EN

THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023 part 2

Action Document for Digital Connectivity in Central Asia

ANNUAL PROGRAMME/MEASURE
This document constitutes the annual 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 Connectivity in Central Asia OPSYS number: ACT-62163 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Digital connectivity in Central Asia
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Regional MIP Sector 2 'Partnering for Prosperity' Specific objective (SO) 1: Promotion of digital connectivity in the region and with other parts of the world, in particular with Europe and enhanced cooperation for the digital economy in all its aspects
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	150 – Government & Civil Society 220 – Communications
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG : SDG 9 'Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation' Other significant SDGs : SDG 5 (gender equality and empowerment), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reducing inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions).
8 a) DAC code(s)	15110 Public sector policy and administrative management 22010 Communications policy and administrative management

	22040 Information and communication technology (ICT) 25030 Business development services
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	*Third Country Government/EU Member States – 13000* *Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society – 20000*
9. Targets	☐ Migration ☒ Climate ☒ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance

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

11. Internal markers and Tags	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @	☐	☐	☒
		YES	**NO**	
	digital connectivity	☒	☐	
	digital governance	☒	☐	
	digital entrepreneurship	☒	☐	
	digital skills/literacy	☐	☒	
	digital services	☒	☐	

Connectivity @		☐	☐	☒
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☒	☐	
	energy	☐	☒	
	transport	☐	☒	
	health	☐	☒	
	education and research	☐	☒	
Migration @		☒	☐	☐
Reduction of Inequalities @		☐	☒	☐
Covid-19		☒	☐	☐

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020130 NDICI Middle East and Central Asia
	Total estimated cost: EUR 20 000 000
	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 20 000 000

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing	**Indirect management** with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.
	Direct management (Twinning grants) in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.

1.2   Summary of the Action

Summary of the Action

> The proposed action is part of the regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Digital connectivity in Central Asia. This TEI aims to bridge the digital divide in Central Asia by leveraging on the potential of satellite connectivity to reach out to the most unserved or underserved regions of the concerned Central Asian countries. It seeks to mitigate the lack of a high-capacity transnational backbone in Central Asia by providing connectivity through satellites of the latest available technology. Satellite-linked data infrastructure will create the opportunity to host critical data infrastructure and services in a secure, internationally interconnected and environmentally friendly manner, thus increasing sovereignty and resilience. This is important for resilience in emergency situations, as land-locked Central Asian countries are currently dependent on cable connectivity through Russia.
>
> The overall TEI will develop two intertwined components: one devoted to "hard connectivity", thus to infrastructure development, tackling the investment needed for the satellite constellation and the deployment of ground infrastructure to spread connectivity across the region; another component on "soft connectivity", comprising all interventions needed to create an enabling policy and regulatory framework to safely deploy satellite connectivity (e.g. telecoms reform, cybersecurity and personal data protection) and to ensure that more and better access to internet will be a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and meet the ambitions of Central Asian governments' digital strategies.
>
> This action focuses on the soft component and other enabling interventions of the TEI, providing for activities with regional scope that will be complemented with national interventions. The overall objective of the action will

be to foster universally accessible, affordable, secure and sustainable broadband across the region, by (i) enhancing the policy and regulatory framework enabling the development of satcom and the deployment of satellite connectivity and its middle-mile terrestrial infrastructures; (ii) improving transparent and inclusive access to public and private connectivity services to the "last-mile", (iii) promoting the development of community networks, hotspots and digital innovation centres to the benefit of decentralised and rural communities, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

These pillars translate into corresponding specific objectives:

(i) To enhance the policy and regulatory framework enabling the development and the deployment of sustainable and inclusive satellite connectivity and its middle-mile terrestrial infrastructures;

(ii) To foster transparent and inclusive access to public and private connectivity services to the "last-mile" through increased use of open, affordable, safe and secure broadband for everyone, with a focus on rural areas and stronger efforts for reaching the most marginalised right holders;

(iii) To foster local digital innovation with a specific technical focus on satellite connectivity;

(iv) To build cybersecurity capacity, promote cybersecurity awareness among stakeholders, and establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework.

The intervention will deploy different instruments to achieve its specific objectives: technical assistance and capacity building, technical assistance through twinning modality to tailor the support to the needs of the authorities to strengthen their capacity and improve their policy and regulatory framework, support to CSOs and other non-state actors to develop/deploy digital solutions for the local communities and to promote a high level of digital literacy.

The action will cover Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The action will contribute to the realisation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 GAP III, in particular to its thematic area of engagement "Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation, Digitalisation, Climate change and environment" and "Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women".

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The recent geopolitical shifts including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, as well as the growing influence of various international partners, have prompted Central Asian governments to increasingly look at Europe as a key counterpart to diversify their partnerships. The EU's technical standards on key sectors for connectivity such as energy and digitalisation are regarded with great interest by the region.

EU priorities and objectives

Digital connectivity is identified as being at the core of the EU's priorities for connectivity with Central Asia (*New EU Strategy on Central Asia, 2019*), Asia (*Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia, 2018*) and international partner countries more generally (*Global Gateway Strategy, 2021*). Under Global Gateway, it is underlined that "the EU will work with partner countries to deploy digital networks and infrastructures such as […] space-based communication systems, prioritising underserved regions, countries and populations, with the aim of tackling the global digital divide and strengthening secure and trusted digital connections within them and between Europe and the world." In addition, "the EU toolbox for the cybersecurity of 5G networks will guide investments in digital infrastructure. These will also be linked with standards and protocols that support network security and resilience, interoperability, and an open, plural and secure internet." The present Action is designed with these priorities in mind, to improve both the availability and sustainability of digital connections in one of the world's most under-connected regions, contributing to reducing inequalities. In order to guarantee the added value of the EU connectivity model, the Action will also support concrete applications for the connectivity, including but not limited to the provision of services and the development of digital literacy and skills, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in urban and rural communities. The Action will also take upon the EU's well-established and

recognised status as a global standard-setter on cybersecurity, data protection and human rights, which form an integral part of its trusted connectivity model.

Additionally, the D4D Hub serves as a strategic multi-stakeholder platform that fosters digital cooperation between the Team Europe and its global partners. The mission of the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub is a human-centric approach to digital transformation to foster inclusive digital economies and societies in which all citizens – notably women and young people – have equal opportunities to participate in the digital world. The human-centric approach puts people at the heart of the digital transformation – driven by people's needs, fundamental rights and intersectional challenges to closing digital divides.[1]

Central Asian space economy

The Central Asian space economy is growing and becoming a strategic tool to boost the national economy and contribute toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the continent.

As stated in the Council Conclusions on the EU Strategy on Central Asia, the promotion and protection of the rule of law, of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and association, of an enabling environment for civil society, and of human rights defenders as well as the rights of women and the rights of the child as well as the support of the ILO Decent Work Agenda for a Fair Globalisation, must remain at the core of EU-Central Asia relations. The EU and Central Asian countries should continue to promote and act towards gender equality and promote the participation of women in social and economic life[2].

According to the UN, the space industry and space applications have been developing in every Central Asian country during the last 30 years. Each state's legislative and technological base has evolved to a certain unique extent. Every country of the region actively utilises satellite-derived Earth Observation data, as well as the Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) signals. At present, Space capabilities in the region are largely dominated by Russia and China. However, in recent years, other nations in the region have also started embracing space, in particular Kazakhstan, motivated mainly by socio-economic developments and the aspiration to become self-reliant in terms of national security. The Central Asian space industry is projected to grow by 16% by 2026.

