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ANNEX 7

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) 2023-2025

Action Document for Digital and Green Innovation

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	Digital and Green Innovation OPSYS number: ACT-62060 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative (TEI)	No Not a TEI <i>per se</i> , but contributing to the Joint Initiative on Twin Transition under the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on the Digital 4 Development (D4D) Hub. Participating Member States in the TEI include Germany, France, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Estonia, Luxembourg, Finland, Lithuania, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia and Romania. Committed total amount for the TEI is 7 689 245 EUR, of which EU contribution EUR 4 999 245, EUR 500 000 by the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID), EUR 690 000 by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EUR 1 500 000 by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Participating Member States in the Joint Initiative on Twin Transition under the TEI on the D4D Hub include Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia, Finland and Sweden. Individual financial contributions will be confirmed at a later stage.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Asia and Pacific.
4. Programming document	Global Challenges Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority Area 3: Prosperity Specific objective 5: Digital Transformation

¹ C(2021)9157

PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	220 – 250; 410 – 430; 740 Digital transformation, Investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade; circular economy; General environmental protection; Other Multisector			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 13 ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’ Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 5 Gender Equality • SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy • SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth • SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure • SDG 10 Reduced inequality • SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions • SDG 17 Partnership for the goals 			
8 a) DAC code(s)	22040 – Information and Communication Technology (ICT) – 50% 41010 – Environmental policy and administrative management – 20% 43060 – Disaster Risk Reduction – 30%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Third Country Government – 13000 (Delegated co-operation)			
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
	energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research			
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<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>14.020242 PROSPERITY: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023.</p> <p>A number of EU Member States are expected to contribute (DE, SE, FR, FI, EE, BE, NL)</p> <p>The amounts are currently under negotiation and will be confirmed with respective contributors at a later stage.</p> <p>This Action will be implemented as part of the Joint Initiative (JI) on Twin Transition developed in the framework of the D4D Hub global TEL.</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.4.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

This Action promotes the advancement of the twin transition to a green and digital economy, by fostering green tech innovations that tackle environmental challenges of priority to partner countries, such as climate change. It aims at lowering technical barriers and creating an enabling environment, in a given context, through innovation support for finance readiness and sustainability of businesses and through exchange of experiences.

This Action will contribute to the achievement of the ‘Specific objective 5: Digital transformation’ of the MIP Global Challenges – Prosperity.

This Action focuses on two main priorities of the EU: digital transformation and green transition. It promotes a fair, inclusive, green and human-centric digital transformation worldwide and aligns with wider EU frameworks such as the Green Deal, the Digital Compass, and the EU Global Gateway. The Digital4Development Staff Working Document² also recognises the key role of digital technologies to promote a green economy, and of ‘digital entrepreneurship to reduce poverty and create prosperity and digital entrepreneurs can reap the benefits of the global market.’

This Action will build on the success of the project ‘Promoting scalable and sustainable solutions to enhance Financial Inclusion in African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Countries’ (#SmartDevelopmentFund), co-funded by the Commission and Germany and implemented by GIZ since 2020.

This Action is relevant for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 13, ‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’. The activities under this programme will aim at contributing to several SDG targets, in particular: 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.a. Furthermore, the action will contribute to SDG 17 ‘Strengthen global partnerships’, SDG 9 ‘Build resilient infrastructures, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation’ as well as to SDG5 ‘Achieve Gender equality and empower all women and girls’, SDG 7 ‘Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy’, SDG 8 ‘Decent work and economic worth’, SDG 10 ‘Reduce inequality within and among countries’ and SDG 16 ‘Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies’. Implicitly, digitalisation plays a catalytic role in achieving all the goals and principles of Agenda 2030.

This Action will contribute to the overall objective of the ‘Twin Transition’ Joint Initiative (JI), co-led by Germany and Sweden in a Team Europe approach, with participation of several other EU Member States and developed in the framework of the D4D Hub global TEI.

This Action will be implemented through indirect management.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

This action focuses on two main priorities of the EU: digital transformation and green transition and in particular in their synergy that has a huge potential to deliver sustainability benefits across all three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. It promotes a fair, inclusive, green, and human-centric digital transformation worldwide and aligns with wider frameworks such as the Green Deal, the Digital Compass, and the EU Global Gateway. The Digital4Development Staff Working Document also recognises the key role of digital technologies to promote a green economy, and of ‘digital entrepreneurship to reduce poverty and create prosperity’ and further that ‘digital entrepreneurs can reap the benefits of the global market.’

