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ANNEX 5

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of
Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2026 Part 2

Action Document for the “Regional support to Youth in Africa”

MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Regional support to Youth in Africa OPSYS: ACT-61273 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Africa
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa.
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority area 2 – Democratic Governance Peace and Security, and Culture Objective 1: Promote democratic governance, equality, the rule of law, the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in Africa, and the engagement and inclusive participation of African citizens. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1.3: Youth inclusion and gender equality are ensured in the AU-EU partnership. • R1.4: The engagement and participation of African citizens is supported and strengthened.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area: DAC code 110: Education DAC code 151: Government & Civil Society-general DAC code 430: Other multisector

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions (Main) Other Significant SDGs: Goal 05: Gender equality Goal 08: Decent work and economic growth Goal 10: Reduced inequalities			
8 a) DAC code(s)	DAC code 110: Education – 10% DAC code 151: Government & Civil Society-general – 50% DAC code 430: Other multisector – 40%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	21000 International NGO and 40000 – Multilateral organization			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective			
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" 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 (methodology for marker and tagging under development)				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION							
12. Amounts concerned	Budget lines: West Africa BGUE-B2022-14.020120-C1-INTPA: EUR 10 250 000 East and Central Africa BGUE-B2022-14.020121-C1-INTPA : EUR 5 250 000 Southern Africa and Indian Ocean BGUE-B2022-14.020122-C1-INTPA : 4 500 000 Total estimated cost: EUR 20 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 20 000 000						
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION							
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement						

1.2 Summary of the Action

Youth is at the core of the EU partnership with Africa. Young people are key drivers for change and increasingly advocating for a more active role in addressing global challenges and decide on issues that affect their lives. Building on the successes of the EU AU Youth Plug- In initiative, the EU-AU Youth Cooperation Hub and La Voix des Jeunes au Sahel programmes, this initiative will focus on supporting young people and youth organisations across the region in strengthening their capacities as active citizens and change-makers and contribute to the policy debates.

The action aims to **contribute to the empowerment of Youth in Africa and to strengthen the involvement of young people from Africa, Europe and the African diaspora in active, meaningful, and innovative ways.**

Working with and for youth means to engage with young people, to create spaces for their voices to be heard and for their perspectives and ideas to be taken into consideration in the present and future partnership between Europe and Africa.

The action has two components:

The **first component** builds on the EU-AU Youth Cooperation Hub¹. This initiative intends to strengthen the involvement of young Africans, Europeans, and the African diaspora in Europe in innovative ways. An inter and intra continental platform and network of young people and youth organisations from Africa, Europe and the diaspora will be established to foster inclusivity, exchange, co-creation and development of solutions to pressing global challenges. Supporting new ways to gather and express the perspectives of youth will facilitate the exchange among young people and feed into policy and decision-making processes. This initiative will facilitate youth dialogue, innovation, advocacy, and meaningful engagement and participation in the Africa-EU partnership. It will also leverage initiatives of the AU and EU, such as the African Plan for Youth Engagement (APAYE) 2019-2023², 1 million Next Level³, the African Union Youth Charter⁴ and contribute to the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the 2020 Council Conclusions on Youth in external action⁵ and the Youth Action Plan⁶. In addition, an inter and intra continental platform and network of young people and youth organisations from Africa, Europe and the diaspora – including networks of current and former African participants (students and alumni) in EU international mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ and the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme, will be established to foster inclusivity, exchange, co-creation and development of solutions to pressing global challenges.

The **specific objectives** of this component are:

- Decision - making processes around the AU-EU partnership are more youth responsive and inclusive and ensure youth participation and representation.
- Enhance effectiveness of advocacy by young people, youth organisations and key stakeholders active around the AU-EU partnership in favor of youth-related concerns and priorities at cross-continental, continental, regional and national levels

This continental initiative will complement national efforts to increase the voice of youth in Africa. The main stakeholders of the action shall be formal and informal youth groups, networks and organisations, civil society organisations working with youth, and institutions (at continental, regional and national level). Private sector, universities, other education institutions, African and European research centres, leaders and influential figures

¹ Home - AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub (aueuyouthhub.org)

² APAYE: African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment 2019-2023 | African Union (au.int)

³ African Union's one million by 2021 Initiative (au.int)

⁴ African Youth Charter | African Union (au.int)

⁵ EU Youth Strategy | European Youth Portal (europa.eu)

⁶ Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022 – 2027 – JOIN (2022) 53 final

from both continents will also be involved at various degrees. The action will also ensure coordination and complementarity with other EU Member States initiatives such as the ongoing and planned German contribution to the AU Youth and innovation activities and other Member States actions. Further cooperation and synergies will be discussed at a later stage.

The implementation will be in direct management through at least a grant contract that may be accompanied by service contracts for support activities (technical assistance, studies, ad hoc support, dissemination etc.). In case this option proves not feasible a procurement contract to a consortium of organisations will be used.

The **second component** aims to support youth participation specifically in 6 countries in the Sahel region (Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso), while promoting intercultural dialogue, human cohesion and human rights. Through this initiative, a digital platform at regional level will be also created to inform youth in the region about entrepreneurship, access to employment and career guidance opportunities. This platform will be fed by national and regional existing initiatives and will be built to support the national initiatives that will be launched in the region. The **specific objective** for this component is:

- Enhance commitment of youth to seize opportunities in and contribute to intercultural dialogue, meaningful engagement and participation, social cohesion, human rights, climate change, and employment in the Sahel.

The lead entity in charge of this action is DG INTPA Unit A2.