In order to fully exploit the possibilities for development of space technologies in Central Asia, as part of the Team Europe Initiative on Digital Connectivity in Central Asia the EU will also explore cooperation on Earth Observation, leveraging the Copernicus instrument established by the European Commission. This would be a complementary linked component and should be considered in the holistic context of this initiative, although it is not the subject of the present Action.

Central Asian connectivity context

Digital connectivity in Central Asia differs both within the region as well as between urban and rural areas. Internet connectivity is limited in particular in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This is not only an obstacle to economic development in particular for small and medium enterprises. Globally, nearly half the population in Central Asia is not digitally connected, and many of the unconnected live in rural and remote areas[3]. The disparity in digital connectivity between urban and rural areas in Central Asia is second only to Africa. Part of the reason is that only 60% of the population resides within 25km of the inland terrestrial backbone infrastructure. Even though mobile networks can bridge these gaps technologically, the cost of mobile subscription, still dominated by Russian operators or with Russian interests, in rural regions remains prohibitive. The high total cost of ownership of associated mobile network infrastructures makes these subscriptions the costliest in the world. Compounding the problem further, the extension of fibre to rural areas is challenging due to both economic and infrastructural considerations. This poor reach of fibre infrastructure together with local communities' lower purchasing power results in very low connectivity rates. These factors create a digital gap and a vicious circle where commercial operators are not willing to decrease their margins and will only invest in regions with already developed infrastructure and an existing customer base, aggravating the discrepancy.

As the region varies greatly in terms of internet connectivity, the first stages of action will include to assess the existing gaps in order to get a complete picture of the situation in the region and in each of the countries covered.

---

1 https://d4dhub.eu/

2 Council conclusions on the New Strategy on Central Asia: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/39778/st10221-en19.pdf

3 World Economic Forum (2021) https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/07/central-asia-digital-future-economic-growth The percentage of individuals using the Internet compared to the global average per country is: Kazakhstan (79%), Kyrgyz Republic (38%), Tajikistan (22%), and Uzbekistan (55%).

The major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Central Asia are national governments and foreign-owned companies (in particular Russian). Kazakhstan has launched operational GEO communication satellites to provide internet services to underserved and remote locations, but remains incipient. The most prominent companies are Eutelsat, SES, Inmarsat, Avanti Communications, Yahsat, and Intelsat.

The GEO satellite service providers mainly offer Direct-to-Home (DTH) television, telephony, and broadband internet services under the B2B service umbrella. The major segment of GEO B2B clients are ISPs that further resell the capacity to small businesses and/or households. GEO satellite operators also sell a major portion of their capacity to the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs). Nevertheless, GEO operators are also adopting business to consumer models. Their major customers in this approach are governments, maritime, aviation, and industries related to resource extraction. SES, Inmarsat, and Intelsat sell broadband internet to various government sectors, especially the military, maritime, and aviation agencies. Yahsat offers satellite broadband/internet connectivity for consumers, enterprises, MNOs, and governments.

EU-Central Asia relations have grown in importance in the past years and improving secure connectivity in the region will increase the resilience and provide further opportunities for economic and social development of this landlocked region close to Europe. Ensuring access to high-speed internet in underserved regions by leveraging EU Space assets recognises the geopolitical relevance of this technology. This will be enabled by a European satellite communication network established in the framework of the Global Gateway, the EU's connectivity strategy to meet global infrastructure development needs. With the digital sector as one of the strategy's partnership pillars, satellite communications projects can address the digital gap in a way that is aligned with the strategy's principles.

Most Central Asian countries have adopted national digital connectivity strategies.

The Government of Kazakhstan initiated the Digital Kazakhstan 2018-2022 program in 2017 to enhance the country's digital infrastructure. The programme's budget is around USD 1 billion[4] and is divided equally between the public and private sectors. The programme has five primary areas of focus: digitalisation of economic sectors such as transportation, agriculture, energy, e-commerce, and finance; implementation of a digital state, including government services and smart cities; development of secure communication networks and IT infrastructure throughout the country; improvement of digital literacy in secondary, technical, and vocational higher education; and the creation of conditions for the development of technological entrepreneurship, the start-up environment, and the financing ecosystem. In August 2022, Kazakhstan has set the goal to ensure 100 percent coverage of the country with high-quality internet and 95 percent with home broadband access networks by 2025. In 2023, under the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the Kazakh Chairmanship's priorities for 2023-2024 include the establishment of the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity.[5]

The Government of Uzbekistan, in the wake of the social and economic challenges of COVID-19, intensified its efforts for digital development and adopted in October 2020 the Digital Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy, which has identified five priority areas for the national digital development: Digital infrastructure; e-Government; Digital economy; National IT sector; and IT education.

The Kyrgyz Government's digital transformation vision has been described in the Concept "Digital Kyrgyzstan" 2019-23 and its current Digital Development Action Plan 2022-23. This reflects the Kyrgyz Government's continued policy commitment to tackle digital transformation in every sphere and provides guidance, for all interrelated (multi) sectors associated with digitalisation. A new 5-year Digital Strategy is being developed and

---

[4] Approximately EUR 910 M at the time of this Action Document's writing.
[5] https://egov.kz/cms/en/digital-kazakhstan;
https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mdai/projects/details/10?directionId=8&lang=en;https://egov.kz/cms/en/digital-kazakhstan; ;https://egov.kz/cms/en/digital-kazakhstan; ;https://egov.kz/cms/en/digital-kazakhstan; ;
https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2021%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F25280;
https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2021%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F25280;
https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2021%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F25280;
https://stip.oecd.org/stip/interactive-dashboards/policy-initiatives/2021%2Fdata%2FpolicyInitiatives%2F25280;
https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=press_releases&id=1592
https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=press_releases&id=1592
https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=press_releases&id=1592
https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=press_releases&id=1592

likely to be adopted by the end of 2023. Support to these programmes has already been provided by the EU through Budget Support, under the bilateral "Digitalisation Sector Reform Performance Contract".

In 2019, by Decree of the Government of Tajikistan the "Concept of Digital Economy" was adopted, providing for a gradual realisation of digital transformation in the country until 2040. This document identifies three stages of digital transformation (2020-2025; 2026-2030; 2031-2040) that set the following directions: reinforcement of non-digital foundations; development of digital infrastructure – in the first instance providing the broadband connectivity to the entire population of Tajikistan throughout the country at affordable prices; transition to e-governance; digitalisation of key sectors and ensuring information security and cybersecurity; development of human capital and creation of an innovative ecosystem.

On a broader level, collaborative engagement in the field of digital transformation is exemplified by the Digital4Development Hub. Although not addressing satellite communications in particular, this coalition of EU stakeholders and TEI counterparts demonstrates how synergies focused on the digital segment can be identified and how partnerships can be beneficial for mutual advancement in this sector.

Rural population share

Globally, the largest gap in digital connectivity is found between urban and rural areas. In 2020, Europe registered urban internet usage at 87%, against 80% in rural regions. In Central Asia, urban internet usage is of 63% against a rural rate of 18%, demonstrating the importance of urban-territorial inequalities in the region. The two main reasons for this large disparity are monopolistic inefficiencies leading to high prices, and limited availability. Central Asia also has one of the highest retail prices for broadband internet. The average price of a broadband package is over 50% more expensive than corresponding prices in Western Europe.

Again, large differences exist between different countries in the region with Kyrgyzstan having the lowest prices in the region and some of the lowest in the world.

The issue of broadband availability can also be attributed to a lack of infrastructure. The extension of fibre to rural areas is challenging due to both economic and infrastructure considerations. Particularly in landlocked countries, factors such as cost, transit infrastructure, political relations with neighbours and cross-border data flow regulation might hinder access to the existing subsea fibre cables. The market perspective is also not favourable to mobile network operators, as the Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) in Central Asia is much lower than European levels, especially in the poorer Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

The digital gap in rural communities represents a great opportunity for satellite-based broadband connectivity to bridge by offering cost-efficient and high-capacity solutions. Therefore, these regions have been prioritised in the framework. The global average of rural population distribution of 43% was used as a threshold to map out the digital divide in Central Asia.