The ‘Digital & Green Innovation’ (DGI) action will aim at operationalising the advancement of the twin transition to a green and digital economy, with a strong focus on entrepreneurship and innovation. This action of the Twin Transition Joint Initiative (JI)³ will focus on strengthening regional and local digital innovation ecosystems,

² COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT ‘Digital4Development: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy’ SWD(2017) 157 final

³ This action will contribute to the overall objective of the ‘Twin Transition’ Joint Initiative (JI), co-led by Germany and Sweden, and will be developed in the framework of the D4D Hub global TEI. Several other Member States have joined the JI, including France, Belgium, Estonia, Netherlands and Finland.

building on existing initiatives of the members of the D4D Hub (EU + EU Member States) and partner countries, strengthening their twin transition service offers and capacities. The goal is to foster green tech innovations that tackle environmental challenges of priority to partner countries such as climate change and biodiversity loss, while staying within planetary boundaries and contributing to circular and resilient local economies. This specific innovation support, will be linked to complementary financing, capacity building and policy advisory components via a Multi-Party Contribution Agreement (MPCA).

This action will promote innovative digital solutions for the Twin Transition (digital-for-green and greening of digital) through, among other means, the utilisation of a range of innovative and collaborative workshops, events and competitions to identify local solutions and scale them up through local ecosystems and partnerships, partially building on the successes of and implemented closely with local key stakeholders, in the footsteps of among others the #SmartDevelopmentFund action⁴.

DGI will be a global action covering Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Central Asia, and Asia Pacific regions. The action will coordinate and contribute to the relevant regional initiatives, in particular the AEDIB (Africa-Europe Digital Innovation Bridge) and the AU-EU Innovation Agenda⁵ in Africa, the EU-LAC Digital Alliance and digital TEIs in ASEAN, Central Asia and in other targeted countries in ASIAPAC (i.e., Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh). Moreover, it will support in contributing to the development of the EFSD+ pipelines. The action will be designed and implemented in coordination with EU Delegations, in addition to EU Member States, to ensure maximum coherence with the local dimension, to align also with EU Delegations ongoing engagement with partner countries, as regards policy and regulatory environments.

The action will pay specific attention to enabling inclusive green innovation for women, youth and vulnerable groups. It will particularly promote innovations by women and young entrepreneurs, and innovations that would benefit women, youth and vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, religious and ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and IDPs. The action and its focus on digitalisation will also be key to supporting the circular economy transition. This action will also pay specific attention to identifying climate innovation with positive impact on biodiversity and reversely ecosystem solutions with a benefit for the environment.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

The triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss caused by human activity is one of the greatest challenges of our times. Especially in partner countries, the impacts are felt directly, affecting agricultural production and leading to a higher frequency of extreme climate phenomena such as landslides, droughts and other extreme weather events. Despite the fact that the poorest 50% of the world's population is responsible for just 7% of global emissions, developing countries will face 75-80% of the costs of climate change⁶.

Digital technologies cause 3-4% of carbon emissions, use 7-9% of global electricity supply and generate ever-increasing amounts of e-waste. As the world becomes more digital, this poses a risk for the climate if not managed properly by reconfiguring and fostering more sustainable use of digital tools and services. On the other hand, digitalisation is an integral component of 1) climate change adaptation, as it can e.g. help identify potential vulnerabilities to extreme weather events, and 2) climate change mitigation, as digital solutions are projected to reduce global emissions by as much as 20%. Digital solutions are also key to the circular economy transition, including solutions for tracking of materials and products, sharing of goods and services, precision-farming, etc.

Consequently, there is a need for a global framework that promotes the synergy of green transition and digital transformation that ensures sustainable economic development, while addressing the challenges of climate change and digitalisation in a mutually reinforcing way.

Against this background, under the right design, use and governance conditions, solutions can deliver net positive impact on environment and climate, can help to build resilience and support climate adaptation and mitigation,

⁴ The #SmartDevelopmentFund, jointly co-financed by the European Union (2020 IntraACP budget) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) scaled up 9 different digital innovative solutions in the framework of the COVID19 response, having an impact on more than 650,000 individuals, of which 40% are women, and exceeding the initial target of 400,000 individuals.

⁵ The adoption of the Innovation Agenda is still pending at the time this document was prepared.

⁶ Source: Care, 2021, *Climate Adaption Finance – Fact or Fiction?*

biodiversity protection and disaster risk reduction, contribute to an equitable twin transition of economies around the globe, as well as contribute to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities, while ensuring that the digital transformation benefits people equally and helps to address these urgent challenges. In other words, guidance and support should be given to the development, use and proper governance of green digital solutions that benefit all three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental.

