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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX 20

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 Data Governance in Africa

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Data Governance in Africa OPSYS number: ACT-61398 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes – under TEI Framework for D4D (Digital for Development) for Digital Economy and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority Area 4: Digital, Science, Technology and Innovation Specific Objective 1: Support an inclusive and human-centric Digital transformation in Africa Result 1.1: Secure, human-centric and harmonised digital standards, legal and regulatory frameworks are promoted at regional/continental levels. Result 1.2: Equitable access to affordable, secure and quality digital infrastructures is enhanced.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Sub-Saharan Africa Regional MIP Priority Area 4: Digital, Science, Technology and Innovation Digital Transformation 220 – Communications
7. Sustainable Development Goals	Main SDG:

(SDGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) <p>Other significant SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 5 (Gender Equality) • SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), • SDG 13 (Climate Action) • SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) • SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) 			
8 a) DAC code(s)	22010 : Communications policy and administrative management 50% 22040 - Information and communication technology (ICT) 50%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	European Commission - Development Share of Budget - 42001			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective

and Tags:	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item):</p> <p>BGUE-B2022-14.020120 : EUR 10 500 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>BGUE-B2022-14.020121 : EUR 10 500 000 (East and Central Africa)</p> <p>BGUE-B2022-14.020122 : EUR 9 000 000 (Southern Africa and Indian Ocean)</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 59 250 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 30 000 000</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <p>Germany for an amount of EUR 22 000 000;</p> <p>Finland for an amount of EUR 2 750 000;</p> <p>Belgium for an amount of EUR 2 250 000;</p> <p>France for an amount of EUR 2 000 000;</p> <p>Estonia for an amount of EUR 250 000.</p>
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1
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1.2 Summary of the Action

The action addresses in a strategic and comprehensive manner all the potential around how data can be leveraged for the uptake of the digital economy, in line with the African Union (AU) Continental Data Policy Framework¹. It aims to: support policy and regulation at continental, regional and national level, promote access, use and sharing of data across borders, data use investments in data infrastructure and services in selected regions in Africa for the emergence of harmonized data economies. This will ultimately serve the development of a single digital market, where data can flow across borders, personal data are protected and local private sector can leverage data value chains on the basis of convergent regulation, thus avoiding silos single markets within regions.

The action will support the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), as well as AU Member States in developing data policy frameworks building on the AU Data Policy Framework, developing data use cases to showcase the value of data, and supporting the identification of green and secure data infrastructures in Africa.

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support a development-oriented and human-centric data economy and society in Africa, in line with the AU Data Policy Framework.

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

1. Strengthen comprehensive and convergent policies and regulations on personal and non-personal data.
2. Leverage on data use and cross-border data flows to create value and inform regulations in selected sectors.
3. Promote enhanced partnerships for green and secure data infrastructure.

The Action politically supports the AU Data Policy Framework and the EU-AU Data Flagship, which, as conceptualised after the 6th EU-AU Summit, aims at strengthening an inclusive African data-driven economy and society.

This Action was identified and formulated with EU Member States within the Africa Branch of the Digital for Development Hub (D4D Hub).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Digital cooperation is a cornerstone of the AU-EU strategic partnership and a key component of the Joint Vision for sustained and sustainable economic growth, as confirmed during the 2022 AU-EU Summit². Within this frame of reference, the EU and the AU jointly engaged to tackle misuse of data and the fragmentation of data markets. This will address the twofold goal of protecting people's fundamental rights and leveraging direct investments in data-driven technologies and services for the uptake of African economy.

Europe and Africa addressed the data governance through key policy developments in the recent years.

In the EU these include:

- i) the 2018 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)³, which has been impacting not only data protection standards within the EU, but also the development or updating of data protection frameworks in several countries in Africa⁴. The 2020 Communication on the first 2 years of application of the General Data Protection Regulation⁵ reaffirmed that the European Commission commits to

¹ <https://au.int/en/documents/20220728/au-data-policy-framework>

² https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54412/final_declaration-en.pdf

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

⁴ https://www.usitc.gov/publications/332/journals/jice_africa_data_protection_laws.pdf

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0264>

- engage with African partners to promote regulatory convergence and support capacity-building of supervisory authorities, as part of the digital chapter of the new EU-Africa partnership.
- ii) the EU Data Strategy⁶, which further outlines a strategy for policy measures and investments to enable the data economy. The Strategy clearly states that the EU will support Africa in creating an African data economy for the benefit of its citizens and businesses.
 - iii) the Data Governance Act⁷, which was adopted in 2022 as a framework to foster the availability and reuse of data within the EU.
 - iv) the Global Gateway Communication⁸, which sets out the European strategy to enhance investments in connectivity and services around the world, with a dedicated focus to partnership with Africa. The Communication reaffirms the EU commitment to work with partner countries to promote GDPR convergence, deploy digital networks and infrastructures such as cloud and data infrastructure, which contribute to providing a basis for exchanges of data and further cooperation. The promotion of green data centres is mentioned as a means to minimize the environmental footprint of digital infrastructure, in line with the European Green Deal⁹.
 - v) the Council Conclusions on EU Digital Diplomacy¹⁰, through which the Council invites all relevant parties to ensure that digital diplomacy becomes a core component and an integral part of the EU external action, and is closely coordinated with other EU external policies on cyber and countering hybrid threats, including foreign information manipulation and interference. The conclusions stress the importance of capacity building and the strategic promotion of technological solutions and regulatory frameworks that respect and promote democratic values, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democratic principles in the digital space and advance a human-centric approach to digital technologies in relevant multilateral fora and other platforms, promoting partnerships and coalitions with like-minded countries and strengthening multilateral cooperation.

In addition, when it comes to the main reference for supporting a digital transformation that tackles the gender digital divide, the EU Gender Action Plan III¹¹ recognises that promoting women's equal access to the potential of digital technologies is central to the EU's digital strategy and to sustainable growth.