Levels of internet access

In Central Asia, fixed broadband penetration has increased mostly due to reduced subscription prices in urban centres and to investments in microwave infrastructure in the East, although overall low penetration levels remain. However, mobile broadband has been the fastest growing technology in recent years, driven mainly by the ever-higher penetration of smartphones and the popularity of services such as mobile payments. 3G and 4G are the most popular forms of cellular broadband in urbanised regions, with 5G expected to cover only 3% of the total mobile network connections by 2025.

There is a great variation of existing levels of internet access in the region, where some countries such as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan fall greatly behind in comparison to e.g., Kazakhstan. Even among- and within the countries with a less high connection there is significant variation.

The global internet penetration rate of 62.5% as of July 2022 was used as the threshold. Tier 0 included countries with below 20% internet penetration rate, Tier 1 represented countries within the range of 20% - 40% and Tier 2 was composed by countries within the range 40% - 62.5%. It was considered that the very low internet access levels seen in Tier 0 countries are an indication of severely lacking network infrastructure. Therefore, it was assumed that they would not have the basic requirements to host a satellite communications pilot case and have therefore been removed from further analysis.

It is assumed that, with the technical assistance for regulatory reform of the TEI, this solution would be feasible with the network infrastructure already available in these countries.

Population size and density

The metric of population density is typically employed to drive decisions related to infrastructure development. Therefore, it has been applied in the framework as a complementary criterion to population size.

On a country level, the programming priorities are aligned to hosting a satellite communications infrastructure. Whilst GDP and population density factors are especially indicative of a country's potential to benefit from satellite-based connectivity, it is also important to examine local qualitative factors. These influence the national capacity to adopt this technology with support from the EU. Understanding the local landscape in terms of ICT regulations, political stability, and foreign influence enables critical factors to be identified and considered during the implementation.

Cybersecurity

Currently, only Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have established Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), with the former boasting of five different operational CERTs. The significant differences between countries show that each country's readiness and development in cybersecurity vary greatly in the region.

Country	To Connect		
	Villages, [qty]	Population, [inhabitants]	Population, [%]
Kazakhstan	162	196 991	1%
Kyrgyzstan	400	910 033	14%
Tajikistan	300	492 413	5%
Uzbekistan	500	986 446	3%
TOTAL:	**1 362**	**2 359 128**	**3%**

2.2 Problem Analysis

The Central Asian context is as diverse as its countries, and each has its own different political priorities and market structure. However, they share a significant rural population, with only the main urban agglomeration having reliable access to telecommunications, and broadband internet, in particular.

There is a need for infrastructure investment to improve end-to-end connectivity for citizens including women in all their diversity and businesses. Digital connectivity is essential for the transformation of sectors like industry, health, education, finance and agriculture. The World Bank estimates that in Central Asia, a 10% increase in broadband penetration would add at least 1% to economic growth, while a 1% increase in internet connectivity corresponds to 4.3% of export growth.

Building "green", energy-efficient data centres will support European climate initiatives and promote environmentally-friendly development policy, in line with the external dimension of the European Green Deal.

Digitalisation is not gender neutral. To unleash its full potential, its gender dimensions must be taken into consideration. Failing to understand and address differentiated impacts of technology on women and men is likely to increase the gender digital divide[6]. Greater digital access for women would expand their economic opportunities

---

6 Gender equality in digitalization UNDP: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/eurasia/UNDP-RBEC-Gender-Equality-Digitalization-guidance.pdf

and better position them in the labour market, especially considering the impact of digital transformation and automation on employment opportunities—a study conducted in 30 countries found that women's jobs have 70 percent or higher risk of automation[7]. Gender equality in digitalisation entails structural and transformative changes that involve every aspect of digital governance and every actor in the digital ecosystem. It means ensuring that all voices and perspectives are heard, including those of gender and ICT experts. Mainstreaming gender in the design and implementation of national digital strategies is essential for an equitable and gender-responsive COVID-19 recovery[8].

Stakeholders

The viable local stakeholders vary depending on the country, but the most viable partners can be Space communications companies or agencies, such as RCSC/KazSAT in Kazakhstan or Uzkosmos in Uzbekistan, state-owned telecom operators recommended by Ministries responsible for Digital development primarily in Uzbekistan, but also in Tajikistan and in Kyrgyzstan. There are opportunities for the project's development by private companies or public-private partnerships in the countries, and further investigation is required to evaluate the viability of the identified stakeholders of the project. In all countries, governmental services concerned also fall under the supervision of the presidential offices and state security services, which will be engaged whenever appropriate to ensure full agreement and buy-in of all levels of hierarchy within the national systems.

Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan is the most advanced of the four countries, having already satcom capabilities with geostationary satellites (KazSat 2 and 3). They have a ground segment ready to accommodate the satcom provided by European providers and have successfully tested SES O3b satellites. They are about to conclude a contract with them, but their main concern is that their own capabilities do not suffer from it. There is a need for support on lowering tariffs and incorporating geostationary satellites. Discussions were mostly technical at this level, but the EU can agree to a hybrid provision of services. As for lowering the tariffs, a hybrid solution taking into account a regional approach is the preferred path forward. Kazakhstan expressed its ambitions to be the regional hub, not just for telecommunications, but also for Copernicus. It has its own Earth Observation (EO) ground segment and even EO satellites of its own, which sets it comparatively at the forefront in the region.

Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyzstan has an emerging telecom market, where both supply from telecom operators and consumption by clients is imperfect. The difficulty, therefore, is not so much in quantifying the market failure, but in identifying the market itself. Kyrgyzstan has one of the cheapest internet prices in the world, which narrows the profitability margin. Nevertheless, the incipient telecom sector also offers Kyrgyzstan with an advantage over its neighbours. The government has abstained from regulating the market and some reform is needed, which makes it not only competitive but more aligned or at least compatible with European data standards. This has been further supported thanks to the implementation of a bilateral Digitalisation Sector Reform Performance Contract (Budget Support operation) since 2020. This makes Kyrgyzstan particularly suitable to partner with the EU on Copernicus, which has a full, free and open data policy. There is capacity in Kyrgyzstan (the Applied Sciences Institute, a Kyrgyz-German research organisation, and the University at Karakol) to incubate an operational Copernicus centre, although their physical infrastructure is still lacking on sensors and satellite data.

There is strong support of the government and the private sector for the initiative. The main obstacle remains the pricing of satcom, but it is imaginable to offer country-differentiated tariffs (capped or pegged to the average Internet price on the country) so as to ensure a buffer profitability market. This, in turn, will help the Commission to quantify more precisely the amount of the grant needed to cover the market failure and reach the remote areas.

The scope of the stakeholders in the digitalisation sector in Kyrgyzstan is rather large. The key players are the Ministry of Digital Development, which ensures the e-Government programme execution, coordinates projects and initiatives that are implemented by line ministries and is responsible for telecommunication sector; and the Digitalisation Department of the President Administration of the Kyrgyz Republic, which is in charge of the policy and strategic issues, development and modernisation of ICT infrastructure (e.g. G-Cloud platforms, Government

7 E. Dabla-Norris and K. Kochhar, Women, technology and the future of work, International Monetary Fund Blog, 16 November 2018
8 Gender equality in digitalization UNDP: https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/eurasia/UNDP-RBEC-Gender-Equality-Digitalization-guidance.pdf

open platforms, Connectivity infrastructure). Another important player is the State Agency on Personal Data Protection (SAPDP) under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic to pursue enabling environment to the needs of a fair, democratic and confident digital transformation.

