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**ANNEX VII**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Asia region for 2021-2022

**Action Document for the SWITCH-Asia - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Policy Support Component)**

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

# 1. SYNOPSIS

## 1.1. Action Summary Table

| **1. Title**<br>**CRIS/OPSYS**<br>**business reference**<br>**Basic Act** | **SWITCH-Asia - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Policy Support Component)**<br><br>CRIS number: NDICI ASIA/2021/043-381<br><br>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) |
|---|---|
| **2. Team Europe Initiative** | Yes<br><br>Regional TEI on Sustainable Consumption and Production |
| **3. Zone benefiting from the action** | The action shall be carried out in countries eligible under the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme for Asia - Pacific - Middle-East for the period 2021-2027 |
| **4. Programming document** | Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme for Asia - Pacific - Middle-East for the period 2021-2027 |
| **5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/ expected results** | Priority area 1 – Regional integration and cooperation<br><br>SO 2 – Greener economies through more sustainable consumption and production<br><br>ER 2.1: Partners in Asia, Pacific and the Middle East establish and implement sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or mainstream SCP in national policies |
| **PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION** ||
| **6. Priority Area(s), sectors** | Green Economy, Environment, Climate Change, Regional integration and cooperation |
| **7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** | Main SDG (1 only): SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production<br>Other significant SDGs targets: SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG5: Gender equality and women's empowerment. |

| 8 a) DAC code(s)[1] | 32120 - Industrial development (50%) |
| --- | --- |
| | 41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management (50%) |

| 8 b) Main Delivery Channel | 51000 - University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank, business intermediaries |
| --- | --- |

| 9. Targets[2] | ☐ Migration<br>☒ Climate<br>☒ Social inclusion and Human Development<br>☐ Gender<br>☒ Biodiversity<br>☐ Education[3]<br>☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance[4] |
| --- | --- |

| 10. Markers [5] (from DAC form) | General policy objective | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Participation development/good governance | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | Aid to environment | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| | Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| | Trade development | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| | Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | Disaster Risk Reduction | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | Inclusion of persons with Disabilities | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | Nutrition | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | RIO Convention markers | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Biological diversity | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | Combat desertification | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| | Climate change mitigation | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| | Climate change adaptation | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11. Internal markers[6] and Tags[7]: | Policy objectives | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |

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[1] DAC sectors (codes and descriptions) are indicated in the first and fourth columns of the tab 'purpose codes' in the following document: http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-financestandards/dacandcrscodelists.htm

[2] Actual contribution to targets will be confirmed ex-post based on a standardised methodology.

[3] This target is specific to INTPA. If the action is marked as contributing to the Education target, please make sure the target on "Social inclusion and Human Development" is also marked.

[4] Thematic target for geographic programmes (at least 15%) in delegated act.

[5] For guidance, see https://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/ (go to "Data collection and resources for reporters", select Addendum 2, annexes 18 (policy) and 19 (Rio) of the reporting directive).
If an action is marked in the DAC form as contributing to one of the general policy objectives or to RIO principles as a principal objective or a significant objective, then this should be reflected in the logframe matrix (in the results chain and/or indicators).

[6] The internal markers have been created to report on the implementation of the Commission's own policy priorities in areas where no DAC reporting tool is available. For the sake of consistency and comparability, the methodology is equivalent to the DAC markers, with three possible positions (main target, significant target, not targeted)

[7] Methodology for additional tagging providing granularity on internal markers is under development.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Digitalisation | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Tags: digital connectivity | | ☐ | ☐ |
| digital governance | | ☐ | ☐ |
| digital entrepreneurship | | ☐ | ☒ |
| job creation | | ☒ | ☐ |
| digital skills/literacy | | ☐ | ☐ |
| digital services | | ☒ | ☐ |
| Connectivity | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Tags: transport | | ☐ | ☐ |
| people2people | | ☐ | ☐ |
| energy | | ☐ | ☐ |
| digital connectivity | | ☐ | ☐ |
| Migration (methodology for tagging under development) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Covid-19 | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

| **12. Amounts concerned** | Budget line(s) (article, item): <br> • Budget line 14.020130: EUR 8, 000,000 – (Middle East/Central Asia) <br> • Budget line 14.020131: EUR 10 ,000,000  – (other Asia) <br> • Budget line 14.020132: EUR 2 000,000 – (Pacific) <br><br> Total estimated cost: EUR 20,000,000 <br><br> Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 20,000,000 |
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**MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

| **13. Type of financing[8]** | **Direct management** through: <br> - Procurement |
|---|---|

## 1.2. Summary of the Action

The coronavirus pandemic has shaken the world to its core, with a **global recession of unprecedented socio-economic impact** testing the resilience of societies and economies and disrupting Global Value Chains (GVC). It also highlighted the **sustainability impact of established consumption and production patterns** on the environment, biodiversity and on situation of workers. In addition, evidence of climate-adverse developments and environmental degradation is very visible with plastics in the oceans, air pollution in urban environments, and depletion of land and water resources. At the same time, the current pandemic also provides governments with an **opportunity to rethink the fundamentals of their development models** to ensure that consumption and production patterns in the post-recovery context will be more sustainable and more inclusive. **National and regional recovery and development plans** should unleash economic opportunities that are socially just and green in the near-term and that enhance the sustainability and resilience of economies in the medium-to-long-term. **The green recovery is a significant need and challenge for the region to drive investments for sustainable growth.**

Based on the successful experience of the current SWITCH-Asia Facility, the transformative change proposed under this specific action will aim at building capacities of **regional organisations**, **partner countries** (including their line

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[8] Art. 27 NDICI

ministries and implementing agencies) providing a one-stop-shop to 30 EU Delegations and to policy-makers in the region to **(i) achieve targets of the SDG12** through the formulation and implementation of SCP-related policies, action plans and regulatory frameworks (essential elements for the recovery), **(ii) support countries in including SCP-related targets in their National Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and in complying with climate change and environmental and labour-related regional and international agreements and **(iii) facilitate policy dialogues at regional level** acting as a platform for continental and intra-regional exchanges of best practices among governments and their stakeholders.

This action will support the implementation of the regional **Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Consumption and Production** by supporting policy dialogues at continental level, providing direct technical assistance to regional organisations and governments supporting them in integrating SCP-related approaches in their policy and regulatory frameworks. It will also provide visibility to key policy areas linked to EU priorities not always covered by bilateral programmes, for example in the area of private sector engagement and the wider green deal agenda. Finally, this action will complement the activities carried out by the second component of the programme (the Grants Scheme) aimed at testing SCP-specific solutions both in the private sector and with consumers to be further scaled-up to the market through green finance mechanisms proposed by financial institutions and multilateral development banks active in the region. In this regard, the contribution of the Policy Support Component will be key in ensuring the use of evidences provided by the grant-projects to develop new policy approaches and incentives for the greening of the industrial sector in the region.