The entity of the contract management is the EUD @the AUC for component one and the EUD in Burkina Faso for the second component.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Africa's population under 35 represents almost a billion people. Yet young people on the continent are generally viewed as a disenfranchised group (unemployment) and a disengaged one from politics. The youth is often framed as victim and relay of political turbulences and crises. Yet, African young people have a huge potential and increasingly show their role as innovators, change-makers and they continue being a special vector for intercultural exchange. Africa's youth, including the diaspora, is increasingly connected to the rest of the world and gradually more able to assert and re-assert itself as a primary interlocutor in African policymaking. Similarly, European young people show increasing awareness of global issues and interest in intercultural exchange and cooperation with youth from partner countries.

Many young people are driving forces of civil society initiatives and often play a pivotal political and advocacy role in monitoring development policies. Yet, this does not always translate into direct involvement in political and decision-making processes and young people often remain outside traditional political mechanisms (elections, political parties). Their involvement deserves to be encouraged, structured and supported to ensure they contribute to influence policies (advocacy) and monitor their effective implementation (accountability). Youth is not a homogenous group, though, and their diversity (for example education/employment, living with parents/alone/own family) and socio-economic background calls for imagining and contributing to pilot-testing new ways to promote their participation in public life.

Youth inclusion is both a challenge and an opportunity for international cooperation and development. Harnessing this potential and supporting young women and men is the key to sustainable development and engaging with youth is an important element of public diplomacy objectives.

Both components of this action are in line with the European Commission's 'European Consensus for Development', the 'EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027', the '2020 Council Conclusions on youth' in the EU external action, and with the upcoming "Youth Action Plan"⁷ in the EU external action. The action will also support the external dimension of the European Green Deal by empowering young people in areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, participation in environmental management, circular economy opportunities or actions towards a just transition.

On **component 1**, Youth is at the core of the Africa-EU Partnership, which stresses: "*Investing in people, in particular in youth, is of paramount importance for building an even stronger partnership between our two continents*". The proposed action is aligned with the African Union's "Agenda 2063" (Aspiration 3: "an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law", Aspiration 4: "a peaceful and secured Africa" and Aspiration 6: "people-driven development, especially women and youth"). Moreover the AUC has appointed a "Chairperson's special envoy on youth" and launched the initiative "*1 Million by 2021*" and "One Million Next Level" aimed at creating opportunities for young people through Education, Entrepreneurship, Engagement and Employment (4Es). The AUC also launched the "*African Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (APAYE) 2019-2023*" as a framework for driving youth empowerment and catalysing action on youth issues across African member states and the AU Youth Charter.

At the 5thth AU-EU Summit took, which took place in November 2017 in Abidjan, youth from Africa and Europe were called to take part in the Africa-EU partnership decision-making process. Their proposals were compiled in a "Youth Agenda", which together with the Youth Declaration was presented to Heads of State at the Summit. The Youth Agenda was the work of 36 African and European young people gathered under the AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative (YPII). Since Abidjan, the inclusion of youth in the partnership has continuously expanded and in 2020 seven projects were initiated in 17 countries across Africa and Europe by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) benefiting 150 000 youth and engaging with youth networks on the ground. The Young Experts advise the CSOs and support the project implementation. The Hub collaborates with international institutions, donors, media and the private sector.

Also ahead of the 6th EU-AU Summit that took place 17-18 February 2022 in Brussels, and during the Africa Europe week, youth expressed the need to further improve their participation and inclusion in the Africa-EU Partnership and decision-making process at all levels. While the implementation of the Hub has been seen as a success story of AU-EU cooperation, the AU and EU have agreed on the need to build on the lessons learned (please refer to the next section for a summary of lessons learned) and scale up the Hub with the creation of an AU-EU Youth Lab (The Lab). The creation of the Lab is one of the outcomes of the final document of the Africa-Europe Week that took place head of the Summit.

The AU and the EU have agreed on a number of key guiding principles for the Lab: it should be an inclusive, multi-stakeholder platform, supporting youth mainstreaming and catalysing of youth initiatives and organisations to co-create ideas and actions and facilitate peer-to-peer learning and exchange of ideas. The Lab activities should also be youth-led and driven by young people from Africa, Europe and the diaspora and provide transformative, game-changing opportunities with multiplier effects for youth, meaningful engagement and participation, improve inclusion and accountability of policies.

The **component 2** will focus specifically on the Sahel where the population - estimated at more than 300 million inhabitants - is one of the youngest in the world. In the G5 Sahel countries, some 50 million young people under the age of 30 alone represent nearly 65% of the population. The Sahel region is currently fueled by endemic poverty, high income inequality, very high youth unemployment, governance failures, and facing an upsurge in extremism, terrorism and criminality. The countries considered by the project are globally ranked with the lowest human development indices (HDI) and the highest poverty rates in the world (on average more than 40% of the population lives below the poverty line). The continuing security deterioration in the region (Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger are particularly affected) has caused almost 2.5 million people to leave their homes. Insecurity results in insufficient access to basic social and public services and the absence of local representations of the State. Although youth in the Sahel are characterized by having a determined desire to succeed socio-economically, which

⁷ Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022 – 2027 – JOIN (2022) 53 final

pushes them to act tirelessly in search of economic opportunities, lack of orientation, training and support does not allow them to integrate effectively. Lessons learnt of the *La voix des jeunes au Sahel* programme underlined the need for youth to create and for a space of exchange: this initiative will increase opportunities for young people in the Sahel to meet and get better organised in order to raise their voice in the region more effectively.

This component will contribute to the implementation of the "Integrated Youth Strategy" of the G5 Sahel, which supports the empowerment and socio-professional integration of young people, and their meaningful engagement and participation, in the promotion of the culture of peace, human rights and citizenship.