Tajikistan: Currently, there are no investment projects at the national level for the development of the telecommunication sector and to fill the gaps of an adequate digital connectivity infrastructure, while neighbouring Central Asian countries have already launched such programs (Digital Uzbekistan, Digital Kazakhstan). Tajikistan stands out with the 2nd highest internet tariff in the region (Turkmenistan is most expensive). Internet traffic is being re-routed via a single point, controlled by the State-owned operator TajikTelecom. This slows traffic considerably and the "unified data traffic management centre" (as the single point is called), poses a challenge for business to deal with the Government to provide Internet services (such as cloud and VoIP). This results in the lack of international digital infrastructure (first mile) and the dramatically low penetration of fixed broadband being the main obstacles to building a digital economy in Tajikistan, so priority investments should be focused in these areas. There are preconditions and opportunities for a number of such projects. It was expected that the physical infrastructure of the World Bank's CASA-1000 project on the national territory would allow the construction of a fibre optic communication main line along the power line, and by taking advantage of this opportunity, the establishment of a pilot digital communication infrastructure in selected regions in the areas of health and education, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for the development of a digital economy with better Internet access, faster speeds and lower prices. However, the regional dimension of the CASA-1000 project was abandoned due to intraregional tensions, notably the regime change in Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan: The market is dominated by UzTelecom, which not only has the largest footprint in the country and market share, it is also, by law, the sole wholesale seller of connectivity in the country. Satcom would have to be delivered to them – as a pre-last mile step – before it can reach the telecom operators who would have to buy it from them. UzTelecom applies universal tariffs in the whole country. The losses made in providing connectivity to remote areas need to be off-set by sales in metropolitan areas, such as Tashkent and Samarkand.
Key stakeholders on the governmental side are the Ministry of Digital Technologies and UzCosmos, a newly created space agency falling under the Ministry's oversight. Uzcosmos is interested in expanding its data collection and processing; Internet access to the Copernicus cloud would enable this at no cost.

Turkmenistan:
Turkmenaragatnashyk" is a state organisation that participates in implementing state policies in the fields of communications, space, cybersecurity, and the digital economy. It also exercises control over these policies within its competence under the supervision of the Agency for Transport and Communications of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan licensed its first GSM operator in 1994, gained access to the internet in 1997, and launched its first satellite, TurkmenSat, in 2015. In February 2023, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the "Turkmenaragatnashyk" Agency signed a new project called "Assistance in the Implementation of a Pilot System of Interdepartmental Electronic Information Exchange in Turkmenistan," which aligns with the "State Program for the Development of the Digital Economy in Turkmenistan for 2021-2025." In March 2023, Turkmentelecom, the state-owned and only telecom operator in the country, announced that tariffs for unlimited internet would be reduced and the maximum available connection speed for individuals would be increased to 6 Mbps. In September 2022, DPM for foreign affairs Rashid Meredov announced that Turkmenistan aims to create an autonomous national digital network as part of implementing the State Program on Cybersecurity for 2022-2025.
Although the situation has significantly improved in recent years, Turkmenistan still has the lowest internet penetration rate in Central Asia, at 38% of the total population, comparable to the global average more than a decade ago. Furthermore, Turkmenistan has one of the world's most expensive mobile internet systems and one of the world's slowest average internet download speeds.

As Rights holders:

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's human rights groups including Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) will participate in discussions on gender-responsive ICT policies and plans.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The overall objective of the action will be to foster universally accessible, affordable and sustainable broadband across the region. The action will be articulated around three priorities with corresponding specific objectives (SO) and outputs (Op).

SO 1: To enhance the policy and regulatory framework enabling the development and the deployment of sustainable and inclusive satellite connectivity and its middle-mile terrestrial infrastructures.

> → EO 1.1: Improved policy and regulatory environment for digital reforms, including digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection
> → EO 1.2: Improved capacities of the Central Asian authorities and stakeholders to manage enabling digital reforms
> → EO 1.3: Greater regional coordination and cooperation in view of a regional harmonisation of the Internet regulations
> → EO 1.4: Improved capacity of relevant public and private sector institutions for policy dialogue
> → EO 1.5: Improved capacity of CSOs for advocating for high standards in accessing networks and information, data protection and cybersecurity

SO 2: To foster transparent and inclusive access to public and private connectivity services to the "last-mile" through increased use of open, affordable, safe and secure broadband for everyone, with a focus on rural areas and stronger efforts for reaching the most marginalised right holders.

> → EO2.1: Improved last-mile connectivity in rural areas, with a focus on the most vulnerable
> → EO2.2: Enhanced capacities and tools for equal access to key public services
> → EO2.3: Enhanced access to broadband in rural communities with a gender sensitive approach

SO 3: To foster local digital innovation with a specific technical focus on satellite connectivity

> → EO3.1: Established impactful digital innovation centres connected to the network in rural areas
> → EO3.2: Promotion of digital cooperation and integration in Central Asia with a specific focus on priority sectors

SO 4. To build cybersecurity capacity, promote cybersecurity awareness among stakeholders, and establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework
> → EO4.1: Development of comprehensive cybersecurity frameworks
> → EO4.2: Increased cybersecurity capacity of relevant stakeholders, including government officials, technical staff, and end-users
> → EO4.3: Enhanced technical capacities for computer security incidents handling by partner countries' national or governmental CERTs
> → EO4.4: Public awareness campaigns to educate the general public about cybersecurity threats and safe online practices
> → EO4.5: Incorporation of cybersecurity into educational curricula through collaborations with educational institutions

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities envisaged under Specific Objective and Expected Output (EO)

SO 1. To enhance the policy and regulatory framework enabling the development and the deployment of sustainable and inclusive satellite connectivity and its middle-mile terrestrial infrastructures
(EO 1.1, 1.3)
> → Technical assistance to draft/amend legislation and design/implement reforms

→ Peer-to peer activities, bilateral, trilateral and regional cooperation meetings and exchanges of information and best practices
→ Support to regulatory authorities
→ Conducting sector studies to improve regulatory and policy framework for satellite connectivity country-level and cross-border
→ Exchange of experience in the fields of cybersecurity, data protection and the prevention of human rights abuses
→ Regional dialogues and workshops to coordinate on policy design and implementation and standards for sustainable and secure digital connectivity
→ Assessment of the existing legislative, regulative and policy frameworks for digital and telecom reforms including satellite connectivity country-level and cross-border
→ Providing recommendations for improvements of existing policy frameworks for satellite connectivity at country level and cross-border
→ Assessment and recommendations for personal data protection
→ Assessing and proposing international (trans-regional) cooperation to align policy and regulatory frameworks with global best practice

(EO 1.2, 1.3)

→ Capacity-building programme for governmental actors through technical assistance
→ Conduction of national and regional studies to identify remaining barriers to sustainable digital connectivity and possible actions for sector development
→ Assessing and proposing recommendations for improving the design of respective institutional and governance structures (incl. roles and responsibilities and coordination mechanisms)
→ Design a capacity building plan which will include activities to reinforce Central Asian authorities and stakeholders internal capacities
→ Provide recommendations for improvements of existing coordination and cooperation, explore mechanisms for structured policy dialogue & knowledge sharing

(EO 1.4)

→ Organisation of consultations, multi-stakeholder events
→ Funding of exchanges, missions and mutual learning events
→ Research activities (encouraging infrastructure sharing, apply state-aid mechanisms (e.g., award competitive subsidies), and design public-private partnership models)