During its implementation, the SWITCH Policy Support Component will engage with *regional organisations, regional environmental platforms, national and local authorities (including their implementing agencies)* such as ASEAN Secretariat, the South-Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC), the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on SCP (APR-SCP) as well as with regional stakeholders (both with the *private sector and Civil Society Organisations)* to ensure the buy-in of regional and national strategies and regulatory frameworks by all relevant actors. Finally, the programme will look for synergies with other existing *EU and multilateral programmes and policy support platforms* in the region such as the 10YFP, the National Cleaner Production Centres, UN-PAGE, UN-ESCAP, UNEP, UNIDO, ILO, FAO, OECD, the World Bank, GGGI, the EU programmes SWITCH-to-Circular Economy Value Chains, WECOOP, E-READI, ARISE+, as well as the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)-funded projects on circular economy, such as the "Rethinking Plastics – Towards a Circular Economy in Southeast Asia", "EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification", "EU-GCC Clean Energy Network", "UNWASTE", "Support to the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency", "International Urban and Regional Cooperation", "Resource Efficiency Initiative with India", "Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement" projects..

This action is aligned with **geopolitical priorities** of the current Commission in the framework of the **European Green Deal** (i.e. circular economy action plan, farm to fork strategy, zero pollution action plan, biodiversity strategy) **as well as guided by the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the respective Joint Communications, as well as the EU Strategy on Central Asia.** It will **contribute specifically to SDG12** (Responsible Consumption and Production) while also supporting the uptake of specific targets under SDG 7 (clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG13 (climate change).

# 2. RATIONALE

## 2.1. Context

Asia and the Pacific region was **severely hit by the COVID-19 health crisis**, with resurgent variant-driven outbreaks pointing to continued risks amid an already highly uncertain outlook. COVID-19 is exacerbating existing social and economic inequities, with disproportionate impact on women[9]. Yet, from a macroeconomic standpoint, the region proved once again its **resilience**, with developing Asian economies contracting on average by 0.2% in 2020 and forecast to **rebound strongly in 2021 and 2022** according to the Asian Development Bank. Beyond the impressive average regional performance, Asia and the Pacific remains however a **complex and heterogeneous region**, with divergent economic performances and development levels. It is also the centre of intense geopolitical competition. As a key trade and investment partner and major global growth engine, the **region remains central to the EU**

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[9] www.apec.org/Publications/2020/12/Women-COVID-19-and-the-Future-of-Work-in-APEC

**interests** and its complexities and challenges constitute **one of the main testbeds for the EU's geopolitical ambitions** and its capacity to deliver global influence and contribute to the definition of international standards.

From an EU perspective, it is therefore essential to synchronise the timing of the ongoing sustained recovery with a **strong front-loading of cooperation and partnership tools** deployed in the context of NDICI – Global Europe. The overall purpose is to ensure that the **EU reinforces its strategic partnerships in the region,** and **effectively delivers in an already crowded geopolitical theatre** subject to intense geopolitical rivalry and competition. The EU must build on existing strengths, and make further advances in the region to **strategically position itself as a privileged partner** in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 recovery, able to turn the legacy challenges from the crisis into long-term cooperation and partnership opportunities.

"Building Back Better" in a sustainable and inclusive way is becoming increasingly important as COVID-19 is exacerbating existing social and economic inequities (notably in terms of gender inequalities[10]) and the situation of workers. In this regard, the **Agenda 2030** recognised Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) as a standalone SDG12. While the mainstreaming of SCP in regional and national policies has gained momentum in the region in past years (as countries reaffirmed their commitment to the Agenda 2030) in real terms, according to recent UN-ESCAP report[11], **the region is still lagging behind in fully achieving the targets under this SDG.** The pandemic has certainly worsened the outlook by disrupting GVC and leaving a large parts of the local population without jobs and incomes, thus raising inequalities. At the same time, the unusual circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic have intensified the interdependencies between the SDGs. Intersection between health and sustainability challenges was made clearer by the pandemic. The regress on the implementation of the immediately most affected SDGs, can influence the achievement of other SDGs, in short or long-term, creating a new pattern of interconnectedness between them, which can be related to consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. For post-pandemic recovery and resilience towards future challenges, it is important to understand the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for the SDGs, not only because the SDGs framework can serve as a useful tool if properly incorporated in the post-pandemic actions and recovery plans, but also because it can be a good opportunity to synergise the world different agendas for a sustainable future. Achieving its targets will require **stronger national and regional frameworks** for sustainable consumption and production strategies and adherence to international norms and agreements. This is fundamentally due to the **lack of long-term transformative policies** able to integrate a holistic approach to the economic development.

**To respond to the needs** of the region to shift to a greener and more sustainable economy while leaving none behind, DG INTPA has launched **the SWITCH-Asia Programme** to support regional organisations, national and local governments in the achievement of the SDG12 and moving towards a circular economy by developing roadmaps and action plans on SCP and providing policy-makers with viable policy solutions to restructure their economies ensuring a long-term sustainable development post-pandemic. Via proposed SWITCH-Asia regional programme **the EU will be able to build on an already solid and established track record to reconfirm its role as the key reference for sustainable consumption and production / circular economy best practices**.

This action will continue reinforcing the role of the EU as a key partner to support a green and just transition across the region, implementing the external dimension of the EU Green Deal, supporting a Team Europe approach and contributing to the establishment of long-term relationships with line-Ministries beyond the ones identified for sectoral policy dialogues, notably under the national MIPs or to reinforce existing ones. In this regard, the programme benefits already from a well-established **network of SWITCH focal points within partner countries**, which facilitate the implementation locally, ensure the coherence of activities and inter-ministerial dialogue on environmental-related policies. This structure has proven to be an added-value in terms of support to our EU Delegations and therefore proposed to be kept and built on in the scope of this action. The action will underpin economies of scope on a continental scale, extending its support to the Middle-East and the Pacific sub-regions, and effectively complement bilateral actions to sustain policy dialogue and know-how exchanges on key cross-cutting sustainability issues of shared interest to partners in the region. At the same time the programme also aims at facilitating gradual alignment of SCP patterns in the region with EU standards and practices, both from a sustainability and level playing field perspective.