In parallel, the AU has engaged in the following policy initiatives:

- i) the AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020-2030 (DTS)¹², which sets out the vision and objectives to build a Digital Single Market in the continent, in line with Africa's Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Targeted policy recommendations provided by the Strategy address the need to govern data protection and privacy, as well as to regulate the free flow of non-personal data. The Strategy also recommends policies to be based on a human-centred and holistic approach and special attention to be given to women, people living in remote areas, people with disabilities, disadvantaged and marginalized communities.
- ii) the AU INTEROPERABILITY FRAMEWORK FOR DIGITAL ID endorsed by the Executive Council: EX.CL/Dec.1144(XL) which aims to empower people with control over their personal data, including the ability to selectively disclose only those attributes that are required for a particular transaction. According to the framework, the personal information to be disclosed should be minimal, proportionate

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1593073685620&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0066>

⁷ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/PE-85-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint_communication_global_gateway.pdf

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2019%3A640%3AFIN>

¹⁰ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-11406-2022-INIT/en/pdf>

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/gender-equality-and-empowering-women-and-girls_en#header-5139

¹² <https://au.int/en/documents/20200518/digital-transformation-strategy-africa-2020-2030>

- and contain only the information relevant to that particular transaction.
- iii) the 2014 AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection¹³ (commonly known as Malabo Convention), which, although only ratified by 13 countries¹⁴ to date, addresses the need for harmonised legislation in the areas of cybersecurity and data protection and privacy.
 - iv) the Guidelines for Personal Data Protection¹⁵, which were developed by the AUC in collaboration with the Internet Society (ISOC) and emphasize the importance of ensuring trust in online services, while offering guidance on how to help individuals take ownership in protecting their personal data.
 - v) the AU Data Policy Framework, which was endorsed by 55 AU Member States in the AU – EU Executive Council in February 2022. This aims at ensuring an effective, responsible and sustainable use of data as a strategic asset and a driver for integration, social progress and economic growth. The Framework includes recommendations on a range of topics relating to data governance such as cross-border data flows, data sovereignty, data protection, data processing and enforcement of relevant legislation (safeguards), data portability and interoperability, data sharing, and availability of data (enablers). The Framework proposes an implementation plan on continental, regional, and national levels to strengthen actions towards a harmonized data governance in Africa. The AUC is responsible for the overall implementation of the Framework and is engaging in coordination of all involved stakeholders and regional organisations. At the sub-regional level, RECs will be mandated to facilitate regional and national policy developments for the purpose of regulatory harmonisation. At the national level, AU Member States will be supported to develop and align their data policies to the Framework with the support of the AUC and the local stakeholders.

Designing strong, comprehensive and convergent policies for the data economy requires close coordination with those actors affected by the policies, such as private sector entities, academia, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including organisations representing women and other groups with specific needs and interests, and individual data holders. Data-driven value creation is largely related to the untapped potential of data use cases, including data collaborations among different stakeholder groups, both on a domestic and cross-border basis. Promoting multistakeholder cooperation enables both general awareness and concrete insights to inform regulatory processes. Where policies succeed in supporting data-driven innovation, results may not only include job creation and economic growth for all, but naturally increase people's participation, and transparency and accountability in public service delivery.

Data infrastructure, especially data centres, provide the lifeblood for activities in the data economy. When it comes to this, Africa faces a significant shortage in investments. This implies that most of Africa's data is hosted outside the continent, which deeply affects its digital and data sovereignty. In addition to an imbalance between potential and capacity in developing and managing hard infrastructure locally, lacking legislation governing energy efficiency and security standards of data centre equipment and software layers results in varying levels of security and efficiency. These challenges identify the fundamental need for the public sector to be involved in the origination and execution of investments, which is an embedded principle of the approach this Action is built on. Consultation with AU Member States has informed on a need for an investment support program to assist with designing and implementing infrastructure projects, as well as with a better understanding of related market conditions.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Digitalisation and data-driven applications can open a wealth of opportunities for people living in Africa. However, fully garnering this potential for the continent's benefit requires foundational elements including basic connectivity, digital skills and a data governance framework of safeguards and enablers around data; incentives to identify and engage in cross-organisational and cross-border data flows; as well as appropriate data infrastructure. African

¹³ <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-union-convention-cyber-security-and-personal-data-protection>

¹⁴ <https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-sl->

AFRICAN_UNION_CONVENTION_ON_CYBER_SECURITY_AND_PERSONAL_DATA_PROTECTION.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.internet-society.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/AUCPrivacyGuidelines_2018508_EN.pdf

countries systematically score in the bottom end of indices that assess the level of development of the digital economy, e.g. Digital Knowledge Economy Index, Global Data Barometer. The continent's digital divide still leaves behind a significant part of the population, in particular, women, people living in poverty and remote areas, among other groups in vulnerable situations. Through the GAP III, the EU has committed to tackle challenges related to the gender digital divide. This includes aspects of limited access to affordable broadband for women and girls, lack of digital literacy as well as professional digital skills, access to digital entrepreneurship and exclusion from decision-making processes. The AU has committed in the same area through its Strategy for Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment 2018-2028.

The Action tackles three specific objectives: i) data policy and regulation at continental, regional and national level; ii) data use cases and cross-border flows; iii) partnerships for investments in green and secure data infrastructure. Challenges persist across all three dimensions addressed.

Data policy and regulation

With the AUC overseeing the AU Data Policy Framework and its implementation, there is comprehensive ownership over the process in the region. Recommendations in the Framework provide the foundations for creating Africa's digital single market. This now needs to be followed up through actions implemented in partnership with regional actors and AU Member States. A poorly enforced Data Policy Framework impacts all stakeholders: governments underutilise the potential of disaggregated data for better policymaking, the economy does not benefit from use cases based on greater data sharing, people ultimately do not benefit from better public and private services. The central role and cross-cutting nature of data require a high-level and strategic policy perspective that can balance multiple policy objectives – from unleashing the economic and social potential of data to the prevention of harms associated with mass collection and processing of personal data. Alignment with these standards is limited across most African countries. Key bottlenecks pertain to limited take-up of legislation, limited effectiveness of implementation of existing rules, siloed data and limited capacity to develop, implement or enforce data policies.