(EO 1.5)
→ Capacity-building programme for CSOs and non-governmental actors with gender sensitive approach
→ Advocacy and monitoring activities
→ Call for proposals to fund CSOs and non-governmental actors' activities

SO 2. To foster transparent and inclusive access to public and private connectivity services to the "last-mile" through increased use of open, affordable, safe and secure broadband for everyone, with a focus on rural areas and stronger efforts for reaching the most marginalised right holders

(EO 2.1)

→ Establishment of public-private partnerships and other private sector investment schemes targeting the last-mile connectivity
→ Studies (e.g., pre-feasibility, feasibility) on needs and possibilities for digital infrastructure investments in each country covered by the Action and at regional level

(EO 2.2)

→ Technical assistance to the government to expand access and affordability to digital public services
→ Call for proposals to boost digital innovation (e.g. hackathons) and development of private digital solutions and services tailored to local needs (e.g. in partnerships with local High tech/IT parks)
→ Training on digital literacy and skills for local communities involving the most vulnerable groups

(EO 2.3)

→ Public procurement for the deployment of infrastructure and equipment for the creation of community networks/hotspots

→ Establishment of local multistakeholder partnerships, ensuring the participation of local beneficiaries, and regional networks to empower communities including participation of women and strengthen their development through digital networks

SO 3. To foster local digital innovation with a specific technical focus on satellite connectivity

(EO 3.1)

→ Upgrading/scaling up/creation of digital innovation centres

→ Boosting digital innovation (e.g. hackathons) and development of private digital solutions and services tailored to local needs (e.g. in partnerships with local High tech/IT parks)

→ Training on digital literacy and skills for local communities including women and youth and involving the most vulnerable

→ Enhance the "smart specialisation" of selected business support organisations by creating impactful incubation & acceleration programs tailored towards sector-specific needs and supported by established private companies in key sectors

→ Boost the development of private digital solutions leveraging IoT sensors and geospatial data to build climate change resilience and increase adaptation (hackathons, calls for proposals, individual coaching & capacity building program)

→ Reinforce collaboration between entrepreneurs & researchers / accelerators & academia to bring value and maximize impact on both sides

→ Develop specific programs on building digital skills for both entrepreneurs and end-users

→ Catalyse seed, early stage and acceleration finance to improve innovative, sustainable financing channels for digital innovators (innovation vouchers, credit guarantees, equity investment, etc.)

(EO 3.2)

→ Support existing structures for digital development (capacity building, events, fablab for prototyping etc)

→ Facilitate exchanges between digital innovators in Central Asia and with Europe, in partnership existing networks of business incubators and sustainable development (networking events, conferences etc.)

SO 4. To build cybersecurity capacity, promote cybersecurity awareness among stakeholders, and establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework

(EO 4.1)

→ Gap analysis of project partner countries' cybersecurity frameworks, in complementarity with other analyses conducted by the EU and partners

→ Conduct workshops and consultations with technical experts to draft and refine a comprehensive cybersecurity framework, in complementarity with other assessments conducted by the EU and partners and in consultation with local experts

(EO 4.2)

→ Conducting a training needs assessment

→ Conducting of regular cybersecurity training and capacity-building programs for relevant stakeholders, including public sector, private sector, civil society, and academia

(EO 4.3)

→ Regular training for technical staff on incident response procedures for national or governmental CERTs as well as private or sectoral CERTs

→ Establish and facilitate regional and international cooperation between the national or governmental CERTs

    → Design and rollout of incident response plans, including simulations and practice exercises and development of response plans based on the kind of infrastructure targeted

(EO 4.4)
    → Design and launch of public awareness campaigns to raise cybersecurity awareness
    → Development and distribution of cybersecurity resources, such as brochures, online content, etc.
    → Hosting of cybersecurity events, such as workshops and webinars

(EO 4.5)
    → Development of a comprehensive cybersecurity curriculum for universities and cooperation between universities at regional level
    → Establishment of cybersecurity mentorship and apprenticeship programs
    → Partnership with educational institutions to integrate cybersecurity into their curricula
    → Promotion of research in cybersecurity and digital forensics

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

3.3 Mainstreaming

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 is a significant objective, by ensuring that all actions within the TEI are gender-sensitive. Particular attention will be paid to gender equality for implementation.

In line with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)[9], the action will contribute in particular to the thematic area of addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation.

Human Rights
Respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the European Union. As one of the major risks of the TEI is misuse of digital technologies and connectivity by governments, there is a strong focus on ensuring support to civil society actors in their monitoring and advocacy roles. The Action adopts a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and promotes the fulfilment of the human rights (adequate standard of living, the right to work, access to justice, etc.) of all.

All activities will be designed taking into account the do-no-harm principle. The HRBA's five working principles (a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data) will be promoted throughout.

Disability
As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that all possible measures will be taken to ensure an inclusive policy dialogue. Therefore, attention will be paid to ensure and enable the participation of people with disabilities

Reduction of inequalities
As per the Inequality Marker, the Action is labelled as I-1, inequality reduction being a significant objective. The main objective of this TEI is to reduce the gap in digital connectivity in Central Asia, especially between the urban and rural areas. Central Asia has one of the largest gaps, with urban internet usage of 63% against a rural rate of

18%. This Action will minimise the gap by providing the necessary hard components needed for digital connectivity in rural areas. We ultimately aim to connect 80% of the national territory of beneficiary countries.

Democracy

All activities, including policy dialogues with national governments will aim at strengthening the democratic system of the respective Central Asian countries to ensure that the country stays on the path of democratisation. This is also supported by strengthening the inclusiveness of the dialogue as well as focusing on respect for human rights, good governance, transparency, anti-corruption and the importance of the rule of law.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Building resilience and preventing conflicts are primarily relevant in Central Asia for conflicts linked to environmental considerations. Building "green", energy-efficient data centres will support European climate initiatives and promote environmentally-friendly development policy in line with the EU Green Deal.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Building resilience and preventing conflicts are primarily relevant in Central Asia for conflicts linked to environmental considerations. Protecting the environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change and building resilience of communities at risk are key issues of thematic funding in Central Asia as well as in the ongoing policy dialogue.

Other considerations if relevant

Considerations regarding environmental and climate change aspects will be addressed through the digital transition in underconnected societies, which will make room for a greening of society and for finding and promoting more sustainable solutions.

More generally speaking, synergies will be sought between this TEI and the other regional one for Central Asia on water, energy and climate change, in order to foster the twin green & digital transition in Central Asia. Concrete ways in which this can be done will be identified during the inception and implementation phases of the Action.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Cross-border licensing	Lack of cross-border licensing and access to last-mile services.	H	H	Building the satcom solution on existing backhaul services (i.e. the transport of connectivity from one network to another; also called "middle-mile") and allowing for the seamless integration with current and future terrestrial (wired: fibre; wireless: 4G and 5G) networks.

Political and security situation	A worsening political and security situation in the region.	**H**	**H**	Political dialogue by the EU (including the EUSR) and Team Europe members and support of OSCE and other likeminded partners.
Regional disparities	Unequal rhythm of advancement of reforms in covered countries	**M**	**L**	Adjustment on a constant basis of activities based on the needs and demands of beneficiary countries. Coordination between different strands of the Team Europe Initiative to ensure alignment with bilateral cooperation.
Natural/man-made disasters	The impact of climate change, coupled with the diverse geography of Central Asia, ranging from mountains, steppes and deserts to large river systems, make this region particularly vulnerable to natural hazards	**H**	**L**	Seeking complementarities with the regional TEI on water and energy regarding reduction and adaptation to climate change, and more generally with all EU and Team Europe programmes on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
Economic and financial situation	A worsening economic and financial situation	**M**	**M**	Political dialogue by the EU (including th EUSR) and Team Europe members, particularly EDFIs, and support of IMF and other likeminded partners.
Access constraints	Increased access constraints for partners	**M**	**H**	Political outreach and careful choice of implementing partners.
Internal	For some programmes or activities within a programme, the lack of information and data for targeting vulnerable groups might reduce the capacity of the Action to correctly address inequalities, therefore reducing its impact.	**H**	**M**	The possibility to use the Distributional Impact Assessment when starting the implementation, to help target the most vulnerable, can be considered.