2.2 Problem Analysis

From 1950 to the present, Africa's under 35 population has grown steadily, reaching 1.3 billion in 2020 and expected to reach 4.3 billion by 2100. Africa is the youngest continent with a median age of 19.7 in 2020. Currently, around 60% of Africa's population is younger than 25 years and in sub-Saharan Africa 70% of the population is under the age of 30. The African youth is amounting to 22.7% of the world's total youth population and expected to be almost one half of the world's youth by 2100. By 2100, Africa's youth will be equivalent to twice Europe's entire population.⁸

These figures show that the youth is central to any cooperation policies and interventions between Africa and Europe. Young people are an extraordinary asset for Africa's growth bringing dynamism, cultural and generational changes, progress and innovation. However, it's crucial that to realise their best potential, young people gain access to education, jobs and, more generally, opportunities. It is therefore essential that young people are part of the partnership's decision making and policy making processes and are provided opportunities for innovation, that are recognised as equal partners and as right holders. Youth empowerment and active engagement is crucial for innovation, growth, peace and security and sustainable development.

The consultations organised in 2021 and 2022 in the framework of the AU-EU Youth Cooperation Hub and the assessment of the lessons learned and feedbacks (including from *La Voix des jeunes au Sahel* project) have also provided key inputs for the problem analysis. Participants and stakeholders of the two initiatives agreed that youth are still viewed by many older people as inexperienced, immature and inferior. They are perceived to lack respect, credibility, authority, experience and trust so they are often put in the margins. They also agreed that an inter-generational communication breakdown still exists and needs to be addressed. In terms of representation, access to governance processes is limited to a small group of young people, with the exclusion of vulnerable, marginalized, less educated, non-digitally connected, disabled, rural, less skilled or tech-savvy youth. Access to education, employment and entrepreneurship and the related funding and information on how to look for it also constitutes a key challenge for the young population with limited institutional support to youth entrepreneurship and merits more special attention. The outcomes from the EU-AU youth consultation at the Africa Week organised on the side of the EU-AU Summit in February 2022 stated that young people's meaningful participation is hinged on the AU and EU's provision of access to timely and reliable information; clear and intentional pathways of engagement as equals; access to requisite civic skills and capacities; and finally, allocation of sufficient resources for meaningful engagement. Provide support to enable youth in decision-making, access to trainings, resources, and financial support for their own initiatives within the Africa-EU Partnership.

Broader consultations are regularly organised in the framework of the Policy Forum for Development (PFD)⁹ and this programme responds to the need for a youth focused mechanism, while being complementary to existing initiatives.

⁸ AU-EU Youth Hub

⁹ Capacity4dev | Connecting the Development Community (europa.eu)

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (Impact)** of this action is to **contribute to the empowerment of Youth in Africa and to strengthen the involvement of young people from Africa, Europe and the diaspora in active, meaningful and innovative ways.**

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

Component 1 (Continental level):

1. Decision - making processes around the AU-EU Partnership are more youth responsive and inclusive, and ensure youth meaningful engagement and participation and representation.
2. Enhance effectiveness of advocacy of young people, youth organisations and key stakeholders active around the AU-EU partnership in favor of youth-related concerns and priorities at cross-continental, continental, regional and national levels.

In particular the **Outputs** to be delivered for this component, contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 1.1 Strengthened inter-continental mechanism that involves young people, networks and organisations, partnership's institutions and stakeholders for fostering intra youth dialogue and engagement, influencing policy-making and developing cooperation initiatives,
- 1.2 AU and EU policies for youth based on youth-led approach developed / revised / better implemented.
- 2.1 Enhanced capacities of representatives of young people and organisations in Africa and Europe continents to advocate on key issues and monitor and evaluate relevant policies.
- 2.2 Enhanced capacities of partnership's stakeholders and policy makers at continental and subcontinental level to include youth related/affecting policies and issues.
- 2.3 Young people have increased access to opportunities for development and scaling up Africa –EU youth-led initiatives.

Component 2 (Sahel):

3. Enhance commitment of youth to seize opportunities in and contribute to intercultural dialogue, human cohesion, human rights climate change and decent employment in the Sahel

In particular the **Outputs** to be delivered for this component, contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

- 3.1 Enhanced capacity of young people in the areas of leadership, social cohesion, conflict mitigation, climate change, social media, digitalization, advocacy and coordination and management
- 3.2 Improved access to decent employment opportunities and socio-professional integration for young people

3.2 Indicative Activities

Component 1

The implementation will be characterized by **strong inception, advocacy and monitoring and evaluation components** applying to all the outcomes. The **inception phase** will include the development of a solid: context and problem analysis, mapping and stakeholders' analysis; additional consultations with youth from both continents to align priorities; design of the participatory mechanisms: identification of the steering mechanism, definition of baseline and indicators etc. It is expected to last at least six months. Moreover, in the course of the inception phase, partnerships with different stakeholders should be developed to complement some of the

components of the action (for example with private sector to support the funding mechanisms or provide mentoring to selected project proposal by youth, with institutions interested in the governance process etc.).

Activities linked to output 1.1:

- Design, set up and steering/functioning of innovative hybrid African – Europe youth Assemblies or similar mechanisms to ensure wide-ranging participation of African and European youths and diaspora, foster networking and exchanges and thus contribute to policy discussions alongside key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the African-EU partnership on selected policy priorities.
- Establishment of a support team of facilitators for broad youth consultation and engagement mechanism such as Assemblies or other mechanisms identified in inception phase.
- Organisation of hybrid consultations and follow up processes.
- Establishment of coordination and cooperation mechanisms and division of labour between the mechanisms identified (such as Assemblies or others) and other youth led governance mechanisms.
- Networking and upon request technical support to the piloting of identified and representative youth mechanisms at sub-continental level.
- Communication and dissemination.

Activities linked to output 1.2

- Mapping and establishing a virtual network of youth organisations and movements involved in key Africa – EU priorities to involve for consultations, actions and dissemination.
- Lobbying and networking to identify, engage and commit key partners and stakeholders. This should include AU EU and Member States policy makers, institutions, private sectors and international organisations to participate to the Assemblies conclusions sessions.
- Organisation of continental dialogues on youth and with youth in the framework of the partnership and lobbying to have it domesticated in the partnership's official mechanisms.
- Communication and dissemination.