Compared to global averages, African countries rank systematically lower with respect to data governance (average score of 26 out of 100 compared to the global average of 36.7¹⁶). From the perspective of safeguards, only 33 African countries¹⁷ have adopted data protection and privacy laws; six countries are working on draft legislation. Even where legislation exists or is being developed, limited capacity¹⁸ challenges independent oversight, policy implementation and enforcement of regulation. From the perspective of rules to enable data sharing, even fewer countries have made progress in this sense and no African country has a comprehensive framework to enable data sharing (even in cases where some policies exist in this sense, implementation is an issue).

Data use cases

Lack of access to useful data is a major issue limiting the development of data-driven public and private services and businesses in the region. In the absence of operational open data policies and infrastructure, public data is often not openly accessible. At the same time, limited data sharing standards prevent data access both in the public and private sector. While small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) tend to not collect and process data because of the associated costs, larger companies hold onto their data owing to a perception of data as a locus of competitive advantage, as well as to a general lack of trust in other actors who would be involved in data management after sharing. Related are considerations of absent data sharing infrastructures and technical specifications as well as lacking (economic) incentives for data sharing across organisational borders.

Where data is available for sharing, its usefulness may be curtailed by low quality such as poor labelling and lacking standardisation. Businesses may also lack awareness on the value of data or familiarity with data-driven business models. Even where firms are familiar with the prospects of data-driven innovation, and have access to

¹⁶ <https://globaldatabarometer.org/module/governance/>

¹⁷ <https://unctad.org/page/data-protection-and-privacy-legislation-worldwide>

¹⁸ <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/are-current-models-data-protection-fit-purpose-understanding-consequences-economic>

relevant data, they may lack the necessary capacities in leveraging data into business models and products for instance owing to deficits in analytical capabilities, financing, or mentoring.

Although data economy gaps affect businesses, private sector actors are still more than often spearheading these digital ecosystems, accelerated by a growing interest in Africa's tech scene, regulatory support from local governments and corresponding (international) investments. Using a multi-stakeholder approach towards innovation and digital transformation is pivotal in ensuring that the developments are beneficial to the society as a whole. In this sense, governmental institutions and other "not-for-profit" actors such as social entrepreneurs, academia, Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) also deserve their place in the digital ecosystems.

Data Infrastructure

Data-driven value creation and governance of the data economy are underpinned by the quality of the data infrastructure, with data centres providing the lifeblood for activities in the data economy. Despite hosting around 17% of the world population, Africa currently accounts for less than 1% of the world's colocation data center capacity¹⁹, which constrains the availability and speed of connection to applications. Several data center clusters are emerging on the continent and the market in the region is expected to grow at a rate of 12% between 2020 and 2026²⁰. Beyond a deficit in the data center capacity, the region experiences further infrastructure gaps in data systems such as identity and access management, registries, and facilities for data sharing, gathering, analysing, and storing.

Africa has been lacking Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in data infrastructure, while local investment is often curtailed due to bottlenecks in tailored financing and lack of bankable projects. Notably, there are unmet needs for technical support related to environmental and energy standards for green data centers, where harnessing renewable energy sources could result in cost savings and greater efficiency and sustainability.

A scarcity of multi-stakeholder partnerships facilitating matchmaking between governments, private investors, international financial institutions, and ICT corporations, prevents from developing bankable data infrastructure investment projects to entice, encourage, and de-risk private sector engagement by identifying pathways to reduce operational, legal, and commercial barriers. Many countries also experience governance issues owing to the complex constellation of institutions, remits, and mandates involved in the design of these standards and guidelines.

Where these challenges in the development of infrastructure can be effectively addressed, there are opportunities to reap unused savings potentials related to data centre efficiency and install new or retrofit existing data centers that are smart and equipped for functional recovery. Mapping the need of green and sustainable data centres would provide information for investors and service providers to finance and manage green data infrastructure, demand and supply could thus be matched. Increasing trust in the safety and security of data centers and other digital infrastructure would also likely facilitate their uptake and support other areas of growth in the data economy.

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

- AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and AU Specialized Agencies dealing with Data;
- RECs;
- national governments (duty-bearers), in particular Ministries for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other government entities as relevant.
- Data Protection Authorities, Data Protection Commissioners and Statistical Offices, as well as their regional networks.
- CSOs (including organisations working with women and other groups with specific needs and interests: PLWD, children, minority communities, among others) and academia.
- Private sector entities;
- Relevant Multi-Stakeholder Organisations, including Smart Africa;
- Relevant international organisations and European partners.

¹⁹ <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/news/focus-report-how-africa-positioned-destination-data-centres>

²⁰ <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/news/focus-report-how-africa-positioned-destination-data-centres>

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support the human-centric data economy and society in Africa supported, in line with the AU Continental Data Policy Framework.

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

1. Support the development of comprehensive and convergent policies and regulations on personal and non-personal data.
2. Leverage on data use and cross-border data flows to create value and inform regulations in selected sectors
3. Promote enhanced partnerships for green and secure data infrastructure.

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

Contributing to Specific Objective 1 (or Outcome 1)

- 1.1 Enhanced mechanisms for harmonizing and monitoring progress of data strategies, policies and regulations at continental and regional level.
- 1.2 Strong, comprehensive and convergent data strategies, policies and regulations developed.
- 1.3 Enhanced capacity of regional and national stakeholders develop, adopt, independently oversee and monitor progress of data governance frameworks.

Contributing to Specific Objective 2 (or Outcome 2)

- 2.1 Cross-border data flows and enhanced use of data enabled.
- 2.2 Innovative regulatory approaches for the enhanced use and sharing of data co-developed and tested.
- 2.3 Enhanced capacity of not-for-profit actors in scaling up data-driven Digital Social Innovations (DSIs).
- 2.4 Increased ability of regional and national institutions, CSOs and Private Sector entities to access, analyse, use and share data for value creation.

