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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VIII

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for 2022-2024

Action Document for a Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative (YWDI)

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23(2) of Regulation 2021/947.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative (YWDI) CRIS reference: 043-867 OPSYS reference: ACT-60855 / JAD.973347 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	This Action is part of the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Democracy.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out worldwide
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	This Action intends to contribute to the Multi-Annual Indicative Programming (MIP) for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027, in particular, its Priority 2: Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies, and the two axes of action thereunder: (i) Strengthen democratic, accountable and transparent institutions, in particular, (a) enhancing the effectiveness, accountability and transparency of Parliaments, and (b) engaging civil society observers in election observation; and (ii) Promote participatory and representative decision-making, in particular, (a) supporting political pluralism and inclusiveness, (b) promoting active citizenship in public and political life, and fostering the role of civil society in oversight and accountability mechanisms.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority 2: Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies DAC sector code 150 – Governance and Civil Society
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 16 and 5 Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 10
8 a) DAC code(s)	Main DAC code – 15150 – Democratic participation and civil society

	Sub-code 1 – 15170 – Women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions Sub-code 2 – 15151 – Elections Sub-code 3 – 15152 – Legislature and political parties			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	10000 – Public sector institutions 20000 – Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) 40000 – Multilateral organisations 60000 – Private sector institutions			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020211 Total estimated cost: EUR 40 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 40 000 000 The contribution is for an amount of EUR 20 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022, for an amount of EUR 20 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Under the overall framework of the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Democracy, this Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative (YWDI) will be a flagship action aimed at fostering functioning pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracies worldwide. It will comprise three inter-connected pillars on:

(I) Women's Political Participation (WPP), aimed at achieving gender equality in political decision-making, by supporting global research, data collection, analysis and dissemination; building and supporting networks and knowledge-sharing platforms for more effective global advocacy; as well as piloting and leveraging concrete actions on the ground.

(II) Youth Participation in Public Affairs (YPPA), aimed at strengthening youth participation in and around public life, both in politics as well as by engaging in non-partisan civic activism, monitoring institutions and democratic processes including, notably, through domestic election observation, and supporting the right to freedom of assembly and association, with a strong focus on women youth.

(III) Strengthening key democratic institutions, including parliaments, building upon the pilot project turned flagship "INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership", to continue supporting global initiatives on parliamentary development and building the capacities of selected partner parliaments in a peer-to-peer approach through

exchanges with EU Member States (EU MS) parliaments, with an ever stronger focus on women and youth, while also supporting civil society's engagement with parliaments, strengthening notably women and youth organisations' interactions with legislatures, and political parties, building global knowledge and networks, while also carrying out in-country activities to strengthen multi-party systems, strengthening the legal and financial frameworks and promoting multi-party dialogues, as well as to build the capacities of political parties themselves, with a strong focus on women and youth.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Democracy is a fundamental value, alongside the rule of law and respect for human dignity and human rights. It is also intimately linked to the creation of more stable, prosperous and peaceful societies. Research shows that growth does not bring democracy – but democracy can bring (inclusive and sustainable) growth. The majority of the world's poor live in middle income countries, characterised by poor governance, high inequality and weak democracy. Improving democracy is not peripheral to alleviating poverty – it is central.

The world is currently experiencing a wave of autocratisation characterised by increasing executive power, erosion of democratic norms, and a general constriction of fundamental freedoms. One-third of the world's population – 2.6 billion people – now live in countries undergoing autocratisation.

Several sources of data support these concerns: the V-Dem Annual Democracy Report, International IDEA's Global State of Democracy, the EIU Democracy Index, the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) Report and Freedom House all point to a decline in democracy in virtually all regions of the world. Liberal democracies diminished over the past decade from 41 countries to 32, with a population share of only 14%, while 68% of the global population is living under autocratic regimes. The number of democratising countries is also dwindling, down by almost half compared to 10 years ago – there are now only 16 such countries, which are home to just 4% of the global population¹.