However, investment in green digital solutions around the globe is insufficient. For instance, according to the World Economic Forum, the cost of climate adaptation in developing countries is expected to reach €277 billion per year by 2030. By contrast, global climate adaptation finance flows were only €43 billion in 2020, of which only €26.4 billion went to developing countries. Besides the financial investment, there is a need to strengthen the rise of grassroots innovation from partner countries and regions and link it with the creation and implementation of policies that enable entrepreneurship and innovation. This needs to be strongly supported by public and private sector capacity-building to ensure a long-term and deep-rooted societal impact.

Climate change and environmental protection lie at the heart of this Action, and the supported digital innovations and innovators will be expected to contribute positively and explicitly to climate adaptation, resilience, mitigation and/or broader environmental protection (biodiversity protection and pollution prevention) as well as resource efficiency and systemic shifts like the circular economy. Supporting innovations that digitise food and water systems, for instance, can offer historic opportunities to address food insecurity and water scarcity, while the digitalisation of power infrastructures enhances energy efficiency, etc.

In partner countries, the gender digital divide⁷ is still high. While digital technologies offer leapfrog opportunities and help empower women who have much to gain from boosting their use of digital tools, women are less exposed to the opportunities offered by the ICT and environmental sectors and their participation in innovation in the two sectors has been increasing, but at a very slow pace. Similarly, minority groups, including migrants, IDPs and refugees and people with disabilities suffer from difficult access and use of ICTs but are often the most affected by climate change and extreme weather events.

Therefore, gender and minority equality, inclusion of people with disabilities, migrants/IDPs/refugees, and promotion of youth entrepreneurship will be incorporated into the design of the project through specific measures, and a pre-screening of awards against human rights, gender safeguarding, and environmental protection criteria will be performed. Technological neutrality and climate co-benefit assessment (e.g., through innovative indicators of environmental impact) will be leading principles and followed throughout the project.

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

The end right-holders are local populations affected by climate change and environmental degradation, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women, rural dwellers, people living in extreme poverty, minorities, and migrants.

In addition to local communities, key stakeholders of the initiative are international and local actors from the digital innovation ecosystem, including private companies from the ICT and Green Tech sectors. They will work through a demand-driven approach to adapt and scale innovations to local needs in collaboration with local entities from government, entrepreneurs, and civil society, facilitating fair and inclusive solutions that consider energy efficiency, thus promoting affordability together with sustainability. The initiative will be rolled out in partnership with the core group partners of the D4D Hub, its Advisory Groups, and local partnerships such as eLAC and Smart Africa.

Actors of the local public sector as well as civil society organisations will be involved as mediators through the implementation of the digital solutions. These include national ministries and subordinate implementing organisations, local, regional, and international NGOs, civil rights organisations and social enterprises.

⁷ The gap between men's and women's ability to access and use the Internet and digital technologies and contribute to and benefit from their development.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

Overall objective:

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to **contribute to the operationalisation of the twin digital and green transition of global fair and inclusive economies and societies.**

The **Specific Objective (Outcomes)** of this action is to strengthen digital green and circular entrepreneurship & innovation across partner countries and regions.

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

- 1.1. Local demand is identified in target communities based on the assessment of gaps in digital transformation as well as environmental challenges and climate risks;
- 1.2. Sustainable, equitable and inclusive innovative green and circular digital solutions are identified, developed and their implementation is supported at local level;
- 1.3. Selected solutions, aimed at having a high development measurable impact, are promoted through digital platforms and are scaled up at regional and global level

The Action may be complemented by components aimed at enhancing governance, policy and regulatory frameworks for a twin digital and green transition, as well as a finance brokerage component connecting supported innovations and innovators to a more extensive private sector funding, as part of a wider Joint Action (Multi-Partner Contribution Agreement – MPCA, with several EU Member States) under the **Joint Initiative on Twin Transition**. These complementary components will be financed by EU Member States and will not be covered by the EU contribution, and are still at a very early stage of design.

While the regulatory environment of targeted countries and regions will not be immediately targeted by the DGI Action, the importance of it being an enabling environment for this Action to take place is well understood, and therefore this Action will seek close coordination with EU Delegations, and align with/indirectly support their ongoing work in improving local policy and regulatory environments.

DGI action will also contribute to the process of linking with and influencing the EFSD+ pipelines, with concrete proposals that could be supported through venture capital, SME lending facilities, etc. once maturity of solutions is reached.

The DGI action will seek synergies and complement ongoing initiatives. It will contribute to AEDIB's endeavors in particular in the field of accelerating innovation by offering collaborative support and direct assistance to impactful innovative solutions from local to global scale. Local innovations can be expanded to other thematic and geographical contexts through the DGI action, whenever it is relevant and applicable. In the context of the LAC region, the DGI action will coordinate with the EU-LAC Digital Accelerator (Pillar 3 of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance).

