management since major risks related to water materialize by the excess, the lack, the pollution, or the disruption of water systems. The Sendai Framework has substantially expanded the scope of DRR to include natural hazards as well as human-made and all related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. The action will enhance resilience in this extended context.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
	Risk 1: Weak institutional management capacity and skills of national counterparts	H	H	Training needs are carefully assessed and targeted skills development is provided
	Risk 2: Relevant EU Member States are not interested or active in their participation to the Urban Development Platform	L	H	Sensitization and advocacy by relevant EU Commission Services targeting relevant EU Member State Agencies
	Risk 3: Lack of “buy in” from Delegations, government and national stakeholders	L	M	Provide demand driven support, promote high level political commitment and build alliances; implement outreach, advocacy and awareness activities to mobilize stakeholders
	Risk 4: Political instability at country level, change of government and/or senior officials with whom	M	M	Ensure that engagement is diversified and prioritize action in countries with sufficient stability

	relationships have been established			
	Risk 5: Limited interest to integrate gender equality and human rights due to social and cultural barriers	M	M	The Action will conduct a gender analysis to identify the lacuna's in knowledge (especially regarding gender in relation to water/urban development)

Lessons Learnt:

- The European Commission provides technical assistance in all the fields of development cooperation, however, the knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt in the multiple dispersed interventions by external experts are often insufficiently collected and organised for real knowledge building. A Knowledge hub would provide tools for collecting and managing the precious experience of the vast EU cooperation in relevant fields.
- Due consideration of cross-regional and cross-country aspects: in a world of global trade and environmental challenges, breaking out of the geographical and sectors silos is imperative to make best use of the huge potential for synergies across and to address challenges that require transcending administrative boundaries. The creation of a pool of on-demand non-key experts of high calibre, covering a wide range of expertise, geographical experience and language skill is fundamental and proved to be successful in providing high quality support to our partners and EU delegations, as demonstrated by the implementation of the Switch to Green facility.
- Shared ownership of coordination activities with EU partner organisations from an early stage of planning enhances the feeling of ownership to all those involved, positively influencing their commitment and contribution to such actions.
- Member States Agencies have wide and long term experience in development cooperation, even decentralised. They have privileged dialogue with many partner countries' governments, they have access to a pool of high-level experts and have direct experience in relevant policy making. A thematic platform for exchange and dialogue with EU Member States can provide added value to European Commission development cooperation.
- Integrated Urban Development is a multidimensional policy and interventions in cities are not effective if not planned considering the different issues involved (social, economic, technical etc.). Mainstreaming urban development in all policies and operations implemented in urban areas is key to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The action is designed to support actors managing or implementing EU cooperation programmes at global, regional and country level (in particular partner countries, EU Delegations and EU Headquarters) to assess, design, monitor, implement and evaluate circular economy, water and sustainable cities interventions (mainstreaming environmental protection and climate change) and to support policy work on these matters.

By doing so, the Action seeks to improve the quality and visibility of Green Deal related operations and policy dialogue in EU external action, that will enable the EU to better play its role and promote its political priorities and interest at all levels.

For the circular economy and water component, the action will build on the actions and achievements of the current technical assistance.

Improved quality and impact of operations in the field of urban development will be supported through the effective channelling of wider knowledge and experiences on aspects of integrated urban development to in country actors – EUDs and counterparts. The knowledge hub, with its technical assistance facility and platform bringing EU member states agencies active in urban development and other international knowledge partners together, would be instrumental in providing effective access to a wider range of expertise, approaches and networks. This would also serve as a forum for the European Commission seeking to engage with and shape international policy processes and knowledge creation in the field of urban development. Some of the EU Member States have substantial experience in working with subnational entities on urban development and their expertise and instruments are different from those offered by a private consultancy firm. They are also a more appropriate partner for any policy dialogue activity.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

The matrix below will be updated and refined during the inception phase of the action.