Activities linked to output 2.1

- Facilitation of conversation/connection: conversation between young people and youth organizations from Africa, Europe, and diaspora, and stakeholders on the key priorities.
- Mapping and establishing and animating virtual network of youth organisations and movements at continental, regional and national level involved in key Africa – EU priorities at continental, regional and national level (common with output 1.2).
- Provision of technical assistance.
- Training of trainers for representatives of youth organizations, movements, leaders with large and diverse representation (geographical, gender, urban – rural etc.). The trained young people will then provide training at local level so to ensure larger dissemination and representation.
- Some of the training might be organized jointly with the target group in output 2.2 to facilitate interactions.
- Pilot “Twinning” for AU and EU youth organizations, formal and informal, and movements.
- Mentorship by key AU-EU partnership actors such as AU Youth Envoy, DG INTPA Special Adviser on Youth etc
- Creation and functioning of a community of practice on participatory governance focused on youth involvement.
- Communication and outreach

Activities linked to output 2.2

- Mapping and establishing of a virtual network of key stakeholders and policy makers (Ministries for youth, youth committees etc.) in key Africa – EU priorities at continental, regional and national level.
- Training of trainers for representatives of the organizations above on youth focused policies and priorities. The trained people will then provide training at local level so to ensure larger dissemination and representation.
- Pilot “Twinning” for AU and EU organizations working with and for youth.
- Provision of training and coaching to the involved youth for policy making, processes and monitoring of impact and implementation of the developed recommendations.
- Peer to peer exchanges.
- Mentorship by key AU-EU partnership actors such as AU Youth Envoy, INTPA Special Adviser on Youth etc.

- Joint monitoring of policies
- Provision of TA to key AU organs and other identified key stakeholders involved in youth.
- Communication and outreach

Activities linked to output 2.3

- Establishment of an advisory group in charge of identification of priorities and needs for the launching of a small grants facility/ start-up funds for innovative youth actions for, with and by youth.
- Development of a mechanisms where young people and key stakeholders will be part of the process to identify needs and priorities. Representatives of the Assemblies, and mapped organisations will be part of the group.
- Experts' support to the group for identification of innovative and high impact selection modalities and funds allocation.
- Establishment of a virtual Incubator for innovation and support to the design, implementation of funded actions, accompany, scaling up and search for additional financial or in kind support, identification of possible synergies and exchanges. The inception phase should further define the incubator as well as how it should reach marginal and less connected groups.
- Through the incubator and advisory group, development of networks at local, national and regional level.
- Organisation of a networking and fundraising event with stakeholders and private sector.
- Selection and financing of innovative ideas with high impact on youth and communities.
- Selection and financing of small grants with high impact on communities.
- Collection of experiences, challenges and best practices for replication and possible scaling up.
- Mentoring and training to the involved young people.
- Communication and dissemination.

Component 2

Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Training of young leaders of youth organizations on coordination, management and advocacy.
- Strengthening of youth advisory structures, such "Youth Sounding Boards" (YSB), and cooperation with youth organisations in each of the 6 countries (in coordination and with the support of the LAB component).
- Organisation of regional and national coordination meetings of young leaders from national youth organisations, YSBs or other equivalent bodies.
- Establish (selection and training) of "Youth Ambassadors" (JA) and "Young Journalists for Peace" (YJFP) in the fields of leadership, citizen watch, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue, and in communication and media techniques
- Implementation through seed funds of small actions/awareness-raising campaign for the promotion of peace, social cohesion, and intercultural dialogue, the fight against climate change and for other topics of interest to young people.

Activities related to Output 3.2:

- Organisation of regional training/info sessions on opportunity for youth at regional level to access to decent job and entrepreneurship initiatives.
- Integrate digital platforms for exchange and coordination of actions funded by the EU and its Members States to facilitate access to information
- Creation of a "Clubs of job seekers" for Sahel to share good practices, lessons learned, contacts, etc...
- Development of a "Guide for Job Seekers" which specifies and describes the best methods, methodologies, etc... Support for youth organizations in establishing partnership agreements with private/public sector actors that facilitate access to decent employment and entrepreneurship.
- Establish a pilot "twinning" program between youth organizations and vocational training centres with structures in the private or public employment sector that promote, at the level of the Sahel, exchanges and mobility for better socio-professional integration.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Democratic governance

Fostering participatory democracy with a focus on youth involvement is a core objective of the action and will be promoted through all components of this programme.

Rule of Law

Fostering youth participation in governance processes will also connect with the rule of law elements enhancing the key role that youth can play in promoting rule of law.

Education

Education will be mainstreamed through both components of this programme in the following ways:

- Informal education will be ensured through the training, mentorship and incubator opportunities provided by the action.
- Indirectly access to all type of education will be tackled as the project aims at increasing youth voice and youth opportunities that in turn should positively impact on access to education.
- Education is one of the key priority topics that should be addressed in the participatory governance component.

Climate change

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

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

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

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

Youth engagement related to climate change issues is instrumental for the continent; climate change is rated as a top priority by youth on the continent; youth initiated climate actions are crucial and must be supported

Conflict prevention

Youth with limited representation are most at risk of radicalisation and polarisation and being actively involved in conflicts. The action, giving voice to the youth population and listening to their identified priorities, might indirectly impact on conflict prevention. Moreover, given the diverse origin of the young to be involved in the project focus will be given in the design and implementation of the activities to language and approaches facilitating dialogue and positive exchanges.

Gender equality and participation of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that a gender perspective will be mainstreamed throughout the Action with focus on increased participation and leadership of women and girls in decision-making. Special attention will be paid to discriminatory practices or inequalities.