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1: Local demand is identified in target communities based on the assessment of gaps in digital transformation as well as environmental challenges and climate risks:

- Mapping of local challenges, needs and opportunities in target communities in partner regions, both based on the assessment of gaps in digital transformation as well as environmental, climate and biodiversity challenges and climate risks to be addressed. This exercise will pay special attention to vulnerable groups, in particular women and people with disabilities.
- Identification of best practices for digital solutions applied to environmental/biodiversity/climate challenges, with strong potential to be replicated and scaled up.

Activities relating to Output 1.2: Sustainable, equitable and inclusive innovative green and circular digital solutions are identified, developed and their implementation is supported at local level;

- Organisation of innovation competitions and hackathons to provide a basis for catalysing new potential partnerships and networking. Special effort will be made to engage with vulnerable groups and women, possibly introducing elements such as quotas, mentoring, and ‘blind’ submissions, to ensure strong representation and support services;
- Deployment of cross-sectoral matchmaking between stakeholders (e.g., community organisations, non-profit organisations, technology startups or social entrepreneurs, private sector companies, etc.), to ensure a meaningful impact of digital solutions;
- Provision of technical assistance to support solution providers and stakeholders for the development and implementation of the green and digital solutions;
- Upskilling of innovators/teams, on facilitating and implementing digital green innovation, as well as on developing new or improved green services using cutting-edge technologies such as Earth Observation and Artificial Intelligence, building on reliable open-source solutions;
- Local adaptation and testing of digital solutions to ensure accuracy, efficiency and effectiveness;
- Development of methodologies for assessing the potential sustainability benefits of the green digital solutions, the application of a new technology or novel application of the technology, as well as for assessing potential community fit and developing scaling strategies for expansion;
- Development and maintenance of a comprehensive database of existing digital solutions related to the twin transition (digital and green/circular) and categorisation according to their specific features, impacts on different right-holders and applications;
- Selection of mature solutions that have already gone through the process of ideation and implementation and have the potential to be scaled up.

Activities relating to Output 1.3. Selected solutions, aimed at having a high development measurable impact, are promoted through digital platforms and are scaled up at regional and global level.

- Provision of technical assistance and financial support for scaling up of solutions identified under Output 1.2. Special effort will be made to actively include vulnerable groups, including women and people with disabilities.
- Provision of advisory services on financing, business and institutional aspects, including incubation, acceleration, technological support, etc;
- Establishment of partnerships and collaborations with other organisations, experts, and stakeholders to promote knowledge-sharing and exchange of expertise on twin transition, including best practices, case studies, impact measurements, and success stories;
- Organisation of peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges including workshops, hackathons and exchange visits between stakeholders at national, regional and/or continental level. The events will consider the provision of support services and reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities;
- Development and implementation of targeted communication and outreach strategies to raise awareness about the benefits and value of the exchange of best practices, and to increase its visibility and accessibility to a wide range of stakeholders;

Multi-stakeholder co-creation of guidelines, good/best practices and lessons learned from green for digital/digital for green digital innovations to contribute to the identification and implementation of sustainable, fair and inclusive solutions/tools towards a twin green digital transformation.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Decoupling economic development from greenhouse gas emissions, resource over-use, climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss lie at the heart of this Action and are mainstreamed across all its components. The supported digital innovations and innovators will be expected to contribute positively and explicitly to climate adaptation,

mitigation and/or broader environmental protection (biodiversity protection and pollution prevention) by leveraging their solutions for improving climate and conflict resilience.

The Action will support and promote the adoption of climate-smart technologies⁸, build capacities and know-how regarding green tech, low carbon emission and sustainable energy consumption as well as work towards sustainability of business and the development of environmentally friendly digital policies through capacity building and the creation and strengthening of partnerships among a wide range of stakeholders.

On the other hand, the action will also promote the potential that digital technologies can offer to support climate monitoring and mitigation, to help us understand and interpret recent changes and forecast future predictions, adapt accordingly and ultimately build resilience to the climate crisis. Technological innovation is key for the future of early warnings systems and strengthen them against the rising number of extreme weather events. Digital technologies can also enable successful implementation of integrated climate solutions in cities, simultaneously improving liveability, sustainability, and equality. The Action will allow for identification of such innovative local solutions, and enable replicating them via transfer and scale up.

Technological neutrality and climate co-benefit assessment (e.g. through innovative indicators of environmental impact) will be leading principles and followed throughout the project.

At this stage no **EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** or **CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project) have been undertaken since the activities will involve non-physical work.

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 Action. Wherever possible, the Action endeavours to close the gender digital divide and promote gender equality to advance economic transformation and increase participation. Where possible, all action areas 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 digital innovation can be actively pursued, supporting to overcome occupational barriers in the ICT and environmental sectors and facilitating access to information for the sustainable management of national resources and facilitating adaptation to climate change. 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 action and also that a feminist analysis as well as gender safeguarding and empowerment are incorporated into the design and monitoring to avoid existing gender gaps being unintendedly amplified.