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

Results	Results chain (Ⓔ): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (Ⓔ): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baseline s (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support the global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways	1 Number of approved legal frameworks/ agreements promoting inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development – supported by the Action 2 Number of approved plans and/or projects promoting inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development – supported by the Action 3 Number of Countries covered by Green Deal related initiatives supported by the Action	0 in 2021	1- 20 approved legal frameworks/agreements by 2026 2- 60 plans/projects by 2026 3- 50 countries by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Monitoring and reports from TA and official sources	<i>Not applicable</i>
Component 1: Circular Economy and Water window						
Outcome 1	The quality and impact of European Commission's external actions in support of the circular economy and water sector at national, regional and global level is improved.	Number of delegations / institutions supported by the circular economy and water window of the Green Deal knowledge hub	0 in 2021	30 delegations/ institutions with comprehensive water and/ or circular economy interventions by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Circular Economy and Water window monitoring and reports	EU delegations are aware of the circular economy and water window of the Green Deal knowledge hub and the support services it provide. Support will be provided on a demand driven basis, promote high level political commitment and build alliances; Outreach and advocacy
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1: Improved identification, formulation and delivery of EU circular economy and water related actions	1.1.1 Number of project documents designed or improved with support from the facility	0 in 2021	1.1.1 200 projects documents by 2026	Circular Economy and Water	

		1.1.2 Number of TA missions carried/supported 1.1.3 Number of assessments, analysis and tools developed		1.1.2 20 TA missions by 2026 1.1.1 40 assessments and tools by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	window monitoring and reports	awareness activities to mobilize stakeholders are implemented. Opportunities for synergies and complementarities with other relevant interventions in the sectors are properly seized
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Enhanced dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences on circular economy and water cooperation between the EU and development partners	1.2.1 Number of circular economy and water related events organised 1.2.2 Number of officials and professionals/researchers participating in project events for sharing experiences (disaggregated by sex)	0 in 2021	1.2.1 12 by 2026 1.2.2 1000 by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Circular Economy and Water window monitoring and reports	

Output 3 related to Outcome 1	1.3: Knowledge creation, communication and capacity development on green and circular economy and water issues	1.3.1 Number of staff trained (disaggregated by sex) 1.3.2 Number of experts mobilised (disaggregated by sex) 1.3.3 Number of communication support developed	0 in 2021	1.3.1 100 by 2026 1.3.2 20 by 2026 1.3.3 50 by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Circular Economy and Water facility monitoring and reports	
Component 2 : Urban Development window						
Outcome 2	The quality and impact of European Commission's external actions in support of urban development at local, regional and global level is improved.	Number of delegations / institutions supported by the urban development window of the Green Deal knowledge hub	0 in 2021	20 delegations /countries with comprehensive urban development interventions + 10 with urban development angle integrated by 2026 To be further refined during inception	Monitoring reports from TA	
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 An EU Platform for greater coordination and alignment on	2.1.1 Number of MS actively involved in the platform	0 in 2021	2.1.1 4 MS 2.1.2 average 2/year	Monitoring reports from TA	

	sustainable urban development is active	2.1.2 Number of annual meetings of the platform 2.1.3 Number of thematic studies or analysis promoted by the platform 2.1.4 Number of EU-MS joint projects/programmes developed through the platform 2.1.5 Number of policy dialogues supported by platform in partner countries		To be further refined during inception		
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 Dialogue, identification, formulation and delivery of EU urban development related actions are improved	2.2.1 Number of expert advices provided to projects (identification, formulation or implementation) 2.2.2 Number of expert advices provided to normative work, policy dialogue events or policies/plans 2.2.3 Number of urban diagnostics and recommendations for sustainable urban development provided 2.2.4 Number of sectorial projects/programmes supported by the Action which are including an integrated urban development component 2.3.5 Number of tools (e.g. maps, guidelines, digital tools, etc.) produced 2.3.6 Extent to which outputs supported by this action are based on a gender analysis	0 in 2021	2.2.1 50 by 2026 2.3.5 10 by 2026 To be further refined during inception	Monitoring reports from TA	
Output 3 related to Outcome 2	2.3 Knowledge on sustainable urban development is created and shared within the EU Commission, development partners and partner countries	2.3.1 Number of thematic papers produced 2.3.2 Number of people trained on sustainable urban development (disaggregated by sex) 2.3.3 Number of people participating to knowledge sharing or awareness raising events	0 in 2021	2.3.1 10 thematic papers by 2026 To be further refined during inception	Monitoring reports from TA	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁷.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Procurement)

The full set of objectives/results listed in section 3 will be supported through the procurement of services contracts managed directly by the European Commission.