Human Rights

A key objective is to promote and protect the full respect of human rights, including labour rights non-discrimination principles and self-determination. Fostering youth participation and influence on continental policies directly contributes to promote and protect HR on the continent, especially civil and political rights. Also, the action has been designed following the Human Rights based approach, whereby right-holders –youths and CSOs at large– are empowered to demand action from their duty-bearers –national governments AU organs– to ensure that their rights are fully respected

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that while working on disability-related issues is not a main objective in this action, the specific needs of disabled

beneficiaries will be duly assessed and addressed. People with disability will be strongly encourage to participate at the different components of the action.

Migration & mobility

Young population represent the largest part of migrants, therefore improving on youth participation and youth opportunities, with governance processes and funding to innovative ideas should impact on the decision to embark in irregular migration. On the other side, working on increased empowerment and support to innovation the action might positively impact on regular migration and mobility, including exchanges between Africa and Europe.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The action will be further designed and implemented with a conflict sensitivity lens. It will strive to increase peace amongst affected youth and strengthen their resilience in the social, political and economic contexts they live in.

Disaster Risk Reduction

When appropriate to local affected national and regional contexts, this action shall integrate and promote disaster risk reduction analysis and response.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
People and organisations	Not reaching the broad youth community in all its segments - Inefficient use of new and engaging participation methods	High	High	In the identification of the consortium one of the key requirements will be experience and expertise in innovative participation methods. Systematic efforts to link both components to all formal and informal youth networks at local, national and regional levels.
People and organisations	Lack of visibility and support to existing initiatives	High	Medium	The involvement of the AU, G5, the EU and their networks should ensure visibility and dissemination of information.
People and organisations	Lack of effective implementing partners and financing modalities	Medium	Medium	The multi-actor consortium will be in the better position to gather all the diverse required expertise. Moreover, in the identification of relevant implementing partners by each component will require an attentive evaluation of experiences in managing granting and start-up funding mechanisms.
People and organisations	Resistance of key stakeholders to have a meaningful and concrete participation of youth	Medium	High	The active involvement of relevant actors (including the AU, G5 and the EU) and the preparatory work done in inception phase.

People and organisations	Insufficient legitimacy of selected young people and/or organizations with subsequent criticism from civil society or other actors and more specifically from the youth of these countries and regions	Medium	High	A detailed mapping and engagement tools should ensure adequate legitimacy. The selection modalities will ensure wide representativeness through an inclusive approach based on agreed criteria for selection of participants that gives opportunity to apply in a transparent and accessible manner.
People and organisations	Lack of youth engagement and participation and low involvement in AU-EU policymaking processes	Medium	High	The capacity building, networking and mentoring components should address this.
People and organisations	Lack of youth diversity and representativeness. Lack of involvement/reach of a wider youth ecosystem	Medium	High	A detailed mapping and engagement tool should ensure adequate legitimacy. Moreover, the Assemblies' selection modalities will ensure wide representativeness.

Lessons Learnt:

Component 1

Youth representation: The Youth Lab should ensure more equality and include all types of youth from different backgrounds: vulnerable, marginalized, typically left-out, in the grassroots, never accessing opportunities, less educated, non-digitally connected, with disabilities, in rural areas, skilled or tech-savvy, already engaged as development actors, in leadership, advisors, youth organisations, networks, coalitions and platforms (multi-country and national).

Youth leadership: Acknowledging youth diversity, the Youth Lab should provide different opportunities and initiatives to different types of youth accordingly, rather than one size fits all. Youth-to-youth and youth-led initiatives should be prioritized. Youth should be encouraged to propose innovative ideas and formulate them as pilots. They should be involved in co-creation and ownership. Youth-led projects and ideas should have easier access to long-term funding and youth should be better aware on how to obtain it. Youth should be fairly compensated for their work. Capacity building should be provided. Focus should be on roles in projects, funding, policy and accountability. Professional education and youth entrepreneurship should be encouraged as an answer to massive youth unemployment in a context of enduring economic hardship. Youth organisations should be supported to build sustainable business strategies.

Youth participation: The Youth Lab should make sure that youth are more involved in decision-making at all levels and go beyond consultative and advocate roles. Youth should have a seat at the table. They should be involved in policy design, dialogue, policy-making, governance processes and have the power to influence. They should create strategies and plans, lead projects and be on advisory boards. They should be more hands on and have a stronger participation in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and accountability of projects and policies. Youth rights, including political rights, should be promoted and protected.

Youth exchange: The Youth Lab should organise regular consultations and youth mobilization. Online and offline platforms should be used effectively to engage youth. Language barriers should be overcome. More synergies and collaboration between African, European and diaspora youth should be encouraged. Youth should be more involved in inter-generational dialogue. Youth organisations, networks, coalitions and platforms will grow stronger if they are better linked-up amongst each other. They should promote exchange, dialogue, best practices, ideas and visions for the future.

Coordination and complementarity: stronger alignment between the Youth Lab and the component 2. In addition, coordination and complementarity with other existing youth development agenda, structures, programmes and priorities in both organizations will be guaranteed.

Also, the following suggested clusters for the implementation of the Lab were provided during the consultations and exchanges with partners:

- **Sensing:** Mapping to identify, locate, categorise and create a database of critical stakeholders, i.e. youth organisations, development partners, enablers and private and public sector actors, and other partners, as well as priorities and interests of young people.
- **Connecting:** Creating platforms for networking between young people in Africa and Europe and with duty bearers and critical stakeholders.
- **Nurturing:** Creating mentorship, training, challenges and other support mechanisms that enable young people from Africa, Europe and Diaspora to create solutions that address social problems.
- **Acceleration:** Supporting youth-led innovation with financial and business development support
- **Catalysing:** of youth initiatives focusing on the Partnership's priorities, including Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment, Youth Engagement, Health and well-being, Climate Change, Governance, Peace and Security. The activities should generate high impact, scalable results and align with existing AU and EU youth frameworks and initiatives.