The present action concretely aims at **timely supporting the ongoing recovery** in a direction consistent with the external dimension of the **European Green Deal,** the **achievements of the UN Agenda 2030 and EU geopolitical strategies.**

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[10] www.apec.org/Publications/2020/12/Women-COVID-19-and-the-Future-of-Work-in-APEC
[11] www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP_Asia_and_the_Pacific_SDG_Progress_Report_2021.pdf (2021)

In 2019, the EU adopted the European Green Deal as one of its main geopolitical priorities. This action contributes specifically to the implementation of the external dimension of the **EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)[12]** (increasing, where appropriate, membership of supported countries of the **Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)**[13]**),** the **From Farm to Fork Strategy[14] as well as the EU Zero-Pollution Action Plan[15]**, while also indirectly contributing to the objectives of the **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030[16]**. These strategies all highlight the benefits of a global transition to greener and more circular business models for both goods and services, which would generate fairer economic returns to all actors of the value chain. They also highlight the importance of the promotion of forest-friendly products and more sustainable food processing, of setting ambitious global standards for products in the market, reducing food loss and waste and supporting the uptake of alternative packaging. Likewise, they highlight the importance of empowering consumers in their daily purchasing choices and promoting economies to be less dependent on natural resources, and to pay more attention to the protection of the environment and avoid biodiversity loss related to production. The proposed action is also aligned with the **EU trade policy[17]** (supporting due diligence along Global Value Chains, promoting international transparency standards and addressing consumer's rights). It also address the external impacts of **measures on corporate sustainability[18]** adopted on 21st April 2021 by the Commission (i.e. the EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive).

In addition, this action is aligned with the policy priorities of several EU strategies and partnerships: (i) the **EU-Central Asia Strategy**[19] (adopted in 2019) promoting the cooperation with countries in the region for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and of the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) supporting them in the adoption of high environmental standards moving away from linear production models to a circular ones; (ii)the recent **EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership[20]** encouraging the cooperation between the EU and ASEAN Member States on sustainable consumption and production and the support of green growth; (iii) the **EU-India Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Partnership** adopted at the EU-India Summit in July 2020; and (iv) the **EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**, emphasising the common task of addressing the devastating human and economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis and the need to ensure a sustainable and inclusive socio-economic recovery. This strategy states that diversification of supply chains should contribute to the resilience of the European economy, especially for the most sensitive industrial ecosystems, and to the reduction of strategic dependencies on critical raw materials. Fostering development of sustainable value chains is expected to reinforce mutual linkages between the EU and partner countries in Asia and to boost economic growth and long-term benefits, while incentivising private capital and involving EU businesses, where feasible using the EU international cooperation financial instruments.

**In line with the NDICI-Global Europe**[21], this action contributes to the Union's commitments to Planet's targets by "*promoting resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, in particular throughout the entire supply chain, towards the transition to a circular economy, including by curbing the use of natural resources financing conflicts, and by supporting compliance by stakeholders with relevant initiatives; (...) tackling pollution, reducing air pollutants, in particular black carbon and promoting a sound management of chemicals and waste, (...) strengthening national and local climate and environment governance, implementing mitigation and adaptation plans of action, (...) building capacity to mainstream environmental sustainability and climate change objectives, and pursuing green growth into national and local development strategies including supporting sustainability criteria in public procurement, (...) promoting corporate social responsibility, due diligence in supply chains, (...) promoting environmentally sustainable agriculture practices, (...) developing and strengthening sustainable green growth and circular economy in all economic sectors, (...) combating environmental degradation.*

Finally, this action is aligned with the UNFCC Gender Action Plan and the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and its gender equality policy. It will contribute to the **EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III[22]** and of the **Gender Equality**

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[12] COM(2020) 98 final, SWD(2020) 100 final – "A new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe"

[13] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/gacere.html.

[14] COM(2020) 381 final – "From Farm to Fork Strategy"

[15] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/pdf/zero-pollution-action-plan/communication_en.pdf

[16] COM(2020) 380 final – "EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030"

[17] "Trade for all - Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy" (2015)

[18] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_1804

[19] JOIN(2019) 9 final – "The EU and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership"

[20] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/12/01/co-chairs-press-release-of-the-23rd-asean-eu-ministerial-meeting/

[21] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0947&from=EN

[22] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2184

**Strategy**[23], particularly to the thematic area of engagement "*Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation (climate change and environment)*".

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

**Short problem analysis:**

The Asia-Pacific is both an important source of global environmental challenges as well as a potential beneficiary of their remedies. For instance, the share of the Indo-Pacific sub-region in global carbon dioxide emissions has grown from 37% to 57% since 2000 and the region will account for more than 70% of growth in global energy demand by 2030.

According to UNESCAP[24], the Asia-Pacific region is lagging behind in terms of implementation of SCP policies implemented. While a general lack in the region can be experienced in terms of collecting data and reporting of SDG12, public authorities also lack skills and knowledge on how to perform it. As a result the benefits of international development aid supports in this area (such as the one provided by the EU/ SWITCH programme) is under-appreciated. Countries in the region also lack of capacities on how to integrate SCP targets (reduced GHG emissions from industrial plants, increased resources efficiency and waste management, sounded chemical water-waste treatments, etc.) in their NDCs. Finally, while some environmental platforms and organisations are in place in the region (SACEP, CAREC, SPREP, and the APR-SCP), their role remains in certain cases limited due to a lower degree of engagement of governments in the regions well as an overall coordination at continental level, across sub-regions and between countries with different development levels.

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

(i) *Regional organisations, national and local authorities (including their implementing agencies) as well as multilateral (environmental) programmes* are the main duty-bearers of the action, which would be supported to develop and/or adapt their legislative and policy frameworks and developing incentives for the green and sustainable transition of the private sector. SCP presents a complex challenge for governments, requiring them to think not only of emissions within their cities and in their industrial parks but also considering environmental impacts that are produced along-supply chains that ultimately support their consumption. In this regard, regional organisations and public authorities play an important role in facilitating the transition to more sustainable consumption and production models in the future, notably by using policy instruments and mechanisms (such as green public procurements) encouraging individuals and/or businesses to make more responsible choices in their local environment and in their production lines. Regional organisations / programmes include: the ASEAN Secretariat, the South-Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC), the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on SCP (APR-SCP). Gender Units or Gender Focal Points from partner institutions will also be involved.

(ii) *Businesses / private sector* (including EU businesses doing business in the region) *and Civil Society Organisations* to ensure the buy-in of regional and national strategies and regulatory frameworks by all relevant stakeholders. These include: SMEs associations, chambers of commerce, trade associations, NGOs, consumers associations, etc. Rights-holders of the action are people. Their rights will be represented by CSOs representing wide range of different rights-holders groups, including women and persons/groups living in vulnerable situations (such as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, discriminated minorities and people living in poverty), who are mostly affected by climate change in their daily lives. Representation of women in climate actions in the region and implementation of partner institutions and countries gender equality policy is still insufficient. Therefore, gender equality in decision-making and support for gender-responsive climate actions is a cross-cutting issue in the action at all levels.