Contributing to Specific Objective 3 (or Outcome 3)

- 3.1 Conditions and models for financing and designing data infrastructure projects improved.
- 3.2 Operational concepts and guidelines on technical specifications for green and secure data infrastructures developed.
- 3.3 Bankable investment opportunities for green and secure data infrastructure identified.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

- Support the AUC in coordinating national and regional engagements on data governance.
- Development of roadmaps and a related monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the AU Data Policy Framework at AUC, RECs and national level.
- Support the implementation of the self-assessment tool for AU Member States to investigate their needs for capacity building.
- Support to the AUC in developing consistent criteria for assessing adequacy in the level of personal data protection within the data-protection regulatory framework of another AU country, or a non-AU country.
- Support to the AUC and RECs in conducting analytical assessments on AU Member States data policy regulation.
- Organization of continental multistakeholder fora on data.
- Support the AUC in updating the AU Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection.
- Draw lessons learnt within the Action and share them on REC and AUC level for improved implementation of AU Data Policy Framework.
- Establish regulatory sandboxes in RECs, in alignment with the AU Data Policy Framework.
- Coordinate on the establishment of regulatory sandboxes in AU Member States.

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Support countries to establish national data policy multi-stakeholder task forces, ensuring the active engagement of CSOs, representing rights-holders.

- Development of national data sharing standards.
- Development and monitoring of action plans for the implementation of recommendations of relevant fora.
- Capacity building to relevant public sector officials, women and men, in all their diversity, and national Data Protection Authorities.
- Technical assistance to national data protection authorities, large governmental data holders, and organisations in charge of governmental statistical data, including on the collection and analysis of disaggregated data (by sex, age and disability status).
- Capacity building to CSOs, including those representing women and groups in vulnerable situations.

Activities relating to Output 1.3:

- Capacity building to relevant public sector officials, women and men, in all their diversity, and national Data Protection Authorities.
- Capacity building for AUC, RECs, public sector officials and CSOs on the implementation of the AU Data Policy Framework, including with a human rights and gender equality perspective.
- Capacity building for public sector officials, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders to assess and use data for value creation and policy-making at REC and AUC level.
- Technical assistance to national Data Protection Authorities, large governmental data holders, and organisations in charge of governmental statistical data, including on the collection and analysis of disaggregated data (by sex, age and disability status).
- Capacity building to identified CSOs, including those representing women and groups in vulnerable situations.

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Setup of data-sharing agreements to allow for the development of data-use cases.
- Support the development of national and regional data use-cases.

Activities relating to Output 2.2:

- Establishment of regulatory sandboxes through a multi-sectorial approach in AU Member States in sectoral areas to be identified.
- Use regulatory sandboxes to enhance gender equality outcomes.

Activities relating to Output 2.3:

- Setup of DSI Call for Proposals on data-related DSIs for the promotion and application of data-driven governance and/or evidence-based decision/policy making.
- Financing of the selected data-related DSIs in the targeted partner countries and/or regions that contribute to the promotion and application of data-driven governance and/or evidence-based decision/policy making.
- Setup of DSI Call for Proposals aimed at increasing digital skills and employment opportunities on data management, data visualisation and/or data interpretation among youth, women and groups in vulnerable situations.
- Financing of the selected data-related DSIs in the targeted partner countries and/or regions aimed at increasing digital skills and employment opportunities among youth, women and vulnerable groups related to data management, data visualisation and/or data interpretation.

Activities relating to Output 2.4:

- Capacity building for public sector and CSOs to assess and use disaggregated data for value creation and policy-making.
- Capacity building on data-specific digital skills of public sector actors to ensure appropriate uptake of data-driven DSIs and institutional ability to adopt data-driven, evidence-base decision/policy making practices.
- Organisation of peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges including workshops, hackathons and exchange visits between stakeholders at national, regional and/or continental level.
- Multi-stakeholder co-creation of guidelines, good/best practices and lessons learned from data-driven DSIs to contribute to identification, formulation and enforcement of innovative regulatory approaches on data.

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Development of a TIF to design green and secure data infrastructure investment projects.
- Advisory services for investment pipeline preparation.

- Investment roundtables involving DFIs (including, e.g. EIB, AIB, KfW, WBG, FinnFund, AfDB).
- Capacity building to public and private sector to design secure and green data infrastructure projects.
- Setup of collaboration mechanism for financing and building secure data infrastructure between various actors regionally and at country level.

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Develop frameworks and technical specifications for investments in sustainable data infrastructure.
- Policy dialogues that engage governments, AUC, RECs on infrastructure development and investment, in synergy with the AU program for Infrastructure development for Africa (PIDA)..
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Activities relating to Output 3.3:

- Establish one-stop design shop for actors to develop green and secure data infrastructure.
- Assist feasibility studies, human rights and economic impact assessments, gender analysis, and market assessments of potential data infrastructure projects.
- Map potential investors and data infrastructure projects demand and match them.
- Assist potential data infrastructure projects for preparing an investment case for public and private sector and public-private partnerships.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's 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

Climate Change mitigation and adaption, as well as environmental protection, play a pivotal role for this Action and are mainstreamed across its components. Special focus is placed on *Specific Objective 3*, which explicitly supports the twin transition by stimulating investments in green data infrastructures through dedicated partnerships. *Specific Objective 1* will ensure coherence of policies and regulations with green priorities and the fight against climate change. *Specific Objective 2* will focus on specific use-cases and agile regulatory processes that will take into account cross-cutting issues of the data economy, including climate change and environmental protection.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality will play a prominent role in the development of evidence-based, data-driven policy-making for *Specific Objective 1* and in the identification and development of use-cases for *Specific Objective 2*. Wherever possible, the Action endeavors to close the gender digital divide and identified gender data gaps and promote gender equality to advance economic transformation and increase participation. In order to do so, all indicators on capacity development will have a gender marker to ensure that participants are equally addressed. Where possible, all capacity development formats will address specific issues with particular relevance to women, and wherever suitable offer additional formats for women-only participants to ensure that gender empowerment around data can be actively pursued. The action will actively engage with CSO organisations working with women and women-led organisations to ensure they can meaningfully participate in the different components of the intervention.

The action will contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III and its thematic objective to ensure women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, can equally participate in shaping the digital world of tomorrow. Sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators will be privileged to make sure the contribution to gender equality can be well measured.