The call for tenders for part of the services contract(s) may be launched under a suspensive clause on the last trimester 2021 prior to the adoption of this Decision. This is justified given the late adoption of the Multi-Indicative Programme and therefore availability of funding. There is currently no facility in place underpinning the work on urban development.

4.3.2. Changes from direct to indirect management mode due to exceptional circumstances

If the procurement of services under direct management cannot be used as modality due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, part of the objectives/results listed in section 3 may be supported through contracting with a Member States Organisation and/or international organisation(s) under indirect management. The key criteria for selecting such organisation(s) will be that said organisation possesses extensive specialist knowledge and experience in the field of operation relevant to the targeted objectives/results.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

⁷ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components ⁸	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	
	2021	2022
Component 1- Circular Economy and Water window		
Outcome 1 - Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	5 700 000	1 500 000
Component 2- Urban Development window		
Outcome 2 – Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	10 000 000	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1⁹	15 700 000	1 500 000
		.
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	Will be covered by another Decision ¹⁰	Will be covered by another Decision ¹¹
Communication and visibility – cf. section 6	N.A. (included in the service contracts)	N.A. (included in the service contracts)
Contingencies¹²	0	0
Totals	15 700 000	1 500 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

For the circular economy and water window component:

⁸ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

⁹ In order to avoid details on budgets for individual contracts, it is sufficient to indicate the total envelop for procurement. If budgets for individual contracts are public, tenderers tend to orientate themselves on them and not on the terms of reference.

¹⁰ Where the action is not covered by a financing agreement (see section 4.1), but ‘will be covered by another Decision’ as it is unlikely that evaluation and audit contracts on this action would be concluded within N+1. These contracts have to be authorised by another Financing Decision.

¹¹ Where the action is not covered by a financing agreement (see section 4.1), but ‘will be covered by another Decision’ as it is unlikely that evaluation and audit contracts on this action would be concluded within N+1. These contracts have to be authorised by another Financing Decision.

¹² Consider that contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies have to be covered by individual and legal commitments by 31 December of N+1.

Activities of the technical assistance facility will be implemented by the Contractor under the supervision of the relevant Commission services.

For the urban development window component:

Activities of the technical assistance facility will be implemented by the Contractor under the supervision of the relevant Commission services.

A platform with EU Member State Agencies active in urban development cooperation will be established. The work of the platform will be supported by the Technical assistance. The platform will meet at least bi-annually. Relevant International Agencies (e.g. UN-Habitat) may be invited to join the urban development platform. The platform will function as forum for review of parts of the work programme for the Technical Assistance Facility, e.g. linked to methodological work, general knowledge work and studies.

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.

4.7. Pre-conditions

None

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

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

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- It will be the responsibility of the Contractors to collect and record data in order to monitor the performances of the Action according to the Logical Framework;
- Additionally, the Contractors will propose, at the inception phase, any additional relevant performance indicator to monitor the Action's achievements and the satisfaction of the final beneficiaries.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to the fact that the Action is a component of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub (and further components could benefit from recommendations). It will also evaluate the effectiveness of the Urban Development Platform as a way to coordinate interventions and strategies with the Member States. The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation

experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Where appropriate, gender and human rights expertise will be included in the evaluations.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility is a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to advertise the European Union's support for their work to the relevant audiences.

To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the [Communication and Visibility Requirements of 2018](#) (or any successor document), notably with regard to the use of the EU emblem and the elaboration of a dedicated communication and visibility plan, to be completed for every action at the start of implementation.

These obligations apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries or entrusted entities. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

Communication and visibility measures may be funded from the amounts allocated to the action. For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and concerned EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before work starts. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.

APPENDIX REPORTING IN OPSYS

Option 1: Action level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action>
Option 3: Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	TA contract for Component 1- Circular Economy and Water Facility – EUR 7 200 000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	TA contract for Component 2- Urban Development – EUR 10 000 000