(iii) *EU and multilateral programmes and policy support platforms* in the region to which the programme may create further synergies. These include: the 10 Years-Framework-Programme (10YFP)[25], the National Cleaner Production Centres (RECPNet)[26] established by UNIDO and UNEP; the Partnership for Action on Green

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[23] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152&from=EN

[24] www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/ESCAP_Asia_and_the_Pacific_SDG_Progress_Report_2019.pdf

[25] www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/one-planet-network/10yfp-10-year-framework-programmes

[26] www.unido.org/sites/default/files/2015-10/leaflet_sans_0.pdf

Economy (UN-PAGE), the UN-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development[27] (OECD), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the EU-ASEAN Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change[28] (implemented through the E-READI programme), the EU-WECOOP programme, Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE)[29], as well as Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)-funded projects on circular economy, such as the "Rethinking Plastics – Towards a Circular Economy in Southeast Asia", "EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification", "EU-GCC Clean Energy Network", "UNWASTE", "Support to the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency", "International Urban and Regional Cooperation", "Resource Efficiency Initiative with India", "Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement" projects.

# 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

## 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

**The Overall Objective (Impact)** of the SWITCH programme is to support the region in making progress towards the implementation of more sustainable consumption and production as well as circular models and in complying with climate change and environmental agreements ensuring an inclusive, greener and more sustainable economic growth while ensuring that Asian consumers can easily contribute to this transition. It aims at supporting transformational changes tackling major regional challenges that require a regional response, adding value to country interventions.

**The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action** (implemented through the "Policy Support Component" of the programme) aim at building capacities of regional organizations[30] and partner countries[31] in the region supporting their transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient and more circular economic models by integrating required policy frameworks (gender responsive) and developing incentives (gender responsive) for the green transition of the private sector and for consumers and citizens (incl. women and girls) to adopt more responsible consumption behaviour. It will also support countries in complying with regional and international agreements related to environment and climate change as well as enhance regional policy dialogues on SCP engaging with all relevant stakeholders and sharing experiences with the EU and its Member States in this specific area.

**The Outputs to be delivered by this action** contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome) are:

(i) providing regional organisations, governments and other stakeholders with appropriate **guidance to design and adopt** regional and national action plans on SCP as well as circular economy action plans (incl. regulatory measures and financial incentives, when relevant) and **to monitor and report** achievements under **SDG12**[32] (mainly) and other SCP-related SDGs[33] - – also supporting gender-responsive and human-rights based policies.

(ii) supporting countries in the region to **include SCP-related elements in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)[34]** and to comply with climate change and environmental multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements (e.g. Paris Agreement on climate change, Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, etc.).

(iii) facilitating the exchange of best practices and experiences on SCP-related policies through policy dialogues (events, workshops, etc.) at regional and sub-regional level[35].

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[27] Notably to its activities related to Due Diligence.
[28] https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ereadi.pdf
[29] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/gacere.html
[30] These may include: the ASEAN Secretariat, the South-Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program (CAREC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities (SPC), the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Asia-Pacific Roundtable on SCP (APR-SCP), etc.
[31] These will include both local and national governments (including their line ministries and implementing agencies).
[32] www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/
[33] Reference: table at page 10.
[34] According to the UN, 11 out of 11 targets of the SDG12 are align and can contribute to climate actions in NDCs.
[35] Activities throughout this output will ensure the participation of women as well as enhance their ownership and leadership on SCP-related policies and initiatives.

Over the next programming period, the programme will be built around two components: (i) a Policy Support Component and (ii) a grants scheme. **This action refers to the first component of the programme and it builds on the successful experience of the current SWITCH-Asia Facility as a "Policy Support Component" of the programme**. This component will be complemented by a grants scheme specifically designed to support the testing of SCP practices within the private sector and connecting at early stages with FIs and MDBs to scale-up successful SCP solutions on the market. Their results will provide this component and the EU Delegations with a baseline for policy dialogue with regional organisations and governments supporting them in adopting transformative green growth strategies and regulatory frameworks.

The action will tackle both production and consumption challenges in the region. The rapid economic growth in Asia and in the Middle-East has lifted many countries out of poverty. In the Pacific, instead, the "consumption foot print" is mostly linked to touristic activities. This has come at a cost of increased use of natural resources, growing GHG emissions and amounts of waste. Sustainability today is no longer simply about increasing efficiencies or complying with regulations. It is about making fundamental changes in the way business is done and the way the world consumes. Results can only be achieved rethinking business models and supply chains and designing new consumption patterns.

In line with the EU Green Deal and reflecting regional challenges, cross-cutting challenges and resource-intense sectors across the region with good opportunities for advancing SCP practices and building-up a job's rich economy within a green framework will be tackled (on both production and consumption sides). These will include: textiles and leather, agri-food, building and construction, plastics and waste. Additional sectors will be considered as specific needs will arise.

- **Textiles and leather:** the sector represents one of the major job providers in the region. In Bangladesh and Cambodia, for example, it accounts for around 80% of total export revenue, while in Pakistan the corresponding figure is over 50%. The majority of employees in the textile and garment industry are women. Most of which work in low-skilled, highly exposed to harmful products and to long and irregular working hours, with weak social protection, poorly paid salaries and with little prospect of job progression. At the same time, women are the largest drivers for textiles consumption within their communities The sector also highly contributes to the increase of global greenhouse gas emissions due to its long supply chains and energy intensive production, including energy and material-intensive processes in which large amounts of water and chemicals are used.

- **Agri-food:** while agri-food sectors sustain livelihoods of major part of the population in the region, there is also ahuge negative impact on the environment, for example through its energy and water-intense processing, the use of large quantities of non-environmentally friendly packaging, a very significant amount of food loss/ waste as well as inadequate food waste disposals and recycling (e.g. organic waste-to-fertilizers, waste-to-energy). Redesigning food systems by promoting value chain and circular economy approaches as well as the adoption of new greener and more sustainable business models would help reducing the environmental footprint of the sector, mitigating the effects of climate change and reversing the loss of biodiversity. Consequently, it would support the green recovery and the transition towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive agri-food systems. From a social point of view, across the globe, women make up a large part of agricultural labor, with their number expect to grow as more men leave the farm for better job opportunities in the city. In Asia only, 43% of Asian farmers are women. This varies from 35% in South Asia, to 46% in East and Southeast Asia. In most cases, women work are poorly paid labor requiring long working hours also in post-harvest and industrial processing jobs like drying and storage.