Component 2

As underlined by lessons learned of the *La voix des jeunes au Sahel* project, most associations that have been involved in the programme lack of financial capacities and have an inefficient structure. This prevents them to have an independent programmatic vision. Very often those organizations are mostly concerned about searching solutions for their financing difficulties, which pushes them to position themselves in consonance / complacency with the political authorities and other potential "donors".

The lesson learned showed that to have real independence from political influences and external donors, interventions should focus on young individual leaders who are already engaged in different themes and have real independence from political powers and donors.

Another lesson learned in the context of the "Young ambassadors for social cohesion and living together" project carried out in Burkina Faso showed that it is very relevant to rely on networks and the media at national and regional level to better inform and raise awareness of the problems of youth and possible solutions, to strengthen social cohesion, denounce Human Rights violence, to advance new ideas and promote relevant changes.

The U-Report tool piloted by UNICEF and supported by the EU carried out numerous surveys of thousands of young people and to create local networks of facilitators. In this context, the *Radio Jeunesse Sahel* project, implemented by the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF) will complement this initiative since it aims to create a regional radio station that can serve as a space for dialogue and exchange between young of the region by promoting participation as responsible citizens, drivers of change and development, as well as guarantors of the stability and future of their countries.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that IF a diverse, inclusive and representative network of youth is empowered to engage with national, regional and continental African institutions thanks to the provision of tailored technical assistance, training, exchanges and lessons learnt; AND IF youth led initiatives are encouraged to emerge and are supported by means of technical and financial assistance THEN more opportunities will open for young people to engage and influence the AU-EU partnership and the G5 youth related priorities and will be heard by relevant stakeholders, which in turn will contribute to the empowerment of young people in Africa and Europe. Also, youth will be taken into account by the relevant stakeholders, which in turn will result in visibly affecting policy and decision making within the priority agendas of the partnership.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest.

New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

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

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

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

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)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the empowerment of the young people of Africa	**SDG Indicator 8.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	To be detailed in inception phase (2023)	To be detailed in inception phase (2023)	1. Afrobarometer 2. Other survey 3. Activities reports	<i>Not applicable</i>

Component 1 Outcome 1	Decision - making processes around the AU-EU Partnership are more youth responsive and inclusive, and ensure youth participatory and representative.	1.1 Number of recommendations of Youth Assemblies incorporated in policy development process by the policy makers and stakeholders	1.1 0 in 2022	1.1 To be detailed in inception phase (2023)	1.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention	AU -EU partnership institutions and member states and organisations, incl RECS and CSOs, are actively engaged Governments and other institutions are interested in engaging and allow for engagement by their citizens Youth are willing to engage. Selected organisations and leaders are representative of the youth population
		1.2. Number of government or other institutions policies developed or revised accordingly	1.2. 0 in 2022	1.2. to be detailed in inception phase (2023)	1.2. Text of laws and regulations Government data and records.	
		1.3. Status of Formal consultation and dialogue fora	1.3. 1 in 2022	1.3. to be detailed in inception phase (2023)	1.3. Text of laws and regulations Government data and records. .	
		1.4. Percentage of women, youth and underrepresented groups (ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities) that are consulted and actively participate in the processes	1.4. 150 in 2022	1.4. to be detailed in inception phase - disaggregated by sex, ages (2023/2024/2025/2026)	1.4. Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.	

Component 1 Outcome 2	Enhance effectiveness of advocacy of young people, youth organisations and key stakeholders active around the AU-EU partnership in favor of youth-related concerns and priorities at cross-continental, continental, regional and national levels	2.1. Number of advocacy actions run by the established network of youth organisations and leaders	2.1. 7 in 2022	2.1. to be detailed in inception phase	2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention Government records and data. Study reports and briefing papers from the project	AU -EU partnership institutions and member states and organisations, incl RECS and CSOs, are willing to engage Governments and other institutions are interested in engaging and allow for engagement by their citizens Youth are willing to engage. Selected organisations and leaders are representative of the youth population
		2.2. Status of establishment of Dialogue mechanism between youth and stakeholders organised at continental and sub-continental level	2.2. 0 in 2022	2.2. to be detailed in inception phase	2.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention Government records and data. Study reports and briefing papers from the project	
		2.3. Number of young people affected by the grants and start-up funds	2.3. 10 organisations in 2022	2.3. to be detailed in inception phase	2.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention Government records and data. Study reports and briefing papers from the project	
		2.4. Status grants and start –up funds after 3 year from the start	2.4. 0 in 2022	2.4. to be detailed in the inception phase	2.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention Research and Knowledge Management reports, articles etc.	

Component 1 Output 1 related to Outcome 1	Strengthened inter-continental mechanism that involves young people, networks and organisations, partnership's institutions and stakeholders for fostering intra youth dialogue and engagement, influencing policy-making and developing cooperation initiatives,	1.1.1 Number of network participants (disaggregated by type or organisations, country of origin, sex, age).	1.1. 117 community groups in 2022	1.1. to be detailed in inception phase	1.1. Key stakeholder interviews. Programme reports. Research and Knowledge Management reports, articles etc. produced by the project.	Governments and other institutions are interested in engaging and allow for engagement by their citizens Youth are willing to engage. Selected organisations and leaders are representative of the youth population
		1.1.2 Number of young people reached through consultations organised in the framework of the project , disaggregated by sex	1.2 150 in 2022	1.2. to be detailed in inception phase	1.2 Project monitoring reports, and territory (sub vs supranational) etc.	
		1.1.3 Percentage of women, youth and underrepresented groups (ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities) that are consulted and actively participate in the processes with support of the EU-funded intervention.	1.3 10% in 2022	1.3. to be detailed in inception phase	1.3. Project monitoring reports, and territory (sub vs supranational) etc.	
		1.1.4 Number of consultation forums organised with support of the EU-funded intervention	1.4 2 in 2022	1.4 to be detailed in inception phase	1.4 Programme reports.	