The level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2020 is down to levels last found around 1990. The majority of our partner countries are categorised as 'autocracies' by research organisations, making democracy support a priority if we are to bring lasting change. Even subtle democratic backsliding, for example through legislative overreach that in practice makes the exercise of fundamental rights difficult or dangerous, has been exacerbated by the COVID crisis that suspended some rights during states of emergency. Many of these have not been restored (to date over a hundred countries still have pandemic measures in place and 58 have not ended states of emergency) and the crisis has offered a lasting pretext for tightening freedoms through permanent legislation. Beyond alleviating poverty and supporting sustainable growth, the beneficial impact of democracy on peace and stability, social cohesion and human development, environmental protection and non-discrimination are well documented, making democracy the nearest thing we have to a 'magic bullet'. SDG 16 is both an enabler and an accelerator of the other SDGs.

Women's political participation

Girls and women have a right to engage in civil society, vote in elections, be elected to government office, serve on boards, and make their voices heard in any process that will ultimately affect them, their families, and their communities. Nevertheless, women continue to be under-represented as voters, political leaders and elected officials, as official peace negotiators and mediators. Change is slow in elected positions and decision-making bodies at all levels. Although some 39% of countries have brought in quotas for women representation in parliaments or political parties, implementation is hampered by factors, such as gender stereotypes, political party structures and the lack of political financing. At the same time, a new vocal generation of young women and girl activists has taken up a wide range of causes including girl and women empowerment. They should be given a platform to speak up and engage. Paving the way for more women in the political, business, and civic arena is an

¹ Data from V-Dem Democracy Report 2021: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/publications/democracy-reports/>

investment in more just, equitable, and peaceful societies. Investing in girls' and women's right to political participation is a necessary step to achieving global gender equality and democratic governance. The Action aligns with the new gender Action Plan III 2021-2025 ²“An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action”, more specifically regarding the “Thematic area of engagement - Promoting equal participation and leadership”.

Youth Participation in Public affairs

Today there are 1.3 billion young people in the world and this number is only expected to increase by the end of the decade. Data suggests that up to 30% of the world youth will be concentrated in the developing world, with 10 countries having nearly half of their population under 15 years old. While having a younger population can translate into innovative ideas, having a larger upcoming workforce and lead economic growth, young people also face a series of challenges either socioeconomic or political, which impedes them from taking advantage of opportunities and fulfilling their potential. Often young people are excluded from the decision-making process and lack trust in state institutions and their ability to respond to their needs. Empowering youth by increasing their participation and representation in public affairs is a way to answer to these challenges, while also fostering a sense of active citizenship, and a culture of democracy and democratic values. Democracies worldwide struggle with a growing trend of youth disenfranchisement, and with finding ways to respond in a meaningful way to new forms of youth participation. In this context, non-formal and non-partisan forms of youth participation have been increasing as alternative ways to traditional political engagement. Youth organisations as well as youth-led organisations try to respond to this thirst for participation, each with their own added value, the latter having the advantage of systematically putting young people in charge by definition. This action aims to strengthen democracy and democratic governance through empowering youth participation in public affairs, via (i) traditional political engagement, (ii) non-partisan citizen oversight such as domestic election observation, (iii) through new forms of political participations and (iv) the promotion of the fundamental freedom of assembly. It is paramount for the future and sustainability of democracy that young people recognise its benefits and actively engage in democratic practices in all their forms.

Parliaments are the central institution of any democracy. They are, arguably, the oldest of all democratic institutions. They reflect pluralism and diversity in society through their representation function. They legitimise the rule of law through their legislative function. They are pivotal in ensuring accountability of the government to the people through their oversight function. They also play a central role in deciding how state resources are allocated, and reviewing how these are spent, through their budgetary prerogatives. In addition, the strength of their administrative functioning as a public institution is key for them to deliver on all their functions. Research shows that democracies perform better when parliaments are stronger. However, worldwide some groups are under-represented, in particular women (25.58% 2020)³, youth (2.2% of MPs are under age 30, 15.5% are under age 40 and 28.1% are under age 45)⁴ and representatives of marginalised groups.