- **Buildings and construction**: this sector has a great potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the region, however possibilities for retrofitting in existing buildings for energy and emissions savings remain mostly unexplored. Although, few efficient technologies are potentially available on the market, the current combination of ineffective policies and a lack of investments in sustainable buildings and construction sector represent major slow-downs in the region.

- **Plastics and waste**: in Asia, millions of plastic containers are consumed per minute, half of which are single-use items. Plastic released from Asian rivers contribute to 86% of the global marine litter. Of the 10 rivers in the world with the highest amount of plastic waste, 8 are located in the region. The main bottleneck are represented by the lack of awareness among consumers concerning the carbon footprint of plastics, the overuse of plastics in daily activities and the lack of viable alternatives as well as the lack of sound legislation in many countries.

Beyond the environmental-related aspects of SCP, this action will also pay a particular attention in supporting the fair integration of women in production-led activities and in empowering them in raising their awareness as key-actors to

drive more sustainable consumption patterns at domestic/community-level. The action will systematically include gender-responsible ministries and women-led/related organisations in policy dialogues, workshops and events and will organise specific trainings for women across the region to encourage their participation in the decision-making process and in managerial roles in local sustainable companies with the potential to integrate GVCs and to contribute with regular incomes to their families/communities. In this regard, a gender-analysis on these key sectors will be carried out by the Policy Support Component in order to assess differences in roles and responsibilities of women in these sectors and define how to engage with women/girls during the implementation of the action.

Finally, this intervention is relevant for the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 12–Responsible Consumption and Production, while also contributing to a large number of other SDGs. SDG 12 relates primarily to promoting resource and energy efficiency both in consumption and production. This implies that the societal responsibility for SDG 12 does not only relate to businesses, but also to consumers. Achieving Sustainable Consumption and Production will deliver not only SDG 12, but also simultaneously contribute to the achievement of other SDGs, directly or indirectly. Therefore, **SDG 12 should be seen as an enabler for the implementation of a range of other goals and many of their targets.** It contributes to climate change mitigation (through the promotion of resource and energy efficiency) and it promotes economic growth in partner countries while decoupling it from negative environmental impacts. Finally, it contributes to the overall target of improving resource and energy efficiency in industrial plants and it can benefit from the technological and innovation progress to promote cleaner production and more sustainable and circular industrial processes.

## 3.2. Indicative Activities

Through a joint discussion with INTPA-HQ, the EU Delegations in the region and the network of SWITCH focal points within partner countries, the SWITCH Policy Support Component will implement the below activities (non-exhaustive list).

**Activities related to Output 1 (for Outcome 1):**

- organisation of multi-stakeholders consultations (MSC)[36] to ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the region (regional organisations, national and local authorities, implementing agencies, private sector organisations, chambers of commerce, NGOs[37], trade associations, universities and research centres, international organisations, etc.[38]) in the definition of SCP-related priorities and further sectors/ areas to be included in regional and national action plans on SCP (R/NAP-SCP) and circular economy actions plans (CEAP).
- providing direct technical assistance and capacity building to regional organisations and governments to develop and/or adapt their socio-environmental policy and legislative frameworks, R/NAP-SCP and CEAP[39]. This component will also capitalize on the successful results of the grants projects to advice policy makers on the best policy and financial interventions[40].
- providing technical assistance to regional organisations and governments to monitor and report on targets related to SDG12 (as well as the other SCP-related targets identified in the table here below).

**Activities related to Output 1 (for Outcome 2):**

- providing technical assistance to governments in the region to include SCP-related targets in their NDCs and in policy planning, aligning them with climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, addressing trade-offs and missed opportunities for synergies and developing tools for the mapping of interconnections between SDG12 targets and climate commitments.

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[36] Examples of MSC organised by SWITCH-Asia in 2019 at the time of the extension of the programme to Central Asia and which may be replicated in the Middle-East and in the Pacific: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan. These consultations were essential to support the EU Delegations in the region to identify key actors and SCP priority areas. The regular organisation of MSC ensures the buy-in of all stakeholders, the inclusion of new ones, and the definition of new emerging needs for support.
[37] Including women-led organisations.
[38] Taking into account equal participation and access for women, girls and groups that are living in vulnerable situations, who are mostly affected by climate change in their daily lives.
[39] Examples of action plans developed so far under SWITCH-Asia: Vietnam.
[40] This component might also support gender analysis and gender impact assessments of green job sectors, at regional national and local levels.

**Activities related to Output 1 (for Outcome 3):**

- act as a **platform for continental and intra-regional policy dialogues**[41] **and exchanges of best practices** among regional organisations, governments and stakeholders from the EU and across the region (private sector, civil society, financial institutions, citizens, etc.) as well as line DGs of the European Commission and EU decentralised agencies (European Environmental Agency, European Food Safety Authority, European Chemicals Agency, European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)[42] and related KIC-Climate, Manufacturing and Food, etc.) and assisting them in harvesting the benefits of SCP. This component will ultimately provide a one-stop-shop to the 30 EU Delegations in the region facilitating their policy dialogue on topics related to green economy and SDG12 and in implementing the external dimension of the EU Green Deal.

The activities of the Programme will focus in particular on the achievement of the following goals/ targets[43]:

| SDG 12<br><br>**Responsible Consumption and Production** | **ALL TARGETS** | **ALL INDICATORS** |
|---|---|---|
| **SDG 13**<br><br>**Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts** | **TARGET 13.2**<br><br>Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning | **INDICATOR 13.2.1**<br><br>Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other) |
| | **TARGET 13.3**<br><br>Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning | **INDICATOR 13.3.2**<br><br>Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions |
| **SDG 7**<br><br>**Ensure access to affordable and stainable energy** | **TARGET 7.3**<br><br>By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency | **INDICATOR 7.3.1**<br><br>Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP |

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[41] This activity will be built on the successful format of the **Thematic Cluster Meetings** organized by the Facility in 2021 on textile and garments sustainability, agri-food, plastics and waste, sustainable housing and buildings and green and sustainable public procurement.