The action will contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III in its thematic area of engagement – ‘Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation’ so as to ensure women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, can equally participate in shaping the sustainable world of tomorrow, through digital innovation for the green transition. Sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators will be privileged to make sure the contribution to gender equality can be well measured.

Human Rights

The design and implementation of the Action will be guided by the Human Rights based (HRBA) approach and methodology and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), targeting the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights for women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity. For technology to reach its potential to enable human rights, the digital industry will need to collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders to address key challenges that pose risks to the effective deployment of digital solutions for human rights.

The Action through its activities will focus on how to address power imbalances, sources of discrimination and the drivers of inequalities, especially in its most extreme forms, and it will focus on strengthening inclusive and meaningful participation in order to understand the transformative pathways for change, to identify priorities within the different partner countries and regions and among different stakeholders, and work together with the

⁸ Climate Smart Technologies are a host of clean low green house gas emission technologies to facilitate adaptation and mitigation, build resilience to climate change and reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions. In the agriculture sector climate-smart technologies can increase agricultural productivity and incomes. Examples of such technologies include smart digital control for energy efficiency, digital sensor based water management systems, digital optimisation of deployment of renewable energy sources (wind, solar), etc.

latter on enabling the scale up of digital solutions to address the most pressing challenges related to climate change and environmental degradation. The Action supports the HRBA principle of transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data by actively involving local communities, vulnerable groups and minorities in the collection, management, analysis and communication of information about the environment and climate change.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the Action does not principally targets to specifically advance inclusion of people with disability, although individuals with disability might be among rights-holders of this Action, as they are considered part of the targeted vulnerable communities. By favouring inclusion and participation, the Action will support inclusive activities to bridge the digital divide and improve job opportunities for people with disabilities. For example, during the organisation of the different events, it will consider support services and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities, such as sign language interpreter for deaf persons or adapted software and assistive technology. Project communication activities will include production of accessible material. In the elaboration of apps and other ITC products it will foresee to reduce barriers for people with disabilities or consider how men and women with disabilities could be differently affected by the impact of climate change and extreme events. 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.

Reduction of inequalities

Tackling inequalities is central to this Action. It aims at harnessing technological innovation to tackle rising inequality in local economies, and also more specifically in the digital age. Innovation economy must be broadened to disseminate new technologies and productive opportunities among smaller firms and wider segments of the labor force and made accessible to local communities to build resilience against climate shocks and other environmental challenges. The solutions that will be selected through this Action, and the businesses supported, will aim to boost exploitation of the potential of technology-enabled solutions by a broad range of stakeholders, including vulnerable and marginalised groups, to achieve climate goals, while promoting new green decent jobs.

Democracy

How we exchange information and data with each other is a binding factor in society. Therefore, innovative digital solutions for sharing of data, and making it accessible to the most vulnerable communities, carry great potential for democracy. The solutions that will be selected through this Action will offer open, publicly accessible and reliable data. Moreover, online citizen participation will be enabled through this Action.

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

Digital innovation can play a crucial role in the preparedness and response to disasters, assess resilience gaps and opportunities for stronger cooperation. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 emphasises the role of technology as a key strategic and operational enabler⁹. Digital technologies and innovation are key to support effective measures in all phases of the disaster risk reduction cycle. They can be harnessed to provide risk information for a successful disaster risk management and enable decision makers to fully understand the risk and disseminate timely risk information to at-risk communities.

⁹

For example, in understanding disaster risk, Sendai Framework actions required include: *'to promote investments in innovation and technology development in long-term, multi-hazard and solution-driven research in disaster risk management to address gaps, obstacles, interdependencies; and social, economic, educational, and environmental challenges and disaster risks'* (Action K - p.15), and *'identify research and technology gaps and set recommendations for research priority areas in disaster risk reduction; promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making'* (Action G - p.16)

This Action will promote digital innovations that e.g. make disaster risk related data (such as Earth Observation data) widely accessible, in terms of physical accessibility, but also capacity to use and understand the information. Making data more accessible will contribute to saving time of disaster management operations in information collection, which usually takes time due to cross-sectoral and bureaucratic processes. Digital transformation in DRR already yielded higher performance in upper stream emergency operations like disaster planning, but this Action will also promote the potential of digital technologies and innovation to perform enhancement even in pre-disaster phases with citizens. Information in digital format is easy to refer to and archive. Moreover, digital format is useful for calculating personalised evacuation plans.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