In turn, **political parties** also play a key role in democratic systems. They are in fact a unique type of organisation through which citizens come together with the aim of influencing policy-making and ultimately attaining, or sharing, political power. In that process, political parties research, debate and present policy proposals, they nominate candidates and run campaigns at elections, and typically interact and negotiate with other political parties to form coalitions, reaching power as government, or remaining in opposition, overseeing the government and presenting alternative policy positions. In this sense, political parties are usually considered the “gatekeepers” of political power, thus playing a crucial role in terms of women and youth political participation. Nevertheless, women and youth are also under-represented in these institutions.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

² See: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/gender-equality-and-empowering-women-and-girls_en

³ Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%) see : <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS?view=chart>

⁴ Inter-Parliamentary Union, Youth participation in national parliaments: 2018 see: <http://archive.ipu.org/pdf/publications/youthrep-e.pdf>

Despite **women's** increased engagement in public life in the past 20 years, equality is far off and power imbalances between women and men remain at all levels of decision-making. In his report to the Sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), the UN Secretary-General noted that despite women's increased engagement in public life, gender parity (50/50) is far from achieved in elected and appointed positions. According to Women-IPU Women in Politics Map (2021) and data on women in local governments collected by UN Women, currently women make up just one-quarter of national legislators worldwide, 36% of local government members, and 21% of cabinet ministers. Only 24 countries are headed by a woman Head of State or Government. At the current rate of progress, gender parity will not be reached in national legislatures before 2063, or among Heads of Government before 2150.

Women in public life, including politicians, journalists and activists are often subject to gender-based violence, including different forms of online violence and even femicide, amid shrinking civic space. Politically motivated attacks on women have been on the rise in nearly every region, reaching a record high in 2019. A 2016 survey of women politicians from 39 countries found that 82% percent had experienced psychological violence, with 44% percent facing violent threats. Violence against women in politics is distinct from violence in politics, and it is one of the key deterrents to women's political participation.

More than half of the world population is under 30 years of age. Unfortunately, young people remain often sidelined in formal decision-making processes. Voter turnout among **youth** ages 18-25 continues to be lower than other age groups and they are less likely to join political parties⁵ Interestingly, while youth is under-represented in Parliaments and "Male parliamentarians continue to outnumber their female counterparts in every age group (...) there is greater gender balance among the youngest parliamentarians: a ratio of approximately 60:40 for single and lower chambers and 70:30 for upper chambers."⁶^[1] Nevertheless, young men and women are very often disillusioned with political leadership and political institutions and excluded. In developing countries, many young men and women do not participate in elections as voters, even less as candidates. As a result, political activism of youth is not always expressed through formal structures and processes. However informal engagement can be understood as political participation⁷, and both are beneficial for a vivid and resilient democracy. Obstacles for youth participation in democratic processes are numerous and multi-faceted: lack of administrative ID, civil registration processes, voter registration processes⁸, age requirements to vote or run for office, limited civic education and political literacy, party politics, culture and traditions, and distrust in political institutions.

Inclusive participation in decision-making processes is not only a fundamental political and democratic right but is also crucial to building stable and peaceful societies and developing policies that respond to the specific needs of younger generations. The first step to enhance young people's political participation is to support the creation of enabling environments and accessible processes that will re-engage and bring youth closer to political institutions and increase their participation in both formal and informal ways. Secondly, initiatives targeting barriers for young people participating in public affairs and in politics can be identified and facilitated.

Citizen activists exercising their freedoms of association and assembly are frequently characterised and led by youth and student movements that may stand outside the formal registration procedures framed by law. The right to protest, through the freedom of peaceful assembly, is too easily curtailed by a range of limitations from administrative barriers to practices of police brutality and arbitrary arrests. Information about the international standards to safeguard these freedoms in law and practice can be mobilised to protect citizen and youth activists when they protest, to follow up on protests and to document human rights violations that occur.