Component 1 Output 2 related to Outcome 1	<p>AU and EU policies for youth based on youth-led approach developed / revised / better implemented.</p>	<p>1.2. Number of people representing institutions al and other relevant stakeholders attending youth Assemblies, disaggregated by sex and type of institution</p>	<p>1.2 0 in 2022</p>	<p>1.2 to be detailed in inception phase</p>	<p>1.2 Training reports, pre-and post-training surveys.</p> <p>Key stakeholder interviews.</p> <p>Expert mission reports.</p>	<p>AU and EU institutions and member states and organisations, incl RECS and CSOs, are willing to engage</p> <p>Governments and other institutions are interested in engaging and allow for engagement by their citizens</p> <p>Youth are willing to engage.</p> <p>Selected organisations and leaders are representative of the youth population</p>
Component 1 Output 1 & 2 related to Outcome 2	<p>Enhanced capacities of representatives of young people and organisations in Africa and in Europe to advocate on key issues and monitor and evaluate relevant policies.</p> <p>&</p> <p>Enhanced capacities of partnership's stakeholders and policy makers at continental and subcontinental level to address youth</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of participants included in the youth network with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of pilot youth Assemblies organised at sub-continental level with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.1.3 Percentage of women, youth and underrepresented groups (ethnic minorities, and persons with disabilities) that are consulted and actively participate in the processes</p>	<p>2.1.1 117 in 2022</p> <p>2.1.2 0 in 2022</p> <p>2.1.3 10% in 2022</p>	<p>2.1.1 to be detailed in inception phase</p> <p>2.1.2 to be detailed in inception phase</p> <p>2.1.3 to be detailed in inception phase</p>	<p>2.1.1 Training reports, pre-and post-training surveys.</p> <p>Expert mission reports.</p> <p>2.1.2 Project monitoring reports, and territory (sub vs supranational) etc.</p> <p>2.1.3 Project monitoring reports, and territory (sub vs supranational) etc.</p>	<p>Governments and other institutions are interested in engaging and allow for engagement by their citizens</p>

	related/affecting policies and issues.	<p>2.1.4 N. of Trainings organised with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.5 N. of Twinning finalised with support of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>2.1.4 20 in 2022</p> <p>2.1.5 0 in 2022</p>	<p>2.1.4 to be detailed in inception phase</p> <p>2.1.4 to be detailed in inception phase</p> <p>2.1.5 to be detailed in inception phase</p>	<p>2.1.4 Training reports, pre-and post-training surveys.</p> <p>2.1.5 Training reports, pre-and post-training surveys.</p>	<p>Youth are willing to engage.</p> <p>Selected organisations and leaders are representative of the youth population</p>
<p>Component 1</p> <p>Output 3 related to Outcome 2</p>	Young people have increased access to opportunities for development and scaling up Africa –EU youth-led initiatives.	<p>2.2.1 N of grants and start-up funds provided with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2.2. Number of people supported by the funds, disaggregated by sex,</p> <p>2.2.3 Number of people receiving the incubators' services with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex...</p> <p>2.2.4 Number of Partnerships with private sector and other stakeholders established with support of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>2.2.1 0 in 2022</p> <p>2.2.2 0 in 2022</p> <p>2.2.3 0 in 2022</p> <p>2.2.4 in 2022</p>	<p>2.2.1 to be detailed in the inception phase</p> <p>2.2.2 to be detailed in the inception phase</p> <p>2.2.3 to be detailed in the inception phase</p> <p>2.2.4 to be detailed in the inception phase</p>	<p>2.2.1 grant agreements signed.</p> <p>Programme reports.</p> <p>2.2.2. Funding committee reports and decisions.</p> <p>Expert mission reports.</p> <p>2.2.3 Incubator's reports</p> <p>2.2.4 programme report</p> <p>Documents related to the partnership</p>	<p>Target group have the knowledge and willingness to submit proposal</p> <p>Other stakeholders are interested in partnerships</p> <p>Local context allow for the implementation of the funded proposals</p>

<div>Component 2</div> <div>Outcome 3</div>	<div>Enhance commitment of youth to seize opportunities in and contribute to intercultural dialogue, human cohesion, human rights climate change and employment</div>	<div>3.1 Number of young people from the G5 Sahel (+ Senegal) countries which are socially engaged and actively participating in the implementation of key areas in the region (disaggregated by sex)</div>	<div>3.1. 0 in 2022</div>	<div>3.1 To be detailed in inception phase</div>	<div>3.1 Surveys</div> <div>Activities reports</div> <div>MTR and final evaluations</div>	<div>Countries in the region do not experience major political, economic and security troubles which can prevent the implementation of the project</div>
<div>Component 2</div> <div>Output 1 related to Outcome 3</div>	<div>Enhanced capacity of young people in the areas of leadership, social cohesion, conflict mitigation, climate change, social media, digitalization, advocacy and coordination and management</div>	<div>3.1.1 Number of “Youth sounding board” put in place with support of the EU0funded intervention</div>	<div>3.1.1 0 in 2022</div>	<div>3.1.1 One each country with at least 140 youth representative (at least 50% women) in total</div>	<div>3.1.1.Surveys</div> <div>Activities reports</div> <div>MTR and final evaluations</div>	<div>The existence of regional and national youth CSO platforms/networks which adhere to the project</div>
		<div>3.1.2 Number of young people engaged as “ Youth Ambassadors” (JA) or as Young Journalists for Peace” (JJPP) with support of the EU-funded intervention</div>	<div>3.1.2 0 in 2022</div>	<div>3.1.2 150 JA (in 2024)</div> <div>120 JJPP (in 2024)</div>	<div>3.1.2.Surveys</div> <div>Activities reports</div> <div>MTR and final evaluations</div>	
		<div>3.1.3 Number of young people trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in leadership, citizen watch, social cohesion, digitalisation, communication, or media, disaggregated by sex</div>	<div>3.1.3 0 in 2022</div>	<div>3.1.3 A total of 1800 youth representatives increased their skills on the mentioned topics (in 2024)</div>	<div>3.1.3.Surveys</div> <div>Activities reports</div> <div>MTR and final evaluations</div>	<div>The effective commitment of youytj to follow the whole process</div>
		<div>3.1.4 Number of actions of advocacy and communication launched by JAJ and JJPP with support of the EU-funded intervention</div>	<div>3.1.4 0 in 2022</div>	<div>3.1.4 150 in 2024</div>		<div>Existence of awareness and communication channels in the areas of intervention</div>
		<div>3.1.5 Number of youth that has been directly sensitized in topics related to result 1 with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex</div>	<div>3.1.5 0 in 2022</div>	<div>3.1.5 240.000 in 2025</div>		