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.
Coherence of interventions	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.
Environment	Insufficient knowledge on accurate responses to environmental,	Medium	High	The provision of a green knowledge cell/team to support, advise, review, continuously get updated on new green solutions, as a component of the

	climate and biodiversity risks & opportunities, due to the large variety of challenges and the wide range of sectors potentially targeted after identification of needs.			knowledge sharing mechanism, is an important element of the programme.
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.
People and organisations	Lack of consideration of digital rights and standards, in particular data privacy, ethics and data protection and effective controls and limits on digital surveillance.	Medium	High	<p>The appropriate risks, harms and benefits assessment mechanisms (taking into account both national as well as international standards and human rights norms) will be used when data is collected and/or used, in order to identify risks and put in place mitigation measures.</p> <p>The principle of ‘do not harm’ will be applied.</p>
People and organisations	Increase of the digital divide between cities and rural areas, men and women, privilege and marginalized groups, as access and digital skills may inhibit rural	Medium	High	Solutions selected have to be evaluated specifically against their impact on especially women and marginalized groups. For solutions that do not have a direct impact on these groups, equal access and usability is ensured, for example through additional training measures according to the leave-no-one-behind principle.

	populations, women and marginalized groups from using the developed digital solutions.			
People and organisations	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.
Unpredictable nature of Innovation	Innovation by definition entails trying new things and challenging/changing the status quo, and as such there is always a risk that an innovation will fail to achieve the desired impact, or that novel partnerships will not work well. Moreover, the green digital solutions, if not governed properly can lead to negative (rebound) effects, e.g. by stimulating unsustainable consumer behaviours.	Medium	Medium	It is important to take a flexible and agile approach so that especially early in a project, the goal can be learning and as such, the learnings can be incorporated to change the operational plan and/or strategy of the project if needed. This will help ensure that something meaningful to the local communities comes out at the end, even if it differs from what was initially expected. The action follows a demand-driven approach, where supported actions will be selected based on partners' needs identified, therefore also ensuring ownership by partners and at the same time guarding against negative direct or indirect environmental effects of the digitally enabled innovations that will be supported as part of this action.

Covid-19	A resurgence of Covid-19 cases in targeted regions and countries might limit the actual scope of potential interventions.	Medium	Medium	Lessons learnt from recent Covid-19 modus operandi (under #SDF Smart Development Fund programme) are available to allow for smooth transition to exclusively digital engagement, if needed.
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Lessons Learnt:

Since this project builds on the model, successes and learnings, it is useful to reflect on lessons learnt so far in the #SDF. There have been many project-specific learnings that could also transfer to similar project contexts, but a few of the broader themes that have emerged include the following.

- Engaging a broad stakeholder group can be complicated and make implementation and scaling processes slower, but this is crucial for the sustainability of project activities, especially in a context like #SDF where the project serves as a catalyst over a relatively short term with the aim of spurring longer term impact.
- Local colleagues and partners should be incorporated into project work as early as possible to deeply reflect local needs and drive local uptake. To be truly user-centred, every solution has to solve a specific problem in a local context
- Projects like #SDF are best in the role of facilitating and enabling work on the ground rather than driving it.
- Users may use digital services differently than intended. (e.g. When rural telemedicine connections were set up in one project in response to COVID-19, women flocked to them, but not primarily to get consultation about COVID-19 – rather, longstanding reproductive health issues were much more often addressed, since many women gained access for the first time to qualified female medical professionals and also communication was not face to face, which helped them overcome taboos and embarrassment that stood in the way of consulting local healthcare workers, who are overwhelmingly male). This is not a failure but rather a great insight to be learned from and built upon in further roll out.
- ICT skills building and access in a specific domain can have systemic impacts on women's ability and interest in meaningful connectivity more broadly; the empowerment that comes from being a digital facilitator in the community can also positively shift women's status and influence more broadly in a community.

Gender must be a central consideration in the project design as women are often more impacted by climate change, yet have often less access to the internet as well as access to financial capital as businesswomen – or have their access to finances or the internet mediated and limited by male household members or social norms. In order to optimise the use of available resources and achieve maximum impact, it is essential to implement rigorous monitoring during the implementation, roll out, and scaling of digital innovations. This involves establishing clear benchmarks, or nominal breaking points, which must be met. If these benchmarks are not achieved, adjustments or even discontinuation of support should be considered as an option.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the significant environmental and social challenges standing before us necessitate a twin transition – that is, the greening and digitalising of our economies and societies, at global level. Climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are shared, global challenges, and digital technologies and innovation can play a key role in tackling these challenges and support in reaching climate goals set out in the Green Deal, through the identification and scale up a selection of innovative solutions across the targeted regions (Africa, LAC and Asia Pacific).

