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

**ANNEX IV**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan of the thematic programme Civil Society Organisations for years 2025 - 2027

**Action Document for Support Measures**

**MULTIANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR 2025-2027**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan of Article 24 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1 SYNOPSIS**

**1.1 Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	<b>Support measures</b> OPSYS number: Non-Neighbourhood ACT-62812 / Neighbourhood ACT-62817 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>NDICI-Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (inter alia) TEI
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out worldwide
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme for Civil Society Organisations 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	All MIP Priority areas, Specific Objectives and Expected Results related to the CSO programme
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Not applicable
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	SDG 10, 11, 16 and 17.
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	60 000 - Private sector institution 61 000 - Private sector in provider country

<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers</b>  <b>(from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input 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"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	transport	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/
	people2people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### BUDGET INFORMATION

<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Budget line: <u>14.020220 Civil Society Organisations</u><sup>1</sup>subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.The EU contribution is for an amount of <b>EUR 3.600.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p><b>2025</b> for an amount of <b>EUR 1.700.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p><b>2026</b> for an amount of <b>EUR 950.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p><b>2027</b> for an amount of <b>EUR 950.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p>subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths</p>
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### MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through Procurement.
<b>14. Type of measure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cooperation facility</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Measures in favour of Civil Society</b>

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

<p>Support measures under this Action will reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of the thematic programme implementation. These measures will allow for monitoring, audit and evaluation activities, as well as other relevant activities directly linked to the achievement of the thematic programme’s specific objectives, such as studies, meetings and consultations, exchanges of best practices, networking, training, information sessions.</p> <p>This action document frames the use of support measures, as envisaged in Article 24 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and in the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Civil Society Organisations 2021-2027.</p> <p>The objectives of this action will be achieved through services contracts directly managed by the competent European Commission services. This is justified by the nature of the activities (trainings, studies, events,</p>
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<sup>1</sup> Out of it EUR 150.000 for NEAR Audits

evaluations or audits).

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

The ability for civil society to fulfil its vital role and act as partners for development and governance is diminishing through a continuous deterioration of the environment in which they operate. The COVID-19 crisis has intensified this negative trend, bringing increased restrictions and authoritarian measures affecting civil society's ability to operate in its wake. Through a clear focus on strengthening the participation, capacity and the enabling environment for civil society at all levels, Actions under this MAAP will contribute to the overarching priorities of the CSO Thematic Programme.

This Action's main objectives is to provide support measures as identified in Article 24 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation. In particular, the Action intends to prepare, support, evaluate and audit the activities financed by the CSO Thematic Programme in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the funding. It will also add value, complementarity and consistency with geographical programmes, while enhancing EU's policy priorities.

### 2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Improving the quality and efficiency of implementation of the CSO Thematic Programme MAAP 2021-2024 and ensuring the achievement of its objectives requires an adequate follow-up of interventions through audits, evaluations, expenditures verification, studies, technical assistance and field visits. Moreover, thematic interventions require continuous engagement with civil society organisations as main targeted beneficiaries. Support for such measures will be made available under the Action at hand.

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

The main stakeholders for this action are the EU staff implementing the CSO thematic programme, who will receive adequate support to implement the programme in the most effective manner, be it at headquarters or EU delegations.

An important role is also played by those involved in the implementation of this support measures, such as external experts, projects' stakeholders, participants to trainings and workshops, etc. Support measures will be key to bring these actors together and ensure that knowledge-sharing can take place.

The end beneficiaries of the action are civil society organisations and/or their associations and, more generally citizens and communities of the partner countries in which the CSO thematic programme will be implemented. Support measures can mitigate some of the risks where national authorities are not empowering an active civil society in their respective countries.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is to facilitate the sound management of the CSO thematic

programme, the achievement of its expected objectives and results, its political relevance, outreach and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact. The proposed Action intends to contribute to all Objectives under the CSO Thematic Programme MAAP 2025-2027, as described under the entailed Action Documents 1, 2 and 3.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is:

1. To enable and improve the preparation, support, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for the implementation of the programme.

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

1.1 contributing to Specific Objective 1: Support for the Civil Society programme at partner country and at global level (AD1 and AD2).

1.2 contributing to Specific Objective 1: Support for the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme (AD3).

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

**Activities related to Output 1.1:** Support the Civil Society Organisations programme

- Evaluation of the CSO thematic programme in view of programming under the next MFF (2028-2034).
- Audits: This programme component shall cover the direct fees, costs and reimbursable expenses incurred by experts contracted by the European Commission to undertake audits on CSOs projects.

**Activities related to Output 1.2:** Support the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme

- Activities aiming to support the implementation of DEAR Programme through studies.
- Audits: This programme component shall cover the direct fees, costs and reimbursable expenses incurred by experts contracted by the European Commission to undertake audits on CSOs projects.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

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

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required. The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment). The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment). However, support measures available through this action may help analyse and address environmental and climate change issues from the identification to the evaluation of interventions funded under the CSO programme.

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

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G0. This implies that the action is not considered relevant for gender equality given the nature of the Action (support measures). However, support measures available through this action may help analyse and address gender equality issues from the identification to the evaluation of interventions funded under the CSO programme.