Human Rights

Data protection and privacy represent a fundamental right. Any measure to strengthen data governance and protection thus works towards obtaining and safeguarding this right. In all policy formulation processes, as well the planning of implementation modalities, a human-rights based approach will be mainstreamed and an inclusive, human-centric participation by various stakeholder groups, including civil society. This will be complemented by additional capacity development activities specifically targeting CSOs, with the aim of the mainstreaming of

human-rights and fundamental-freedom considerations into policy dialogue and implementation. The action will also contribute to improving transparency and accountability of service delivery, in line with the working principles of the human rights based approach.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the Action does not principally targets to specifically advance inclusion of people with disability, although individuals with disability might be among beneficiaries of this Action. Whenever possible, the Action will contribute to making visible the situation of persons living with disability by using indicators disaggregated by disability status, and by promoting the collection and use of disaggregated data for policy-making.

Democracy

Data and information processing are central to the strengthening of democratic institutions and practices. Access to data, especially open data, can create increased transparency and accountability, thereby strengthening non-governmental actors to hold the Government to account. Therefore, the Action includes targeted interventions with both Government and non-governmental actors.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

There is no direct link between conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience and the probable interventions of this Action.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Data can be used to amplify and better coordinate policy responses, for example around the tracking of disease. Predictive data analytics can help increase disaster preparedness in Africa. The Action might explore potential use-case and collaborations with relevant stakeholders on this topic.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Planning, processes and systems	Inadequate donor coordination: as a result of the high priority placed by donors on the area of digitalisation, numerous – at times overlapping – development interventions exist, straining partners' absorption capacity.	Medium	High	Identification and participation in various donor coordination groups at national and regional level during implementation. Donor mapping during initial phase of implementation to avoid duplications and ensure coordination.
	Regional coherence of interventions: coordination between national, regional and continental level might be lacking due to a plethora of stakeholders to be engaged at different levels, as well as diverging levels of priorities and socio-economic development.	Medium	Medium	During programme design and early phase of implementation, definitions of regional level interventions (such as use-cases) will be stipulated to allow for strategic clarity. The selection of regional interventions will take place in close coordination with national and regional actors, taking into account demands, needs and feasibility potential for regional harmonization. Operational planning of the Action will ensure coordination and coherence of various activity streams at different levels.

People and organisations	<p>Political risks: changing political priorities might lead to the de-prioritisation of data economy considerations over other pertinent issues, undermining public sector ownership for the Action.</p> <p>An overlap of mandate and lack of clear roles and responsibilities in the public sector can lead to delays in implementation.</p>	Medium	High	The Action will endeavour to ensure a close and trusting relationship (ideally, as a result of existing relationships at national and regional level) with public sector counterparts, allowing for timely pivoting of intervention modalities or strategies whenever necessary.
	Low capacities: in public and private sector low individual and institutional capacity might exist to develop human rights based and gender-responsive data policies and especially data-driven use cases. This might impact the quality, timeframe and potential developmental impact of use-cases.	High	Medium	Capacity building was inserted explicitly as a key mainstreaming component for all three Specific Objectives (as documented in the logical framework matrix) to allow for continuous engagement with public sector, civil society and private sector.
External environment	COVID-19: a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in Sub-Saharan Africa might limit the actual scope of potential interventions.	Medium	Medium	Lessons learnt from recent COVID-19 modus operandi are available to allow for smooth transition to exclusively digital engagement, if needed.

Lessons learnt

Data Governance as the sole focus of an action is a relatively new endeavour, with this being the first EU Action at regional level targeting this specific field within digital transformation. Lessons learnt from other national activities implemented by other Development Partners, as well as EU technical assistance and policy dialogue show that countries may take a rather cautious approach when it comes to data protection and cross-border exchanges of personal and non-personal data. Similarly, the lack of multistakeholder innovative approaches to policy and regulation co-creation has resulted in limited ownership and untapped potential for data use.

Lack of cooperation between multiple stakeholders in the data economy and society also results in missed opportunities for data use, with very low interaction and sharing between systems and actors even at the domestic level. Limited know-how within the public sector and among civil society deeply affects how data can be leveraged on for public good.

The participatory process that led to the development and endorsement of the AU Continental Data Policy Framework by the AU Summit is proving efficient in raising awareness and developing a common African approach towards data among regional and national policymakers on the importance of ensuring a well-regulated data economy at all levels. This shows the commitment of African countries for harnessing the data revolution Agenda. The involvement of diverse stakeholders (with a focus on CSOs) into processes particularly pertaining to data policy and regulation and data innovation should also make sure the rights-holders are ultimately protected in their fundamental rights and at the same time benefit from innovative solutions and services driven by data use.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The development of regional data economies and single digital markets requires significant coordination between a constellation of actors and processes in the digital ecosystem. Reaping economic benefits from data and harnessing the value of data for decision-making necessitates adhering to high-quality standards for disaggregated data collection, storing data securely, and ensuring an adequate data flow within the region. Policies governing the myriad uses of data and data infrastructures serve a wider set of potential beneficiaries when they have been designed through a process involving a broad coalition of stakeholders, users, and beneficiaries. The three proposed components for this Action conform to these narratives and aim to support the development of a regionally harmonised data economy in Africa. The Action will thus address the continental, regional and national levels in Sub-Saharan Africa. Pilot countries and related regions where activities under SO1 and SO2 will take place will be selected according to criteria, including: alignment with bilateral partnerships in the sector; identified potential at leapfrogging, intermediate or advanced state of readiness in data governance based on policy dialogue; integration of the Action in a coherent package of actions targeting digital and data policy, regulation and investments.. Activities under SO3 will be performed across the continent according to strategic relevance and demand for investments.

In order to coordinate data policy and regulation across the continent and achieve regionally harmonised human rights based and gender-responsive frameworks, this Action will support aligning its proposed policies and programs on the national and regional (REC) level with the continental frameworks. Given that successful data policies are built to closely fit the local context and showcase the value of data for driving innovation and generating widely distributed benefits, this Action will complement the top-down approach of enhancing data policy frameworks with a bottom-up approach of assisting the development of regional data use cases, which create direct benefits towards the population and integrate gender equality dimensions. Identifying economic benefits, reliance on regulatory certainty, and relevance to policy harmonisation are among key prerequisites for the selection of cases. Further, innovative data-driven regulatory approaches will be created that inform policy-making processes around data in selected sectors and countries and facilitate diverse uses of data by stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem (public authorities, businesses, consumers). By targeting a variety of digital ecosystem actors that work on data-related initiatives, the Action would not limit itself to leveraging data from the perspective of generating value and revenue and informing tech industry-related regulations. In fact, by supporting data use-cases conceptualised and implemented by public institutions, academia and/or civil society organisations, the Action can also contribute to 1) a human-centric and inclusive growth of a harmonised data economy in Africa and 2) informing data-related regulations that take into account the diverse set of societal needs, challenges and opportunities. Going beyond providing financial support to targeted partner organisations implies that the organisations themselves will be benefitting from capacity development activities. The activities will then not only allow for ad-hoc benefits for the targeted users of the selected DSIs (e.g. governments for data-driven governance and youth/women for data-specific digital skills), they would actually target the partner organisations that are (co-)implementing the data-related DSIs.