Lessons Learnt:

As working with digitalisation in the region is a new area for the Commission to undertake work, there are few lessons learnt from previous programmes in this specific sector.

It will be of particular importance to ensure a careful coordination between the regional and bilateral levels, in order to ensure that the principles of subsidiarity and efficiency are achieved. As satellite connectivity investments in one country are not necessarily linked to synchronous investments throughout the region (unlike in regional broadband connectivity projects), one country which implements the necessary regulatory reforms before the others could be selected as a pilot country to showcase the infrastructure component, thus providing a model and impetus for the other countries covered by the programme.

The Digital4Development Hub, as the main outfit for digital cooperation within the EU and with Team Europe partners, will continue to be involved throughout the implementation of this Action, as a way to consistently gather lessons from other experiences in digital cooperation throughout the world.

3.5   The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to build capacities for satellite connectivity in the Central Asian countries by facilitating the development of the legal and regulatory environment for satellite communication, and the establishment of satellite connectivity operators (SatComs) in each of the four Central Asian countries, which will have direct connectivity to the EU through satellite and will complement national fibre broadband development projects with the enabled satellite connectivity for the remote areas. This encompasses both the enabling measures themselves and the broader EU toolbox for trusted connectivity, including in areas such as cybersecurity, data protection, and human rights protection. It will help to reduce inequalities within the most vulnerable groups, particularly by addressing rural-urban inequalities.

The achievement of these objectives requires enhanced capacities both by governmental and civil society actors. The action therefore aims to build the capacities of both in parallel and in conjunction, and with a variety of instruments available to EU cooperation.

This action is part of a broader Team Europe Initiative on Digital Connectivity in Central Asia. As such, it will be combined with operations to be undertaken under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) rapidly after the adoption of this programme, with bilateral cooperation programmes in the covered countries, and with other potential complementary cooperation programmes adopted by EU Member States and EU-affiliated Financing Institutions.

IF the policy and regulatory environment for digital reforms, including digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection are improved, the capacities of the Central Asian authorities and stakeholders to manage enabling digital reforms are improved, regional coordination and cooperation in view of a regional harmonisation of the Internet regulations is increased, capacity of relevant public and private sector institutions for policy dialogue is improved, and capacity of CSOs for advocating for high standards in accessing networks and information, data protection and cybersecurity are improved, *AND* there are a continued policy framework and budgets for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection, a conducive policy for dialogue mechanisms, and the states encourage and the development partners support the civil society sector to involve into digit policies, *THEN* these outputs will have contributed to enhancing the policy and regulatory framework enabling the development and the deployment of sustainable and inclusive satellite connectivity and its middle-mile terrestrial.

IF public-private partnerships and other private sector investment schemes targeting the last-mile connectivity are established, and studies (e.g., pre-feasibility, feasibility) are conducted on needs and possibilities for digital infrastructure investments in each country covered by the Action and at regional level, *AND* the states implement conducive policies for local operators and continuous policies for digitalisation of public services and support the private service providers with conducive policies, *THEN* these outputs will foster transparent and inclusive access to public and private connectivity services to the "last-mile" through increased use of open, affordable, safe and secure broadband for everyone.

IF access to broadband in rural communities is enhanced with a gender sensitive approach and digital innovation centres connected to the network in the rural areas, *AND* the access points and innovation centres are further maintained and developed by the operators, *THEN* these outputs will promote the development of community networks, hotspots and digital innovation centres to the benefit of under-connected communities.

IF these outcomes are achieved *AND* there are sufficient policy funding and inclusive monitoring mechanisms and policy dialogue mechanisms for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection, *THEN* this Action will have fostered universally accessible, affordable, equitable and sustainable broadband across the region.

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.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Fostering universally accessible, affordable, equitable and sustainable broadband across the region	1. GERF 1.9 ITU Percentage of individuals using the internet, disaggregated by country	1. TBD	1. TBD in inception	1. ITU	*Not applicable*
		2. GERF 1.10 ITU ICT Development Index, disaggregated by country	2. None (currently discontinued)	2. TBD in inception	2. ITU ICT Development Index	
Outcomes	1. To enhance policy and regulatory framework enabling the development and the deployment of sustainable and inclusive satellite connectivity and its middle-mile terrestrial	1.1. Number of countries supported by the EU to implement data protection policies or regulations (**GERF 2.10)	1.1. 0 (2022)	1.1. 5 (2027)	1.1. Project reports; policies and regulations	Sufficient policy funding and inclusive monitoring mechanisms for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection

Improved policy dialogue mechanisms for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection |
		1.3. Number of countries with an established policy dialogue mechanism (policy design and monitoring) for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection	1.3. 0 (2023)	1.3. TBD in inception	1.3. Relevant regulations and policy dialogue records	
		1.4. Number of digitalisation policies that were developed and adopted with the involvement of civil society actors, disaggregated by country (**GERF 2.29)	1.4. TBD in inception	1.4. TBD in inception	1.4. Official registry of legal acts and records of public hearings on the policies	
		1.5. Number of CSOs reporting on the access to internet, state of personal data protection and cybersecurity	1.5. TBD in inception	1.5. TBD in inception	1.5. CSO reports	
		1.6. Number of women's organisations and networks with increased capacity to participate in discussions on gender-	1.6. TBD in inception	1.6. TBD in inception	1.6. CSO reports	

	Specific objectives	Indicators	Baselines	Targets	Sources of verification	Assumptions
		responsive ICT policies and plans (GAP III outcome indicators)				
		1.7. Mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by targeted region per country(**GERF 2.11)	1.7. TBD in inception	1.7. TBD in inception	1.7. Contracts' M&E systems; Operators report	
		1.8. Number of people with access to internet with EU support (disaggregated by sex, geographic region, urban/rural, age group, and type of connection, i.e. mobile or fixed) (EU RF) (GAP III outcome indicators)	1.8. 0 (2022)	1.8. TBD in inception	1.8. Project reports	
	2. To foster transparent and inclusive access to public and private connectivity services to the "last-mile" through increased use of open, affordable, safe and secure broadband for everyone, with a focus on rural areas and stronger efforts for reaching the most marginalised right holders.	2.1. Number of digital services' rural users with EU support, disaggregated by country, service and sex (**GERF 2.12)	2.1. 0 (2023)	2.1. TBD in inception	2.1. Contracts' M&E systems; Reports by the service providers	
		2.2 Number of digital start-up enterprises led by women who benefit from EU financial support and/or training. (GAP III Outcome indicators).	2.2. 0 (2023)	2.2. TBD in inception	2.2. Project reports	
		2.3. Number of rural users using the community networks and hotspots, disaggregated by country, service and sex (**GERF 2.11)	2.3. 0 (2023)	2.3. TBD in inception phase	2.3. Reports by the operators of the access points	
	3. To foster local digital innovation with a specific technical focus on satellite connectivity	3.1. Number of rural users using the digital innovation centres, disaggregated by country, service and sex (**GERF 2.11)	3.1 0 (2023)	3.1. TBD in inception phase	3.1. Reports by the operators of the access points	
	4. To build cybersecurity capacity, promote cybersecurity	4.1. Number of countries supported by the EU to establish	4.1. Kazakhstan:	4.1. TBD	4.1. GCI rank by	Governments in the partner countries are