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**Human Rights**

Support measures available through this action may help analyse and address human rights issues from the identification to the evaluation of actions funded under the CSO programme.

**Disability**

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action is not considered relevant for disability given the nature of the Action (support measures). However, support measures available through this action may help analyse and address disability issues from the identification to the evaluation of interventions funded under the CSO programme.

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**Reduction of inequalities**

Support measures available through this action may help analyse and address inequalities issues from the identification to the evaluation of interventions funded under the CSO programme.

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**Democracy**

Support measures available through this action may help analyse and address democracy issues from the identification to the evaluation of interventions funded under the CSO programme.

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**Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

Support measures available through this action may help analyse and address conflict, peace and resilience issues from the identification to the evaluation of interventions funded under the CSO programme.

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**Disaster Risk Reduction**

N/A

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**Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

**Risks:** Sufficient human resources should be devoted to the management of the Activity (HQ and Delegations).

**Lessons Learnt:** Under the previous programme for CSOs and LAs, and under the current MAAP 2021-2024, the support measures allowed programme and project preparation to proceed in an effective manner. Furthermore, they made it possible to reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of all activities related to the implementation of the programme. In particular, funding for small-scale support measures has facilitated the partnership and consultation processes with CSOs, LAs and Associations of Local Authorities.

The same approach will be kept in the budget period 2021-2027. Support measures will accompany and reinforce all the actions carried out in the framework of the CSO thematic programme, optimising their implementation, increasing their impact and ensuring capitalisation on activities. Support measures will be key to follow up on commitments enshrined in the EU Roadmaps.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic<sup>2</sup>

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that by helping prepare, monitor, evaluate and audit the activities financed by the Civil Society Organisations programme, we assume the results will provide the added value, complementarity and consistency with geographical programmes expected, while enhancing EU capacity to react promptly and substantially when required and to reflect the EU's policy priorities with regard to its internal policies, international obligations and commitments

### 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this Action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required at Action level.

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 84 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.<sup>3</sup>

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

### 4.3 Budget Support – NOT APPLICABLE

### 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

<sup>2</sup> [@TEI Methodological Note to Support Design](#)

<sup>3</sup> The implementation period was estimated taking into account that audits could start in 2019 and extends until 2030/31 due to comments and contradictory procedures.

measures<sup>4</sup>.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants) – NOT APPLICABLE

4.4.2 Direct Management (Prize(s)) – NOT APPLICABLE

4.4.3 Direct Management (Procurement)

All specific objectives mentioned in section 3 will be reached through direct management by the competent European Commission services.

#### 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:

NDICI-Global Europe Regulation – Article 28

1. Participation in procurement... for actions financed under... the Civil Society Organisations thematic programme... shall be open to international organisations and to all other legal entities, including civil society organisations, who are nationals of, and, in the case of legal persons, who are also effectively established in, the following countries:
  - (a). Member States, beneficiaries listed in the relevant Annex to the IPA III Regulation and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;
  - (b). Neighbourhood partner countries and the Russian Federation when the relevant procedure takes place in the context of the programmes referred to in Annex I of the NDICI-Global Europe regulation in which it participates;
  - (c). developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which are not members of the G-20 group, and overseas countries and territories;
  - (d). developing countries, as included in the list of ODA recipients, which are members of the G-20 group, and other countries and territories, when the relevant procedure takes place in the context of an action financed by the Union under the Instrument in which they participate;
  - (e). Countries for which reciprocal access to external funding is established by the Commission; that access may be granted, for a limited period of at least one year, whenever a country grants eligibility on equal terms to entities from the Union and from countries eligible under the Instrument; the Commission shall decide on the reciprocal access and on its duration after consultation of the recipient country or countries concerned;
  - (f). Member countries of the OECD, in the case of contracts implemented in a LDC or a highly indebted poor country, as included in the list of ODA recipients.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

## 4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution 2025 (in EUR)	EU contribution 2026 (in EUR)	EU contribution 2027 (in EUR)	EU contribution 2025-2027 (in EUR)
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4				
<b>Objective 1</b>				
Procurement (direct management)				
<b>Output 1 (and combined for audits)</b>	<b>950.000</b>	<b>950.000</b>	<b>950.000</b>	<b>2.850.000</b>
Non-neighbourhood CSO & DEAR Audits	800.000	800.000	800.000	2.400.000
Neighbourhood CSO Audits	150.000	150.000	150.000	450.000
<b>Output 1</b>	<b>500.000</b>			<b>500.000</b>
CSO Evaluation	500.000			500.000
<b>Output 2</b>	<b>250.000</b>			<b>250.000</b>
DEAR (studies)	250.000			250.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1.700.000</b>	<b>950.000</b>	<b>950.000</b>	<b>3.600.000</b>

## 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).

### 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>5</sup>. 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.

### 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 strategic communication and public diplomacy activities.

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

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication actions promoting the programmes concerned. Instead, all strategic communication and public diplomacy activities carried out at country level will be resourced through 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.

Regional and global strategic communication funds and activities will be managed from headquarters

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<sup>5</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)