The component under SO3 will seek to foster co-investments between public and private sector stakeholders for green and sustainable data infrastructures and facilitate partnerships with development financial institutions (such as the EIB, AIB, WBG, KfW, FinnFund, and AfDB). The Action will establish a Technical Investment Facility (TIF), which will support investors, financiers, and service providers in the design and financing of green data infrastructure. The TIF will support the European Commission in the identification of a portfolio of bankable investment projects. The main assumptions underpinning these activities include sufficient learnings for green and secure data infrastructure in the existing infrastructure guidelines, the interest and participation of infrastructure providers, and TIF partners' aligned and sustainable interest. Given that the successful achievement of the Action's objectives requires close coordination and responsive learning processes across three levels of governance, the Action, as part of the TEI D4D for Digital Economy and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa, will seek to find a balance between agile technical implementation of program activities, while ensuring a close alignment with the continental policies.

Owing to the importance of ensuring inclusive processes, the Action will analyze how different activities will impact groups in vulnerable situations (including diverse bases of discrimination and vulnerability such as gender and disability) and ensure activities will involve meaningful participation of and derive benefits to these groups. Other key assumptions for the Action include maintaining a manageable level of staff turnover that does not hamper institutional development, a manageable level of political risk that does not negatively impact the prioritisation of the themes the Action addresses, and a limited disruption from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

3.5 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)	Target s (value s and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Development –oriented and human-centric data economy and society in Africa supported, in line with the AU Data Policy Framework.	1: Scoring of countries supported by the Action in relevant indexes and diagnostic tools. 2: Status of implementation of the AU Data Policy Framework.	tbd in inception phase	tbd in inception phase	1. Digital Economy Indexes (TBD in Inception Phase) 2. AUC Monitoring Reports	<i>Not applicable</i>
Specific Objective 1	Comprehensive and convergent policies and regulations governing personal and non-personal data strengthened.	1.1: Level of convergence of data policies and regulatory frameworks at the regional and continental level. 1.2: number of human rights-based and gender-responsive data strategies, policies and regulations in alignment with the AU Data Policy Framework adopted, disaggregated by country. 1.3: number of government agencies (such as Data Protection Authorities) established with Support of this intervention that independently oversee implementation of data policies and regulations. 1.4 number of countries integrating policy recommendations co-developed by national stakeholders and regional implementors into national data governance frameworks.	1.1 tbd in inception phase 1.2 tbd in inception phase 1.3 tbd in inception phase 1.4 tbd in inception phase 1.5 tbd in inception phase	tbd in inception phase	1.1 AUC/REC monitoring reports 1.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 1.3 Country Reports/Policy Review 1.4 Ad Hoc Surveys 1.5 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention 1.6 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/ ad-hoc surveys	Policy makers have an interest in the participatory development and regulation of the continental, regional and local data economy. A consensus is emerging among the public and politicians on fundamental questions of data regulation. Governments and policymakers have an interest in promoting a value-added data economy. Staff turnover in partner organizations is not an obstacle to

		<p>1.5 Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, participate equally in policy- and decision-making for the digital world, on local, national, regional and international levels, and are represented in these policies and decisions (GAP III indicator).</p> <p>1.6 Number of countries supported by the EU to (a) develop and/or revise, (b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations (GERF indicator)</p>				institutional capacity development.
Specific Objective 2	Data use and cross-border data flows leveraged on to create value and inform regulations in selected sectors.	<p>2.1 number of financing concepts adopted upon piloting of use cases.</p> <p>2.2 number of regional integration plans developed upon piloting of use cases.</p> <p>2.3 number of policy-making proposals resulting from regulatory sandboxes established with support from EU-funded intervention adopted.</p> <p>2.4 number of data-driven sectorial use cases developed with support from the EU-funded intervention scaled.</p> <p>2.5 number of beneficiaries reached by innovations in data-based decision making implemented by government and civil society partners with support from the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>2.1 tbd in inception phase</p> <p>2.2 zero</p> <p>2.3 zero</p> <p>2.4 zero</p> <p>2.5 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2. Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/REC reports</p> <p>2.3. Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/country and REC reports</p> <p>2.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.5 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Regulatory uncertainty, lack of economic incentives or limited harmonization do not impede the piloting of regional use cases.</p> <p>Proposals from national regulatory sandbox experiences have a relevance for the harmonization of data policies in line with the AUC data policy framework.</p> <p>Staff turnover in partner organizations is not an obstacle to institutional capacity development.</p>
Specific Objective 3	Enhanced partnerships for investments in green and secure data infrastructure promoted.	<p>3.1 number of proposals for bankable investment projects accepted by financing institutions and/or private investors.</p> <p>3.2 A concept for the sustainable anchoring of the TIF endorsed by targeted stakeholders.</p>	<p>3.1. zero</p> <p>3.2 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>3.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.2 2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Data infrastructure providers have an interest and incentive to jointly work on the formation of bankable investment projects.</p> <p>Existing data infrastructure guidelines yield sufficient lessons for green and secure data infrastructure.</p> <p>Interest of partners is to align in such a way that a sustainable operating model is feasible.</p>