The global dimension will also allow for exchange of experiences, best practices and expertise, within and across regions that often share the similar challenges with regards to climate change. This action will allow for innovative solutions to be replicated in another country, taking into account. Specific advisory support will allow for the formalisation and sustainability of local solutions, with the overall objective to contribute actively to the operationalisation of the twin digital and green transition of global fair and inclusive economies and societies.

Women, youth, and vulnerable groups play a crucial role in these transitions, as they are especially impacted by the climate crisis. Women are also faced with issues related to insecure rights, high levels of unpaid work and unequal access to land, health and education. This also means, however, that women play a key role in the management, conservation, exploitation and utilisation of natural resources, and are often experts in locally led solutions to the climate crisis.

At the same time, women are underrepresented and often marginalised as tech entrepreneurs, especially for the environmental and climate change sectors, and also as consumers of technology. Understanding the challenges these women face, as well as prioritising their leadership and expertise in twin digital green sectors will empower them and ultimately help restore land and forests, reduce poverty and improve food security for communities across the globe.

This Action is part of a broader Joint Initiative on Twin Transition, reflecting the multipronged approach that is required for such a transformation, including policy and regulatory framework considerations, as well as building a financing ecosystem around green tech innovations and innovators supported by this specific Action. In the long-term, national and local policies should be in place for the sustainability of twin transition efforts.

This Action will build on existing initiatives of the members of the D4D Hub (EU+MS) and partner countries and foster inclusive green tech innovations that tackle environmental challenges of priority to partner countries such as climate change, while staying within planetary boundaries and also contributing to circular and resilient local economies.

The Action intends to strengthen the green digital innovative solutions in target partner countries by facilitating collaborative need-finding, scouting, fitting digital innovations, and gathering partners to address these needs. It will support innovators in implementing and scaling up their solutions to contribute to green transition. The action will have a global scope but strong regional and national engagement links. It will:

- (a) Support private sector-led twin transition innovations through financial grants for impact scaling, support for private sector led digital solutions and building up the capacity and networks of digital green innovators in target countries.
- (b) Enable the sharing of knowledge of expertise and experience within and between regions and countries, thus expand the global knowledge base on twin transition through partnerships with local, regional and international partners; peer-to-peer learning from best practices.
- (c) Support entrepreneurs and innovators who wish to utilise/strengthen the utilisation of digital technologies for climate action, adaptation, resilience, and increasing biodiversity.

Groundwork for the Action in continuation of the #SmartDevelopmentFund will start in 2023 with an innovation challenge and visibility event in at least one partner region to engage with stakeholders around the planned Action.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

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

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

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

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

Impact	Contribute to the operationalisation of the twin digital and green transition of global fair and inclusive economies and societies	<p>1 Rate (percentage) of employment in sectors targeted by the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status and economic sector (OPSYS core indicator),</p> <p>2 Net CO2 emission avoidance per unit of value added (kg/\$) (OPSYS core indicator) (Kilogrammes of CO2 per constant 2017 United States dollars (kg/\$))</p> <p>3 Number of countries supported by the EU that (a) developed and/or revised; (b) implemented twin transition-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations that created an enabling environment for digital entrepreneurship and innovation for the green transition</p>	<p>1 TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>2 TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>3 TBD latest by end 2024</p>	<p>1 TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>2 TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>3 TBD latest by 2024</p>	<p>1 ILO Stat (ILO provides aggregated data (by ISIC rev.4 sections) for world countries. More detailed data might be available from National Statistical Offices)</p> <p>2 Global SDG Indicators Database and/or WB World Development Indicators</p> <p>3 Baseline and endline surveys commissioned by EU-funded intervention</p>	Not applicable
Outcome 1: Grant financing & business advisory for innovation support	Digital green and circular entrepreneurship and innovation across partner countries and regions is strengthened.	<p>1.1 Number of people reached that benefit from better digital services, or information offers, to address various climate change or environmental challenges, disaggregated by country, sex, disability, type of digital service, type of challenge</p> <p>1.2 Number of organisations (e.g. public institutions or civil society organisations) that benefit from better digital services or information offers to address various climate change or environmental challenges, disaggregated by country, type of</p>	<p>1.1 - 0</p> <p>1.2 - 0</p> <p>1.3. - 0</p> <p>1.4. - 0</p>	<p>1.1 - 400 000 (40% women)</p> <p>1.2 – 300</p> <p>1.3 – 75%</p> <p>1.4 – 75%</p>	<p>1.1 – 1.2 Evaluation of the user figures collected via the solution providers in the course of project implementation</p> <p>1.3 – 1.4 Surveys commissioned by the EU funded intervention</p>	