As regards **parliaments**, while these are the central institution of any democracy, their levels of development, powers and performance vary significantly from country to country. They are often considerably overshadowed by the executive. They may not be recognised enough powers by a country's constitution or may not be allowed to exercise their powers in full. They may also be severely under-resourced, to the point of lacking any institutional and financial autonomy, or not having the research capacities to adequately contribute to government bills or

⁵ UNDP youth strategy 2014-2017 "Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future"

⁶ Inter-Parliamentary Union, Youth participation in national parliaments: 2018 see: <http://archive.ipu.org/pdf/publications/youthrep-e.pdf>

⁷ UNDP, Enhancing Youth Political Participation throughout the Electoral Cycle, 2013.

⁸ Several Election Observation Mission reports have been mentioning the disenfranchisement of young people from voter lists.

policies. They may also face staff issues, with politically-biased recruitments, shortages or inadequate training and skills. Internally, the level playing field may be compromised by the majority, leaving little space for the opposition or minority political groups, through inadequate internal rules and procedures.

In countries in sudden democratic transition, there is often a complete lack of genuine democratic parliamentary traditions, with little experience of how parliamentary committees should work or how parliament should exercise its budgetary role. Importantly, in many countries, parliaments suffer from a bad reputation or distrust among citizens and are thus in need of improving their public engagement. The COVID-19 has exacerbated some of these issues, especially at the earliest stages of the pandemic, although it has also offered opportunities in terms of harnessing new digital technologies and innovation.

Political party systems and **political parties** themselves may face multiple challenges. This is especially the case in countries undergoing a democratic transition. To begin with, the overall framework for political parties may be inadequate for a fair multi-party system to develop. This may include aspects such as the legal framework, the financing of political parties and the crucial issue of *money in politics* (including campaign financing), the independence and capacity of the public body dealing with political parties (registration, control, sanctions, illegalisation etc.), as well as, importantly, the public perception of political parties, especially among the youth and in countries where political parties may have been previously banned. Moreover, political parties themselves may also face challenges, such as inadequate or undemocratic internal organisation, non-inclusion of certain groups of society such as women or youth, poor territorial outreach, lack of experience or capacities to prepare political programmes and manifestos, run campaigning, engage with citizens and civil society. Their individual members may also be in need of developing relevant personal skills, such as leadership, communication, public speaking, negotiation and consensus reaching.

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

In terms of the **women political participation**, the key stakeholders will be: women leaders, young women activists, women's rights organisations, research institutions on women political participation, women politicians, including at international organisations, national governments, parliamentarians, local councils and members of political parties.

As regards **youth participation in public affairs**, the main stakeholders will be young citizens, especially young women citizens, youth organisations, youth councils, civil society organisations, domestic/citizen observer organisations, as well as, more broadly, young people involved in EU-supported structures such as the AU EU Youth cooperation hub, ERASMUS+ Alumni networks, INTPA youth sounding board (25 members) and Youth Sounding Boards at EU Delegations level.

As for the component on **parliamentary strengthening**, the key stakeholders will be parliaments themselves, both partner countries' parliaments and EU MS parliaments. Within parliaments, both Members of Parliament (MPs) as well as staff from parliaments' secretariats will be targeted, in particular women and youth. Civil society organisations, in particular Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations (PMOs) will also be major stakeholders. Other stakeholders will include international organisations, notably the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), specialised foundations, academia and governments.

The main stakeholders for the component on support to **political parties**, are political parties *per se*, as well as its members, with a focus on women and young party members. Other stakeholders include civic movements that may eventually become political parties as well as other civil society organisations. It will also include the relevant state institutions and governmental department as stakeholders.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to **foster functioning pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracy around the world.**

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

1. Strengthen women and girls political participation, incorporating their needs, interests, concerns, contributions and perspective into political life, without discrimination on any basis.
2. Contribute to young people being better informed, networked and empowered on actively, safely and legally participating in civic activism and political office
3. Contribute to making key democratic institutions and actors more inclusive, accountable and pluralistic, with a focus on women and youth

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

1.1 contributing to Outcome 1: Availability of data and analysis on women political participation is increased