	awareness among stakeholders, and establish a comprehensive cybersecurity framework	a comprehensive cybersecurity framework • Improved score in Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) (OPSYS core indicator)	93.15, Kyrgyzstan: 49.64, Tajikistan: 17.1, Uzbekistan: 71.11, Turkmenistan: 14.48 (2020)		International Telecom Union (ITU)	supportive of initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity. Stakeholders, including government officials, technical staff, end-users, educational institutions, and others, are willing to engage in capacity building activities and cybersecurity initiatives. Sufficient policy funding and inclusive monitoring mechanisms for cybersecurity
Outputs	1.1. Improved policy and regulatory environment for digital reforms, including digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection	1.1.1. Status of the country level baseline studies on the regulatory frameworks and barriers	1.1.1. None (2022)	1.1.1. Performed recommendations drafted and discussed with the relevant stakeholders	1.1.1. Studies and minutes of discussions	Continued policy framework and budgets for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection
		1.1.2. Status of the draft regulatory framework for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection, disaggregated by country	1.1.2. None (2022)	1.1.2. Drafted and discussed with the relevant stakeholders	1.1.2. The drafts and minutes of discussions	
	1.2. Improved capacities of the Central Asian authorities and stakeholders to manage enabling digital reforms	1.2.1. Number of individuals knowledgeable on the digital reforms' cycle, disaggregated by event, country, institution and sex	1.2.1. 0 (2022)	1.2.1. TBD in the inception	1.2.1. Pre- and post-training / exchange / event assessment	

		1.2.2. Status of the draft sector strategies for digitalisation, cybersecurity and personal data protection, disaggregated by country	1.2.2. TBD per country in inception	1.2.2. TBD per country in inception	1.2.2. Project, government and/or CSO reports	
	1.3 Greater regional coordination and cooperation in view of a regional harmonisation of the internet regulations	1.3.1 Number of regional dialogues held	1.3.1. 0 (2023)	1.3.1. 0 TBD in inception (2027)	1.3.1. Project reports	
		1.3.2. Number of research activities (encouraging infrastructure sharing, apply state-aid mechanisms (e.g., award competitive subsidies), and design public-private partnership models)	1.3.2 0 (2023)	1.3.2. TBD in inception	3.1.3 Project Reports	
	1.4. Improved capacity of relevant public and private sector institutions for policy dialogue	1.4.1. Status of draft digitalisation policy dialogue mechanisms, disaggregated by country	1.4.1. None (2022)	1.4.1. Drafted and discussed for reflection in the regulatory framework	1.4.1. Drafts and minutes of discussions with the stakeholders	Conducive policy for dialogue mechanisms
		1.4.2. Number of representatives of private and public institutions knowledgeable on the policy dialogue mechanisms, disaggregated by country and sex	1.4.2. 0 (2022)	1.4.2. TBD in inception	1.4.2. Sign-in lists to the sessions organised by the action	
	1.5. Improved capacity of CSOs for advocating for high standards in accessing networks and information, data protection and cybersecurity	1.5.1. Number of CSO representatives knowledgeable on the advocacy in digitalisation policies, disaggregated by country, CSO and sex	1.5.1. 0 (2022)	1.5.1. TBD in inception	1.5.1. Pre-and post-training assessments	The states encourage and the development partners support the civil society sector to be involved into digital policies
		1.5.2. Number of CSOs accomplishing grant projects	1.5.2. 0 (2022)	1.5.2. TBD in inception	1.5.2. Grant agreements and	

				reports by the CSOs	
2.1 Improved last-mile connectivity in rural areas, with a focus on the most vulnerable	2.1.1. Number of studies (e.g., pre-feasibility, feasibility) on needs and possibilities for digital infrastructure investments in each country covered by the Action and at regional level.	2.1.1 TBD in inception	2.1.1 TBD in inception	2.1.1 DIA (Distributional Impact Assessment)	
	2.1.2. Number of private sector operators providing last mile connectivity	2.1.2 TBD in inception	2.1.2 TBD in inception	2.1.2 Operators report	Conducive policies for local operators by the states
2.2 Enhanced capacities and tools for access to key public services	2.2.2. Number of concepts for private digital services developed through the call for proposals	2.2.2. 0 (2022)	2.2.2. TBD in inception	2.2.2. Concepts, discussion minutes	The states implement continuous policies for digitalisation of public services and support the private service providers with conducive policies
2.3 Enhanced access to broadband in rural communities with a gender sensitive approach	2.3.1. Number of community networks and hot spots established, per country, rural area	2.3.1. 0 (2022)	2.3.1. TBD in inception	2.3.1. Project reports	
	2.3.2. Number of users accessing community networks and hot spots, disaggregated by sex, age, income and location	2.3.2. 0 (2022)	2.3.2. TBD in inception	2.3.2. Project reports and/or reports by the operators of the access points	
3.1 Established digital innovation centres connected to the network in rural areas	3.1.1. Number of digital innovation centres established or renovated connected to the network	3.1.1. 0 (2023)	3.1.1. TBD in inception	3.1.1. Project reports, acceptance acts	The access points and innovation centres are further

Output	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Source of verification	Assumptions
					maintained and developed by the operators
	3.1.2. Number of people capable of using the access points and digital innovation centres disaggregated by country, sex, region, age, income.	3.1.2. 0 (2023)		3.1.2. TBD in inception	3.1.2. Project reports
	3.1.3. Number of digital solutions for rural access to networks created, disaggregated by country, sector, region	3.1.3. 0 (2023)		3.1.3. TBD in inception	3.1.3. Project reports
3.2 Promotion of digital cooperation and integration in Central Asia with a specific focus on priority sectors	3.2.1 Number of exchanges with EU support between digital innovators in Central Asia and with Europe	3.2.1. 0 (2023)	3.2.1. TBD in inception	3.2.1. Project reports	
4.1: Development of comprehensive cybersecurity frameworks	4.1.1. Number of countries with comprehensive cybersecurity framework developed and implemented	4.1.1. 0 (2022)	4.1.1. TBD in inception	4.1.1. Framework documents, government and/or project reports	
4.2. Increased cybersecurity capacity of relevant stakeholders, including government officials, technical staff, and end-users	4.2.1. Number of stakeholders trained in cybersecurity, disaggregated by stakeholder group and country	4.2.1. 0 (2022)	4.2.1. TBD in inception	4.2.1. Training records, project reports	
4.3. Enhanced technical capacities for computer security incidents handling by partner countries' national or governmental CERTs	4.3.1. Number of CERTs with enhanced technical capacities for computer security incidents handling	4.3.1. 0 (2022)	4.3.1. TBD in inception	4.3.1. CERT records, project reports	
4.4. Public awareness campaigns to educate the general public about cybersecurity threats and safe online practices	4.4.1. Number of people reached by public awareness campaigns, disaggregated by country	4.4.1. 0 (2022)	4.4.1. TBD in inception	4.4.1. Campaign reports, surveys	

	4.5. Incorporation of cybersecurity into educational curricula through collaborations with educational institutions	4.5.1. Number of educational institutions incorporating cybersecurity into their curricula	4.5.1. 0 (2022)	4.5.1. TBD in inception	4.5.1. Education institution records, project reports	

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 countries.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

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

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The proposed twinning modality of a grant nature will contribute to institution building based on partnership cooperation between the targeted public administration and accepted mandated bodies of Member States with the purpose of achieving mainly specific objective 1. These objectives are linked to the policy dialogue, planned and agreed reform processes in the beneficiary countries, and capacity building of beneficiary administrations enabling to put in place an effective mechanism to promote country digital reform programmes. Secondment of full-time Member State experts (Resident Twinning Adviser – RTA) and short-term expertise to Beneficiary administrations will enable to share best practices and know-how, to strengthen capacity and guide for key decisions supporting the Central Asian governments to implement their policies. This activity may be limited to one or several countries.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

This action to be implemented in direct management with an (or a consortium of) EU Member State Agency(-ies) in accordance with Article 62(1)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 (the Financial Regulation). The Contracting Authority will circulate the Twinning Fiche, which constitutes the launch of the Call for Proposal, simultaneously to all Member States National Contact Points (Member State NCP) by e-mail (with a copy to the Twinning Coordination Team, specifying the deadline for the submission of proposals and the indicative date of the selection meeting). Member States shall prepare proposals based purely on the comparative advantage of their administrative system and the quality, experience and availability of public expertise required for the implementation of the project. Member State NCP shall submit proposals to the Contracting Authority and to the Twinning Coordination Team.