[42] https://eit.europa.eu/our-communities

[43] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/

| SDG 8 | TARGET 8.4 | INDICATOR 8.4.1 |
|---|---|---|
| **Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all** | Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead | Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP |
| | | **INDICATOR 8.4.2** |
| | | Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP |
| | | **INDICATOR 8.4.3** |
| | | Number of countries and policy instruments to ensure decent work for all, including the ratification of Conventions of the International Labour Organization and respective plans for implementation |
| **SDG 9** **Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation** | **TARGET 9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities | **INDICATOR 9.4.1** $CO_2$ emission per unit of value added |
| | **TARGET 9.B** Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities | **INDICATOR 9.B.1** Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added |
| **SDG 11** **Sustainable Cities and Communities** | **TARGET 11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management | **INDICATOR 11.6.1** Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities |
| **SDG 5** **Gender equality and women's empowerment** | **TARGET 5.C** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels | **INDICATOR 5.c.1** Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment |

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiatives foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

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

**Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)
The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design)

**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 OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G0. This implies that while the action will not focus mainly nor specifically to support gender equality and empowerment of woman and girls, it will nevertheless ensure the participation of women in policy dialogue activities empowering them in mastering Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria and developing new greener and more sustainable businesses, thus providing them with additional employment opportunities in the future.

**Human Rights:** Human rights-based approach and its key principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data) will be integrated throughout the action.

## 3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

| Category | Risks | Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low) | Impact (High/ Medium/ Low) | Mitigating measures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-to the external environment | Lack of capacities and clear will for some governments to engage on environmental and climate change-related policies | M | M | Supports will be aligned with international, regional and national frameworks. The priorities of the Programme are in line with the new Commission's priorities and supports the external dimension of the EU Green Deal and with EU regional strategies which will support the dialogue with partner countries on environmental and climate change-related policies. |
| 1-to the external environment | Political framework in the target region will be stable to ensure an inclusive and fruitful dialogue. | M | M | While the Asia region proved in the past a certain stability to perform the activities of the programme, this risk is particularly addressed to the Middle-East, in countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Myanmar as well as in the Pacific where political instability can be seen. The programme will assess with the local EU Delegation the best way forward to implement activities. |
| 2-to planning, processes and systems | Lack of coordination with other donors. | M | M | Develop partnerships with other existing initiatives in the region that are compatible with and complement the SWITCH programme. Synergies will be ensured with programmes/ projects/ initiatives implemented by EUMS and other organisations. In |

| 1-to the external environment | Blindness of gender and human-rights issues.<br><br>Examples: exclusion of women on the dialogue activities, decision-making, gender neutral analysis of consumption and production patterns and strategies, human rights violations committed by private sector, people living in vulnerable situations that are mostly affected by climate change in their daily lives are left behind from the dialogue. | M | M | Gender mainstreaming will be systematically ensured in all activities of the programme.<br>Gender analysis will be conducted regarding all relevant sectors. Disaggregated data collection will be supported as part of activities and monitoring and evaluation will assess integration of HRBA principles and impact on gender equality.<br><br>Inclusion of national gender machineries (Ministry of Women/Gender Affairs) and civil society organisation in technical meetings, particularly CSOs active in climate change, but also women's organisations and organisations representing rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.<br><br>An explicit commitment for all private sector actors to abide by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. |

**Lessons Learnt:**

So far the programme has proved to have a great potential to support **both the environmental, economic** and **social development dimension** of countries in Asia by introducing better social and environmental standards, sustainable supporting the local economic growth while decoupling it from environmental degradation. The evaluations of the SWITCH programme highlight its relevance to the region's priorities (climate change, environment degradation, plastics and waste, access of MSMEs to global value chains and promotion of export-led industries, creation of more sustainable jobs). In addition, the programme supports the implementation of the external dimension of two main strategies of the EU Green Deal (From-Farm to Fork and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan).

The **recent evaluations**[44] of the SWITCH-Asia programme proposed to refine the objectives of the new Policy Support Component (whose activities started in 2018) from being a networking instrument to <u>a more flexible and comprehensive one to provide direct support (technical assistance) to governments and regional organisations</u> and to better coordinate the different components of the programme, distil and analyse projects' results that would serve as evidence for policy dialogue with regional organisations and national governments on key SCP priorities. The implementation of the current Facility (2018-2022) has proven to meet these expectations. For this reason it is proposed to build on this basis and to enhance the capacities of this component.

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[44] Green economy evaluation of EU international Cooperation on Sustainable Consumption and Production in 2017.

## 3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the support provided by programme to regional organisations and governments and an enhanced policy dialogue will facilitate the integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) solutions into regional and national policy frameworks, strategies and action plans. **This will provide incentives for the private sector to shift to greener and more circular production models and for citizens to adopt more sustainable consumption behaviour** which will ultimately bring to an improvement in the environmental and climate change problems in the region, the reduction of the carbon and material footprint of industrial processes, improved circularity of processes-goods-services, the reduction of industrial and domestic waste as well as an improvement of their treatment, and the possibility for local populations to live more sustainably allowing them to enjoy their rights and benefitting from a socio-economic model which will promote growth while decoupling it from natural resources degradation. All this would also support EU businesses to green their supply chains originating in Asia.

The adoption of the SDG12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production gives this programme the prominent rationale for pursuing this objective. The targeted governments and regional organisations will be supported in achieving SDG12's targets and SCP-related targets under other SDGs.

The action will also support the implementation of the **Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Consumption and Production** by supporting behavioural changes of citizens in the region (driving more sustainable consumption models among the rising middle-classes) and by investing in sustainable industrial practices and resilient value chains among MSMEs. This is expected to have a significant and transformative impact in many countries in the region and it will represent an important step to support the green recovery process regionally.

The assumptions for this action are the following:
- Target regional organisations and countries will choose to report on SDG12 on SCP and will express their interest for SCP policy formulation support;
- Regional stakeholders (MSMEs in particular) will continue have an interest in applying SCP practices and to benefit from an enhanced regional and national legislative framework;
- EU Delegations and governments will be interested in seizing the opportunity provided by the programme to enhance policy dialogue in the region on SCP, environmental and climate change issues engaging with their national stakeholders and providing visibility to the EU policies under the Green Deal.
- Political framework in the target region will be stable to ensure fruitful dialogue.