1.2 contributing to Outcome 1: Networking of women in politics and already existing dialogue mechanisms on women's political participation at global, regional and local level to promote access to politics to women and young leaders is set in motion

1.3 contributing to Outcome 1: Social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women's political participation promoted

2.1 contributing to Outcome 2: Young people better informed and capacitated on how to engage in monitoring democratic institutions and processes, including through domestic election observation and parliamentary monitoring

2.2 contributing to Outcome 2: Cross-border networks of young people active in politics are set up or reinforced to advocate for removing barriers to youth political participation

2.3 contributing to Outcome 2: Young political activists and political representatives are supported in developing their skills, advocating for youth issues and achieving positions of influence

2.4 contributing to Outcome 2: Multi-party systems including legal and financial frameworks are reinforced, with a focus on women and youth representation and participation

2.5 contributing to Outcome 2: Activists (especially youth) exercising their Freedoms of Association and Assembly are better equipped to claim their rights, stay safe and document violations of their rights.

3.1 contributing to Outcome 3: Parliaments' capacities on key functions (representation, legislation, oversight, budget etc) are strengthened, with a focus on women and youth representation and participation

3.2 contributing to Outcome 3: Political parties capacities are strengthened with a focus on youth and women's political representation and participation.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1, 1.2, 1.3:

- Supporting research on women political participation: Promote comparative research on women's political participation. To map existing knowledge tools, databases, and surveys as sources of data on VAW in Politics, and facilitated the exchange of lessons learned, experiences, and good practices in data collection
- Foster peer to peer exchange to creating intergeneration spaces of dialogue exchange and networks
- Supporting global partnerships and networks that mobilize women leaders, and share knowledge, expertise, in support of achieving the SDGs on women and girls' political participation.
- To promote advocacy campaigns to convince relevant stakeholders to ensure equal opportunities and rights for men and women, contributing to positive social change.

- Support the design of effective strategies for CSOs, journalists and media professionals to shield and protect women in politics from digital threats, such as mass manipulation, misinformation, fake news and hate speech including in social media.

Activities related to Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 :

- Building or reinforcing networks of youth organisations (including domestic election observers and parliamentary monitoring) and movements at global and regional level
- Identifying and mapping the barriers of youth participation in public affairs, following trends towards their progressive removal
- Peer-to-peer exchanges between young people active in politics
- Workshops, events, and on-line content, to share knowledge about Democracy, promote global citizenship, advocate for youth participation, and put forward solutions for removing barriers
- Decentralized sensitisation on the benefits of democracy, transparency, inclusivity, electoral integrity, global citizenship versus identity politics
- Sub grants to national and regional CSOs network led by or working with young people (including domestic election observation)
- Capacitating and/or provide sub-grants to youth organisations and movements at regional and country level in close coordination with EU Delegations
- Engaging existing accountability labs into more scrutiny accountability activities involving young people
- Offering guidance, scholarships and grants in Universities to students carrying out research and studies in the field of Democracy and Good governance
- Creation of youth citizen assemblies at local, country or regional levels in close coordination with EUDELs

Activities related to Output 2.4:

- Supporting networks of political party support organisations at global level
- Production of knowledge and sharing of practices on political party support
- Multi-party dialogues at global, regional and country level
- Multi-party workshops on key issues pertaining to political parties (legal frameworks, political party financing, money in politics, campaign financing,... etc)
- Multi-party workshops on key themes, with a focus on women and youth political participation

Activities related to Output 2.5 :

- Global or regional protest observatories, possibly including deployment capabilities for protest monitors, trainers and/or legal support.
- Awareness-raising, accompaniment and capacity-building on the practical exercise of Freedom of Association and peaceful Assembly, possibly to include print or digital information or resources.