Output 1.1	Enhanced mechanisms for harmonizing and monitoring progress of data strategies, policies and regulations at continental and regional level.	<p>1.1.1: number of regional roadmaps for data governance developed in coordination with continental policy framework with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.1.2: Number of regional data policies and technical specifications developed in alignment with the AU Data Policy Framework with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.1.3: number of multi-stakeholder dialogues between the EU, AU and relevant stakeholders organised to exchange best practices and experiences.</p> <p>1.1.4. Number of women's organisations and networks with increased capacity to participate in discussions on gender-responsive ICT policies and plans (GAP III indicators). with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>1.1.1 zero</p> <p>1.1.2 zero</p> <p>1.1.3 zero</p> <p>1.1.4 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>1.1.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention /AUC and REC Reports</p> <p>1.1.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention /AUC and REC Reports</p> <p>1.1.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.1.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention /ad-hoc surveys</p>	National governments and regional economic communities have an interest in continental harmonization and work with the AUC.
Output 1.2	Strong, comprehensive and convergent data strategies, policies and regulations developed.	<p>1.2.1: Number of participants from groups in vulnerable situations actively involved in national consultative processes to identify data-related societal needs and challenges (disaggregated by sex, age and disability status of participants). with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.2.2: number of data governance strategies, policies and regulations developed through a multi-stakeholder or participatory process with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by country.</p> <p>1.2.3: number of Civil Society Organisations consistently involved in the development and implementation of data strategies, policies and regulations (disaggregated by type of organization: working with women, PLWD, etc.).with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>1.2.4: Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support (GERF indicator)</p> <p>1.2.5: number of private sector entities consistently involved in the development and implementation of data strategies, policies and regulations with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>1.2.1 zero</p> <p>1.2.2 zero</p> <p>1.2.3 zero</p> <p>1.2.4 zero</p> <p>1.2.5 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>1.2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention / ad-hoc surveys</p> <p>1.2.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention /country reports</p> <p>1.2.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/ policy review</p> <p>1.2.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>1.2.5 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/ policy review</p> <p>1.2.6 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Different stakeholders have an adequate interest and the relevant competence and capacity to participate in policy formulation processes.</p> <p>National governments adequately prioritize the work on data policies and specifications and back it with human and financial resources sustainably.</p>

Output 1.3	Enhanced capacity of regional and national stakeholders develop, adopt, independently oversee and monitor progress of data governance frameworks.	<p>1.3.1: number of regional institutions representatives trained by the EU-funded intervention showing increased knowledge and/or skills to monitor progress of the AU Data Policy Framework, disaggregated by sex (disaggregated by sex).</p> <p>1.3.2: number of Ministry representatives trained by the EU-funded intervention showing increased knowledge and/or skills to lead the development and implementation of data governance frameworks, disaggregated by sex and country.</p> <p>1.3.3: number of government agencies' staff (such as Data Protection Authorities) trained by the EU-funded intervention showing increased knowledge and/or skills to independently oversee and enforce data policies and regulation disaggregated by sex</p> <p>1.3.4: number of Civil Society Organisations showing increased knowledge and capacity to participate in the development of data strategies, policies and regulations after completing capacity building activities.</p>	<p>1.3.1 zero</p> <p>1.3.2 zero</p> <p>1.3.3 zero</p> <p>1.3.4 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>1.3.1 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>1.3.2 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>1.3.3 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>1.3.4 Pre- and post-training test reports</p>	<p>Relevant institutions have the capacity to allow their employees to participate in capacity development measures.</p> <p>Participants can employ their additional capacities to their direct working environment.</p> <p>Staff turnover in partner organizations is not an obstacle to institutional capacity development.</p>
Output 2.1	Cross-border data flows and enhanced use of data enabled.	<p>2.1.1: number of data sharing agreements initiated to allow for the development of data use cases at national and regional level with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.1.2: number of regional use-cases developed in a multi-stakeholder process. with support of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>2.1.1 zero</p> <p>2.1.2 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>2.2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/ REC and/or country reports</p> <p>2.2.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/REC and/or country reports</p>	<p>Local actors from digital ecosystems recognise the potential of data value creation.</p> <p>Actors have an incentive to engage in regional data sharing use-cases.</p>
Output 2.2	Innovative regulatory approaches for the enhanced use and sharing of data co-developed and tested.	<p>2.2.1: number of regulatory sandboxes established with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.2.2: number of new regulatory instruments leveraging the benefits of data and advancing digital inclusion and gender equality developed with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.2.3 number of CSOs involved in regulatory sandboxes process with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.2.4 number of Private Sector entities consistently involved in regulatory sandboxes process with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>2.2.1 zero</p> <p>2.2.2 zero</p> <p>2.2.3 zero</p> <p>2.2.4 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>2.2.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/ad-hoc surveys</p> <p>2.2.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention/ad-hoc surveys</p>	<p>Governments and regulators are interested in participating in regulatory sandbox exercises and possess a willingness to take into account proposals made out of concrete implementations for the regulatory process.</p> <p>Agile regulatory instruments enable a broad participation and mainstreaming of data policy use-cases along a multitude of stakeholders.</p>