Component 2 Output 2 related to Outcome 3	Improved access to employment opportunities and socio-professional integration for young people	3.2.1 Number of regional information sessions on participation and integration of youth with support of the EU-funded intervention	3.2.1 0 in 2022	3.2.1 To be define in the inception phase	3.2.1 Surveys Activities reports MTR and final evaluations	<p>The region is not having major political, economic, environmental and security complications that prevent the development of actions for access to employment.</p> <p>CSOs networks are in place and interested to participate to this project</p> <p>The motivation and commitment of public and private sector organizations is possible (CSOs, PTFs, companies, etc.)</p>
		3.2.2 Number of young people trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on the possibilities and mechanisms for integration into projects/programs and public/private employment support structures, disaggregated by sex	3.2.2 0 in 2022	3.2.2 To be define in the inception phase	3.2.2 Surveys Activities reports MTR and final evaluations	
		3.2.3 Number of young people actively participating in exchange and coordination platforms with support of the EU-funded intervention	3.2.3 0 in 2022	3.2.3 To be defined by the inception phase	3.2.3 Surveys Activities reports MTR and final evaluations	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the African Union or other 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 72 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.¹⁰

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grant)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The 2 grants (one each component) will contribute achieving all the outcomes of the action as presented in section 3 Description of the action.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

For both components, the following applicants will be able to apply: consortia of specialised, NGOs, public bodies, international organisations, associations of local authorities, and economic operators such as small and medium enterprises.

For the grant on component 1, applicants will be selected based on: logistical and management capacities, a specific experience on coordinating continental/multiregional initiatives and on coordinating multi-stakeholders with a participatory approach. Experience on promoting innovative citizens participation methodologies with focus on youth from Africa, Europe and the Diaspora, and experience on management of small grants or funds.

For component 2, in addition the following will be requested in addition to thematic expertise: logistical and management capacities, specific experience on coordinating initiatives of youth in the Sahel, experience on promoting innovative citizens participation methodologies with focus on youth from Africa, Europe and the Diaspora, and experience on management of small grants or funds.

The applicable criteria for both components will be developed further in the Call for Proposals.

¹⁰ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

To complement the grant a procurement component for studies, technical assistant, dissemination and other activities identified as necessary will be used.

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

As an alternative, a part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: experience on promoting innovative citizens participation methodologies with focus on youth from Africa, Europe and the Diaspora and experience of management of small grants or funds.

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)
Objective 1/Outputs 1/2/3	15 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3	13 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	2 000 000
Objective 2/Outputs 1/2	5 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3	5 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	Will be covered by another decision
Communication and visibility – cf. section 6	NA
Contingencies¹¹	NA
Totals	20 000 000

¹¹ 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.

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action will be implemented in direct management by a specialized consortium for each component.

Consortia will manage sub-granting schemes for both components. They will facilitate the involvement of youth organisations and youth-led initiatives at local level and provide seed funds.

The selected consortiums for each component might also procure of services for complementary studies, advisory, coordination and communication services.

A steering committee will be established for each component which will include, the implementing partners, EUD, representatives of the AUC and other AU organs (for component 1)/ G5 Sahel (for component 2), representatives of relevant RECs and of Governmental entities as appropriate, as well as beneficiaries and other relevant actors as necessary. Each steering committee will invite also a representative of the other component in order to ensure complementarity. However the steering mechanism will be defined for each component in inception phase and might include technical committees, thematic approach and ad hoc mechanisms. Technical meetings between the 2 components could also be organised if needed. Each steering committee (one each component) will meet at least once per year.

Furthermore, at the regional and national levels, implementing partners will be required to liaise with RECs and national/local government authorities and report to the EUDs to the African Union (continental component) and to Burkina Faso (regional component) to ensure it is fully kept abreast of progress and developments and can duly participate in visibility activities. For this purpose, implementing partners should set up specific technical committees to address and monitor the operational implementation of activities in support to specific beneficiaries and/or territories.

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 logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, 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:

Each implementing partner will have specific responsibilities for monitoring and reporting under this action. Common indicators will as much as possible be used in order to allow AD wide reporting.

Indicator values will be measured at continental, regional or on a country-by-country basis depending on the nature of the activities. An initial baseline will be launched at the inception phase and an end line survey will be organised before the end of the project.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants. Possibly an ex-post evaluation should also be carried out.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that support with innovative elements related to the engagement of civil society actors via a dedicated sub-granting mechanism bears a pilot dimension for EU support.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination¹². 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 in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

¹² See best practice of evaluation dissemination

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

The present Action identifies as

Action level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action>
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Grant to consortium for Component 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Procurement contract for Component 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Grant to consortium for Component 2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>