		<p>digital service, type of organisation (including e.g. women, minorities or disability)</p> <p>1.3. Number of people reached by learnings and good practices confirmed that it proved useful in their work or other activities, disaggregated by country, sex, disability, sector of activity</p> <p>1.4 Number of organisations (e.g. public authorities, CSOs, etc) reached by learnings and good practices confirmed that it proved useful in their work or other activities, disaggregated by country, sex, sector of activity</p>				
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Local demand is identified in target communities based on the assessment of gaps in digital transformation as well as environmental challenges and climate risks;	<p>1.1.1 Number of demands identified, disaggregated by country and type of sector</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of people / partners / communities participating in identifying needs, disaggregated by type of partner, sex, relevance of need for women and other vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities</p>	<p>1.1.1 - 0</p> <p>1.1.2 - 0</p>	<p>1.1.1 TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.1.2 TBD latest by end 2024 (out of which x% participants are women and x% selected needs are relevant for women)</p>	1.1.1 – 1.1.2 Project documentation and M&E system	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Sustainable, equitable and inclusive innovative green and circular digital solutions are identified, developed and their implementation is supported at local level;	<p>1.2.1 Number of innovation-identifying mechanisms put in place, disaggregated by country, type of mechanism</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of criteria developed, with gender, human rights and</p>	<p>1.2.1 - 0</p> <p>1.2.2 - 0</p> <p>1.2.3 - 0</p>	<p>1.2.1 - TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.2.2 - TBD latest</p>	1.2.1 – 1.2.4 Project M&E system	

		<p>disability safeguards incorporated, disaggregated by country</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of innovations identified, disaggregated by country, type of innovation, women or male-led</p> <p>1.2.4 Number of concepts / business plans formulated / supported, disaggregated by country</p> <p>1.2.5 Number of women, men, girls and boys participating in digital hackathons or other digital start-ups events, disaggregated at least by sex (GAP III)</p>	<p>1.2.4 – 0</p> <p>1.2.5 – 0</p>	<p>by end 2024</p> <p>1.2.3 - TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.2.4 – TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.2.5 – TBD latest by end 2024</p>		
<p>Output 3</p> <p>Relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.3</p> <p>Selected solutions, aimed at having a high development measurable impact are promoted through digital platforms and are scaled up at regional and global level.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Number of scaling of identified solutions together with the evidence of their benefits, disaggregated by type of solution,/sector, country.</p> <p>1.3.2 Status of an interactive methodological toolkit for supporting scaling assessment and strategy-building activities; this is publicly shared to share learnings and support MS's and other interested actors in more effectively realising the potential of green digital solutions</p> <p>1.3.3 Number of global and/or regional knowledge products about successful solutions shared, disaggregated by type of solution, country/region, audience</p>	<p>1.3.1. – 0</p> <p>1.3.2 – TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.3.3 – 0</p> <p>1.3.4 – 0</p> <p>1.3.5 – 0</p>	<p>1.3.1. – 5</p> <p>1.3.2 – TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.3.3. – TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.3.4 – TBD latest by end 2024</p> <p>1.3.5 – TBD latest by end 2024</p>	<p>1.3.1 – 1.3.5 – Project reports and M&E system</p>	<p>Actors in partner countries are interested and have the necessary resources to contribute to the scaling process in additional countries.</p> <p>The selected solutions can be scaled beyond a specific context with the necessary adaptations. Implementation partners in other</p>

		1.3.4. Number of people reached across all outreach channels, disaggregated by country, sex, disability, sector				countries can be identified.
		1.3.5. Number of outreach events organised, disaggregated by country				

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 66 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.¹⁰

4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted 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) implementing partner has significant experience in deployment of digital finance solutions at the scale and speed necessary to accelerate the green transition and make governments, MSMEs, and individuals, in particular women and youth, more resilient to climate change; (iii) ability to mobilise a large pool of experts on digital innovation for the Green Deal, and European expertise in particular; and (iii) widespread presence in targeted regions. This implementation entails all the components of the Action as described in section 3.1.

In case the envisaged entity/ies would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

If negotiations with the entities selected in accordance with the above-mentioned criteria fail, this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

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

If the preferred modality described in 4.4.4 cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality is direct management through the procurement of services.

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

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3	
Indirect management with entrusted entity – cf. section 4.3.1	10 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Totals	10 000 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The daily management of the Action will be closely followed by Commission services 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.

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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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.

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 Logic Framework matrix, including the collection and 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 principles of the human rights-based approach, gender equality and rights of persons with disabilities.

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, 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 Action targets diverse stakeholders and rights-holders across different partner regions and countries, in Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Central Asia and Asia Pacific regions.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days 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 dissemination¹¹. 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 evaluation 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.

In line with the 2022 '[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)', 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

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

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

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action ACT-62060