Output 2.3	Enhanced capacity of not-for-profit actors in scaling up data-driven Digital Social Innovations (DSIs).	<p>2.3.1 Number of beneficiaries completing training on digital skills and employment opportunities among youth, women and vulnerable groups related to data management, data visualisation and/or data interpretation increased through the setting up of a grant facility.</p> <p>2.3.2 number of government and civil society partners have successfully implemented digital social innovations in data-based decision making with support from the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>2.3.3 number of innovative concepts on data-based decision-making from government or civil society partners prepared for scaling with support of the EU-funded intervention .</p>	<p>2.3.1 zero</p> <p>2.3.2 zero</p> <p>2.3.3 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>2.3.1 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.3.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention / ad-hoc surveys</p> <p>2.3.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Partner organisations show a sufficient level of maturity in project management and implementation.</p> <p>Sufficient mechanisms are found to further scale-up the implemented digital social innovations.</p>
Output 2.4	Increased ability of regional and national institutions, CSOs and Private Sector entities to access, analyze, use and share data for value creation.	<p>2.4.1: number of regional institutions representatives completing capacity building activities (disaggregated by sex)..</p> <p>2.4.2 number of Ministry or government agencies representatives enabled to lead the regulatory sandboxes process.</p> <p>2.4.3 number of Data Protection Authorities enabled to co-lead the regulatory sandboxes processes.</p> <p>2.4.4: number of Civil Society Organisations completing capacity building activities on data use cases and regulatory sandboxes processes.</p> <p>2.4.5: number Private Sector Entities completing capacity building activities on data use cases and regulatory sandboxes processes.</p> <p>2.4.6: number of topic-specific guidelines, good/best practices and lessons learned related to data-driven digital social innovations produced.</p>	<p>2.4.1 zero</p> <p>2.4.2 zero</p> <p>2.4.3 zero</p> <p>2.4.4 zero</p> <p>2.4.5 zero</p> <p>2.4.6 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>2.4.1 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.4.2 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.4.3 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.4.4 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.4.5 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>2.4.6 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Participants can employ their additional capacities to their direct working environment.</p> <p>Staff turnover in partner organizations is not an obstacle to institutional capacity development.</p>
Output 3.1	Conditions and models for financing and designing data infrastructure projects improved.	<p>3.1.1: number of participants completing capacity building activities on financing and designing secure and green data infrastructure through the TIF facility (disaggregated by sex).</p> <p>3.1.2: number of collaboration mechanisms for financing and building secure and green data infrastructure established with support from the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>3.1.1 zero</p> <p>3.1.2 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>3.1.1 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>3.1.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Participants can employ their additional capacities to their direct working environment.</p> <p>Relevant stakeholders can reach a shared level of agreement to lead to the design of collaboration mechanisms.</p>

Output 3.2	Operational concepts and guidelines on technical specifications for green and secure data infrastructures developed.	<p>3.2.1: number of participants in capacity building measures showing increased knowledge around creating green and secure data infrastructure (disaggregated by sex).</p> <p>3.2.2: number of guidelines on technical specifications for green and secure data infrastructures designed in a multi-stakeholder process with support from the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>3.2.3: number of project developers supported in financing plans for green and secure data infrastructure with support from the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>3.2.4 number of annual fora for data infrastructure developers, financing institutions and public and private investors organized with support from the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>3.2.1 zero</p> <p>3.2.2 zero</p> <p>3.2.3 zero</p> <p>3.2.4 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>3.2.1 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>3.2.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.2.3 Pre- and post-training test reports</p> <p>3.2.4 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Participants can employ their additional capacities to their direct working environment.</p> <p>Stakeholders prioritize the work on green and secure data infrastructure and are willing to participate in concept development and annual forums.</p> <p>Participants can employ their additional capacities to their direct working environment.</p> <p>Relevant stakeholders can reach a shared level of agreement to lead to the design of collaboration mechanisms.</p>
Output 3.3	Bankable investment opportunities for green and secure data infrastructure identified.	<p>3.3.1: number of bankable investment projects for green and secure data infrastructure identified with support of the EU-funded intervention .</p> <p>3.3.2: number of potential investors and project developers on green and secure data infrastructure mapped with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p> <p>3.3.3: number of potential co-financing possibilities from International Financial Institutions identified with support of the EU-funded intervention.</p>	<p>3.3.1 zero</p> <p>3.3.2 zero</p> <p>3.3.3 zero</p>	tbd in inception phase	<p>3.3.1 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.3.2 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>3.3.3 Progress reports for the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>Data infrastructure providers have an interest and incentive to jointly work on the formation of bankable investment projects.</p> <p>Projects with a potential for green and secure data infrastructures are existing or relevant partners that could develop new projects can be identified.</p>

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

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

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

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

N/A

4.4 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 measures²¹.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) wide geographic coverage and pertinent experience in implementing Digital4Development actions; (ii) ability to mobilise a large pool of experts on data policy, data innovation and data infrastructure, and European expertise in particular; and (iii) widespread presence at country level in Africa. The implementation entails all the activities under Specific Objective 1. Strengthen comprehensive and convergent policies and regulations on personal and non-personal data, 2. Leverage on data use and cross-border data flows to create value and inform regulations in selected sectors and 3. Promote enhanced partnerships for green and secure data infrastructure of the Action as detailed in section 3.1.

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

If the preferred modality described in 4.4.1 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality is direct management through the procurement of services for the whole scope of the Action.

4.5. 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).

²¹ 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.

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: all countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4		
Specific Objective 1 Indirect management with pillar assessed entities – cf. section 4.4.1	12 100 000	11 000 000 (Germany 11 000 000)
Specific Objective 2 Indirect management with pillar assessed entities – cf. section 4.4.1	11 300 000	10 250 000 (Germany 7 000 000 Belgium 2 250 000 France 2 000 000 Finland 750 000 Estonia 250 000)
Specific Objective 3 Indirect management with pillar assessed entities – cf. section 4.4.1	6 600 000	6 000 000 (Finland 2 000.000 Germany 4 000 000)
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision	N.A.
Totals	30 000 000	29 250 000

4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Strategic Steering Committee will provide strategic guidance and recommendations for the steering of this Action, in line with political priorities. It will be co-chaired by DG INTPA and the AUC, and include representatives at technical level from the European Commission, AUC, relevant RECs and signatory EU Member States.

A National Technical Committee will monitor and validate activities taking place at the national level. It will include representatives of the concerned Government, the EU Delegation, the Implementing Partners as relevant, and other stakeholders involved in activities as observers, including CSOs.

The daily management of the Action will be closely followed by DG INTPA and/or concerned EU Delegations. Regular meetings will be organised with the Implementing Partners in order to ensure a smooth and responsive management of the project.

To ensure a lean monitoring system, where and as relevant, this Action will be reporting to existing coordination platforms already in place at the continental, regional or national level.

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, 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: where appropriate, the Implementing Partners will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on indicators of the logframe matrix, including the collection of baselines and data collection in the inception phase of the Action. Indicator values will be measured at regional or country level, depending on the nature of the activities.

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights based approach and gender equality.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the Action, a mid-term and final evaluation may be carried out for this Action or its components via independent consultants or through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the effectiveness of activities implemented at regional level, approaches and implementation modalities. The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the fact that the Action targets diverse stakeholders and beneficiaries in different regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

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

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The Implementing Partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments. The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is considering the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

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.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention²² (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action ACT-61398

²² [Ares\(2021\)4450449](#) - 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](#).