## 3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

| Results | Results chain: Main expected results | Indicators: | Baselines | Targets | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Impact** | The region makes positive progress towards the **implementation of more sustainable consumption and production as well as circular models** and in complying with **multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements and international labour standards** ensuring an inclusive, greener and more sustainable economic growth in the region. | - SCP and Circular Economy strategies and actions plans are adopted at regional and country-level.<br>- No. of countries supported with acceptable data / reporting on SCP-related SDGs[45].<br>- GPP are adopted and represent an important share of total public procurement (disaggregated by sector) | - According to UNESCAP[46], the region is lagging behind in terms of implementation of SCP-related SDGs (SDG12, mainly).<br>- Lack of data on SDG12 progress both at regional level (aggregated data) and country-level (disaggregated data). | - A RAP-SCP or Framework will be adopted most sub-regions covered by the programme (key role of regional organisations) and 70% of countries in the region will adopt NAP-SCP or CEAP.<br>- 50% of countries in the region will be able to monitor and report on SDG12 and SCP-related SDGs. | - UN database<br>- R/NAP-SCP, CEAP<br>- Reports and data available through reports from governments and regional organisations | *Not applicable* |
| **Outcome 1** | Regional organisations and governments increased their **capacities to design R/NAP-SCP and CEAP as well as GPP at regional level** (including their local stakeholders in the process), **to monitor and report achievements on SDG12** (mainly) and other SCP-related SDGs[47]. | - No. of (gender-responsive) R/NAP-SCP and CEAP or frameworks drafted and validated across ministries or related departments (environment, climate change, industry and technology, agriculture, budget and gender-equality)<br>- No. of GPP policies and action plans drafted at regional and national level.<br>- No. of regional organisations / governments applying: i) GPP policies; ii) lifecycle approach policies (from design, production, packaging, retail and maintenance), and green taxonomy concepts. | - Data available at UN level (https://sdg-tracker.org)<br>- Lack of Regional/National Action Plans on SCP (R/NAP-SCP) and Circular Economy Action Plans (CEAP) (e.g. Nepal, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, Yemen, Smaller Island States of the Pacific).<br>- No data are available at regional and country-level in terms of GPP-related policies and incentives implemented. | - Number of countries having put in place consultation mechanisms including all relevant stakeholders for the drafting of SCP/ CE related policies.<br>- R/NAP-SCP and CEAP or frameworks adopted at regional and/or country-level.<br>- 50% of partner countries supported by the programme will integrate GPP policies and incentives (SDG12.6). | - UN database<br>- R/NAP-SCP, CEAP<br>- GPP policies adopted at regional level. | - Targeted regional organisations and governments will express their interest for SCP policy formulation support (demand-drive action).<br>- [The above] will express their interest in improving their monitoring and reporting system on SDG12 (and other SCP-related SDGs).<br>- [The above] are interested in sharing experience with the EU and its Member States on NAP-SCP and CEAP. |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Outcome 2** | Regional organisations and governments confirmed or increased their **compliance to multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements and international labour standards**. | - No. of (new) policies climate-change and environment-related adopted/ implemented in line with multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements.<br>- No. or NDCs including SCP-related targets.<br>- No. of parties starting negotiations to join multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements.<br>- No. of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste that meet their commitments.<br>- No. of countries and policy instruments to ensure decent work for all, incl. the ratification of Conventions of the ILO and respective plans. | - Lack of climate ambitions (COVID-19 recovery policies adopted but often no NDC policy framework in place in the region).<br>- Lack of capacities and of will in regional organisation and governments in including SCP-related elements in NDCs.<br>- Baseline data available at the UNDP website[48] (disaggregated per country).<br>- Baseline data available in the UNEP/ UNESCAP report 2020[49].<br>- Baseline data available at ILO website. | - Number of NDCs including SCP-related elements and targets.<br>- Countries not yet signatory of multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements will initiate discussions to join them. | - Climate Action Tracker (database)[50]<br>- NDCs Partnership Tracker[51]<br>- UN agencies related websites (UNDP, UNEP, UNESCAP). | - Targeted regional organisations and governments will express their interest in integrating SCP-related policies in their NDC.<br>- [The above] will express their interest in engaging in climate-change and environment-related negotiations at regional/ international level. |
| **Outcome 3** | Regional organisations and governments participated actively to **regional and international policy dialogues on SCP** exchanging their experience, progress and achievements based on the support provided by the SWITCH programme. | - No. of regular regional meetings on SCP established in the region as well as regional organisations capacitated in driving SCP-related discussions following-up on the SWITCH experience.<br>- No. of stakeholders in the region regularly included in regional SCP-discussions. | - Lack of capacities in regional organisations to lead SCP-discussions at continental of sub-regional level.<br>- Lack of regular stakeholders consultations (and mapping) on SCP.<br>- Lack of knowledge exchange across sub-regions and between countries with different development levels. | - Number of regular regional meetings on SCP established in the region.<br>- Number of new stakeholders in the region involved in the consultation process (disaggregated data by country and economic sectors). | - Reports of regional organisations.<br>- Reports/ publications from UN agencies; | - Targeted regional organisations, governments and related stakeholders will express their interest engaging in SCP-discussions at regional level. |

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[45] Reference: table at page 11.
[46] www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/publications/ESCAP_Asia_and_the_Pacific_SDG_Progress_Report_2019.pdf
[47] Reference: table at page 11.
[48] www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme/en/home/our-work/geographic/asia-and-pacific.html
[49] www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Technical%20Paper%20on%20Progress%20of%20NDC%20Implementation_final_0.pdf
[50] https://climateactiontracker.org/climate-target-update-tracker/
[51] https://ndcpartnership.org/toolbox/climate-action-tracker

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Output 1 related to Outcome 1** | Regional organisations, government and other stakeholders are provided with appropriate guidance to design and adopt R/NAP-SCP and CEAP (incl. financial incentives, when relevant) and to monitor and report achievements under SDG12 (mainly) and other SCP-related SDGs52. | - No. of regional organisations and governments supported at regional and country-level.<br>- No. of strategies or policy documents supporting the transition to a greener, inclusive (gender-responsive) and more circular economy.<br>- Percentage of public procurements including environmental/climate change elements (incl. contracts won by women-led companies/ organisations). | - This action will follow-up on the achievements of the current SWITCH-Asia Facility. Baseline information will be provided by its final report (Q3-2022). | - Regional organisations and governments in the region will improve their capacities in mainstreaming environmental and climate change issues in their R/NAP-SCP and CEAP.<br>- [The above] will be supported to adapt their national GPP at regional level to offer the opportunity to regional stakeholders to apply to GPP outside their country and benefitting for larger regional markets for their greener and sustainable products.<br>- 50% of countries in the region will be able to monitor and report on SDG12 and SCP-related SDGs. | - Data available through reports from governments and regional organisations.<br>- Report of public consultation of stakeholders for the design of R/NAP-SCP and CEAP.<br>- Reporting on GPP advancement at regional (and country)-level (a GPP policy at country-level is often needed to create a regional framework – see the EU experience on EU-GPP policies). | - Targeted regional organisations and governments will choose to include SCP and CE in their national policies.<br>- Regional stakeholders (MSMEs in particular) will continue have an interest in applying SCP practices and to benefit from an enhanced regional and national legislative framework (notably on GPP) – providing incentives at regional and country-level to advance on GPP policies. |
| **Output 1 related to Outcome 2** | Countries in the region know what is required to include SCP-related elements in their NDCs and to comply with multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements (e.g. Paris Agreement on climate change, Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, etc.). | - No. of countries supported to integrate SDG12 targets into NDCs and policy planning.<br>- No. of countries (not yet signatory) starting discussions to join multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements | - A screening of NDCs will be carried out at the "inception phase" of this action and elaborate a matrix to create synergies with SDG12 (and related economic sectors). | - 60% of countries in the region mainstreamed climate change, hazardous waste and other chemicals into policies.<br>- 50% of countries in the region included SCP-related elements in their NDCs. | - Data available in NDCs.<br>- Data available through reports from governments and regional organisations. | - Targeted regional organisations and governments will express their interest in including SCP-related targets (and related economic sectors) in the revision of their NDCs.<br>- Willingness of countries in the Middle-East (particularly not-yet signatory of multilateral environmental (and climate change) agreements) to join discussions with the other parties. |