---

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

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

The entirety of this Action that is not implemented through Twinning is envisaged to be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: operational capacity, experience gained in digital development in Central Asia or other parts of the world, membership of Team Europe (including if possible of the Digital4Development Hub, although this will not be an indispensable criterion), willingness and ability to engage in a Team Europe format of cooperation in Central Asia, expertise in the specific objectives and/or actions as indicatively identified under this Action Document. The identification of implementing partners will be done in cooperation with the Digital4Development Hub as the main Team Europe cooperation instrument in the digital sector, but will not be limited to members of the Digital4Development Hub. This action may be implemented in indirect management with an (or a consortium of) EU Member State(s) agencies. The implementation by this entity entails contribution to the enhanced soft connectivity in the region.

DG INTPA will verify that the entities envisaged to implement actions in indirect management fulfil legal requirements and comply with applicable conditions to work under this management mode.

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

If there is a lack of EU Member State interest or a failure in reaching an agreement with the Contracting Party, in particular for the direct management outlined in section 4.3.1, that part of the action's budget or a fraction of it may be implemented in indirect management as outlined in section 4.3.2. A part of the action to be defined if such case would arise may also be implemented as fall-back via procurement.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components[11]	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Indirect management – cf. section 4.3.2	16,000,000
Grants – cf. section 4.3.1	4,000,000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision

Totals	20,000,000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

It is envisaged that an EU Member State-led consortium, with the involvement of the Digital4Development Hub, under coordination of the EU delegation in Kazakhstan will be responsible for the general implementation and coordination of the action, ensuring the cohesiveness of the action as a whole. It will ensure the required dialogue, exchange of information and coordination amongst the different stakeholders to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the programme. All respective EU Delegations in the programme implementation will be involved in order to prevent overlaps and to ensure synergies. In addition, EU Delegations will also ensure close cooperation with beneficiary countries. The D4D Hub Regional Branch for Asia shall be used to accompany and support the implementation, facilitating coherence with the overall initiatives, investments, and actions of the Team Europe in Central Asia. In addition, the D4D Hub Advisory Groups on Private Sector, Civil Society and Academia may be leveraged to support the multi-stakeholder approach of this action. Among others, the D4D Hub Working Group on Connectivity can serve as a platform to exchange expertise and lessons-learnt across and beyond the region on fostering sustainable connectivity. A regional Steering Committee will ensure the overall coordination of the program. The regional steering may be complemented by National Steering Committees (SC) for each of the beneficiary countries to provide policy guidance to ensure the accomplishment of the programme objectives and expected results. Regional (and possibly national) Steering Committees will analyse planning documents and provide recommendations and orientations if deemed necessary. Steering Committees will convene at least once per year. The internal rules of procedures of the Steering Committees will be defined within the first three months of implementation of the programme. The regional Steering Committee will be chaired by the EU Delegation in Kazakhstan and composed of representatives of each participating country and the implementation partner (s). National Steering Committees will be co-chaired by the relevant EU Delegation and the representative of the national authority. Other interested parties may be invited to participate when considered appropriate.

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).

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators as for instance per Joint Programming document should be taken into account. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation. 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).

Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA) could be applied, as a data source whenever other sources (national, regional, local data) are not available to monitor whether expected outputs (list-reference to Logical Framework) have, to a large extent, benefited the bottom poorest 40 % income or wealth, or socio-economically disadvantaged groups, households and individuals. The DIA can also be performed at the start of the implementation phase to a) locate where the most vulnerable live and target them geographically; b) identify main drivers of inequalities (e.g.

reasons for not accessing some services) c) unveil intersectionalities (e.g. bottom 40 income who are women, children etc.)

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex and age, and disability if possible.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and final evaluations may be carried out for this action or its components contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner. A mid-term evaluation would be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the changing context in Central Asia.

A final evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the TEI is spearheading the Commission's engagement on digitalisation in the region.

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 dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

In addition, all evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation plan could assess the distributional impact of activities undertaken on the bottom (poorest) 40 per cent or socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, households or groups. This can be done through the Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA). The DIA analysis looks at the effective targeting of beneficiaries of development interventions, identifying if more than 40 per cent of beneficiaries are at the bottom two quintiles of the income or wealth distribution. It also allows to evaluate whether effective targeting has been done towards women, children and youth or other disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) or at territorial level.

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 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[12] (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)		
☒	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
☐	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action(s)>
Contract level		
☒	Single Contract 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
☒	Single Contract 2	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
	(…)	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
☒	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>

---

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

Appendix 2 COMMISSION DECISION & TECHNICAL and ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Action Document	Project modality (Incl. thematic and regional programmes, as well as calls for proposals)		Budget support		No activities to be implemented by, and no funds to be transferred to, the Partner country, with signature of a Financing Agreement based of the 'simplified' template	
	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)
1. SYNOPSIS						
1.1. Action Summary Table	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
1.2. Summary of the Action	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. RATIONALE						
2.1. Context	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
2.2. Problem Analysis	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
2.3. Additional Areas of Assessment [For Budget Support Actions only]	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.1. Pre-condition on Fundamental values (for a SDG contracts only)	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.2 Public Policy	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.3. Macroeconomic Policy	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.4. Public Financial Management	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.3.5. Transparency and Oversight of the Budget	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION						
3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.2. Indicative Activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.3. Mainstreaming	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
3.5. The Intervention Logic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
3.6. Logical Framework Matrix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS						
4.1. Financing Agreement	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A
4.2. Indicative Implementation Period	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	N/A

Action Document	Project modality (Incl. thematic and regional programmes, as well as calls for proposals)		Budget support		No activities to be implemented by, and no funds to be transferred to, the Partner country, with signature of a Financing Agreement based of the 'simplified' template	
	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)	Annex Commission Decision	Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs)
4.3. Implementation of the Budget Support Component (and subsections)	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
4.4. Implementation Modalities (and subsections)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.6. Indicative Budget	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
4.7. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	If applicable and relevant	If applicable and relevant
4.8 Pre-conditions [only for project modality]	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	If relevant and applicable
5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT						
5.1. Monitoring and Reporting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
5.2. Evaluation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
5.3. Audit and Verifications	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY						
6. Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
APPENDICES						
Appendix 1 Reporting in OPSYS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Appendix 2 Commission Decision and TAPs	Delete and replace with Appendix for Blending if applicable	N/A	N/A	Delete and replace with Appendix for Budget Support if applicable	N/A	N/A
Other: Appendix only for Blending: List Lead Finance Institutions	To be added	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other: Appendix only for Budget Support (Disbursement Arrangements, Conditions and Performance Indicators)	N/A	N/A	N/A	To be added	N/A	N/A