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52 Reference: table at page 11.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Output 1 related to Outcome 3** | Best practices and experiences on SCP-related policies are exchanged through policy dialogues (events, workshops, etc.) at continental and sub-regional level. | - No. of stakeholders in the region reached through consultations, workshops and events organised with policy-makers and relevant EU stakeholders.<br><br>- No. of stakeholders whose awareness/ abilities on SCP issues have been raised (disaggregated by sex)<br><br>- No. of gender-responsive SCP knowledge products and tools developed and disseminated. | - This action will follow-up on the achievements of the current Facility (ref. "Thematic Cluster Meetings"). Baseline information will be provided by the final report (Q3-2022). | - At least 2 regional Thematic Cluster Meetings/ consultation per year organised.<br><br>- Participation to at least 5 participation per year to EU/ international SCP-related events showcasing progress/ achievements on SCP in the region through the EU SWITCH support (incl. of regional policy-makers and other stakeholders in the panels) | - Events' reports<br><br>- Publications<br><br>- News articles | - EU Delegations, regional organisation and governments will be interested in seizing the opportunity provided by the programme to enhance policy dialogue in the region on SCP, environmental and climate change issues engaging with their national stakeholders and providing visibility to the EU policies under the Green Deal. |

# 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

## 4.1. Financing Agreement

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

## 4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

## 4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures[53].

### 4.3.1. Direct Management (Procurement)

This call for tender has been launched in November 2021 under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this Decision. This is justified as the current contract of the SWITCH-Asia Facility will come to an end on 05/08/2022 and the launch the new Policy Support Component (PSC) by Q3-2022 will avoid gaps of implementation with the current support to both regional governments and EU Delegations on key areas of the Green Deal.

## 4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

## 4.5. Indicative Budget

| Indicative Budget components | EU contribution (amount in EUR) |
|---|---|
| **Implementation modalities –** cf. section 4.3 | |
| Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3<br><br>• Budget line 14.020130: EUR 8 million<br>• Budget line 14.020131: EUR 10 million<br>• Budget line 14.020132: EUR 2 million | **20 000 000** |
| **Totals** | **20 000 000** |

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[53] 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.

## 4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The overall coordination of the programme (including the management of this contract) will be ensured by INTPA HQ. The EU Delegations in the region are expected to provide the Policy Support Component with inputs for the policy implementation in the region and in target countries, to comment and give their consent on the terms of reference established for each country jointly with the team of the Facility and INTPA HQ to coordinate the implementation of possible SCP support, to facilitate the presence of selected experts and anchoring the possible selected technical assistance expertise within the regional and national structures to achieve maximum outcome. The experts of this Policy Support Component will also play a very important role in connecting the work of the Policy Support Component with actions implemented under bilateral MIPs in partner countries and with the most recent EU policy developments of the Green Deal and of EU strategies in the region, identifying synergies with EU and non-EU (including EUMS) projects and initiatives funded under programmes such as Horizon Europe (Pillar II on Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness, Pillar III on Innovative Europe, including the European Innovation Council and Ecosystems as well as the European Institute for Innovation and Technology), Interregional Innovation Investments (I3), LIFE Programme, SWITCH-to-Circular Economy Value Chains, GACERE, WECOOP, E-READI, ARISE+, as well as the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)-funded projects on circular economy, such as the "Rethinking Plastics – Towards a Circular Economy in Southeast Asia", "EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification", "EU-GCC Clean Energy Network", "UNWASTE", "Support to the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency", "International Urban and Regional Cooperation", "Resource Efficiency Initiative with India", "Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement" projects.

**A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) will be organised at least once a year.** The role of the Steering Committee will be to provide direction to the programme's implementation, ensure that the activities are aligned with the EU Green Deal agenda and with other EU regional strategies as well as consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes. The PSC will aim at establishing a yearly work plan for activities and events and to create further synergies with other EU and non-EU programmes and initiatives in the region. **Members of the Steering Committee** will be representatives from INTPA HQ and all EU Delegations participating to the programme as well as the experts of the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component and of the grants scheme (when relevant). Representatives of the Directorate-Generals of the European Commission (in charge of the main policies supported by the programme), of other relevant EU programmes/initiatives and of international and regional organisations equally supporting the green transition in the region will be invited as observers. Should an EU Delegation not be present, a comprehensive written note with SCP-related priorities in their given target country shall be made available two weeks prior of the PSC to INTPA HQ. Revisions of the work plan every 6 months will be envisaged to check for appropriateness and progress in meeting the agreed targets. Logistical organisation and further costing of the Steering Committee will be the responsibility of the SWITCH-Asia Policy Support Component.

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.

# 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 log-frame matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- Specific data collection will be carried out throughout the implementation of the action by the Policy Support Component aggregated at regional level and disaggregates at country-level (including disaggregation by economic sectors and sex) and to assess programme's performance and results.

- Reports shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

Monitoring and evaluation will, among others, assess gender equality results and the implementation of the rights-based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disability when applicable.

## 5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants. It will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to the implantation of the technical assistance support assessing their relevance to new regional and international frameworks as well as its alignment with national priorities (National Action Plans on SCP and Green Economy Development Strategies).

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination[54]. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

## 5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

# 6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

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

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[54] See best practice of evaluation dissemination

# APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention[55] (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

| Option 1: Action level | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ | Single action | Present action: all contracts in the present action |
| **Option 2: Group of actions level** | | |
| ☐ | Group of actions | CRIS #043-381 |
| **Option 3: Contract level** | | |
| ☐ | Single Contract 1 | |
| ☐ | Single Contract 2 | |
| ☐ | Single Contract 3 | |
| | (…) | |
| ☐ | Group of contracts 1 | |

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[55] ARES (2021)4204912 - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'action' and 'Intervention' where an 'action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the concept of intervention.