Activities related to Output 3.1:

- Supporting networks of parliamentary development organisations at global level
- Production of knowledge and sharing of practices on parliamentary strengthening
- Fostering peer-to-peer exchanges among parliaments
- Trainings, workshops and seminars on key issues affecting parliaments

Activities related to Output 3.2:

- Trainings, workshops, seminar for political parties on key issues pertaining to political party organisation, skills and activities, with a focus on women and youth political participation
- Trainings for political parties members on key skills, with a focus on women and youth political participation
- Mentoring initiatives, in particular for women and young members of political parties
- Fostering peer-to-peer exchanges, in particular for women and young members of political parties
- support to the development of cross-party codes of conduct aimed at preventing electoral fraud and electoral violence and apply international standards with a focus on transparent party financing

- The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation

of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

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

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

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

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as **G2**. This implies that gender equality is the principal objective for parts of this programme, while remaining a significant objective for the other parts.

Human Rights

The action will apply the **human rights based approach (HRBA)**, working towards strengthening the capacities of rights-holders to make their claims and of duty-bearers to meet their obligations, and applying its five principles: 1): 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.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the rights of persons with disabilities will be considered throughout the action. Particularly, the inclusiveness of decision-making process will be enhanced, through the support to young citizen election observers, so that persons with disabilities' right to vote is more respected.

Democracy

The overall objective of this action is to foster a functioning pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy. Democracy is thus not only mainstreamed all across the action but the main reason for it. Notably, the action will promote the universal values of democracy around the world as well as global citizenship, with a strong focus on women and youth.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The action will also duly consider and mainstream conflict sensitivity and will contribute towards building peaceful and resilient societies. It will apply the "do-no-harm" and "leave no one behind" principles. Specific risks related to increase in vulnerability of youth and women should be considered, e.g. risks of threats, etc. to election observers, women more visible in the political arena, etc.

Disaster Risk Reduction

By promoting a pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy and effective governance, the action will also contribute towards disaster risk reduction at global level.

Other considerations if relevant
N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures
Political	Democracy continues to decline in a large number of countries, making it increasingly difficult to work on the ground with partner countries.	M	M	The action monitors the state of democracy and helps to raise awareness about violations of human rights. If common actions are not possible in certain countries, the project team will explore possibilities for cooperation outside the indicative list of countries.
Contextual	The COVID-19 health crisis does not allow travel and in-person meetings.	H	L	Meetings and activities will be held online as necessary, with physical meetings only when they add value and are feasible.
Operational	Risk of overlapping activities; duplication.	L	M	Given that this action covers countries which benefit from NDICI funding, specific care will be devoted to keeping all stakeholders abreast of planned activities. EUDs will be consulted before any activity is planned. An overall Strategic Committee will ensure coordination among components.
Operational	The implementing partners of the project do not adapt to its requirements.	L	M	The Steering Committees, per component, and the Implementation Task Forces (ITFs), per project, will steer the direction and will monitor activities of the action.
Political	Not all youth spontaneous movements and initiatives are benevolent and adhering to the fundamental values of democracy and human rights. The program inadvertently supports or contributes funding to a movement with discriminatory undertones. Unintended risks for young electoral observers (threats, etc.)	L	M	The program will comprise specific expertise in charge of analysing the political economy/ideology, and messaging of youth networks and providing early warning in order to be able to direct the support towards those youth initiatives that are willing to participate in public affairs in a peaceful, inclusive and constructive way. The program promotes global citizenship and avoids identity politics.
Political	Lack of access of peace monitors, election observers or civil rights monitors	L	M	The programme will engage with local actors to boost citizen observation capacity and peer-to-peer exchange of information. Lack of access would be circumvented by supporting the work by diaspora or cross-border networks, also taking inspiration from the “Supporting Democracy: a citizen program” proposed strategies ⁹ to confront shrinking civic space.

⁹ https://media4democracy.eu/wp-content/uploads/documents/Study_on_Approaches_to_Democratic_Participation/ICP-STUDY-Malaysia.pdf

Social	Socio-cultural settings do not prioritise the promotion of gender equality	M	M	Where relevant additional awareness-raising and training will be provided to create shared values and norms to be respected and promoted.
Political	Risk of politicisation/imbalance support (perception of partisan support or foreign interference)	L	M	The programme implementation will be entrusted to partners with demonstrated experience and sound methodology in providing cross-political party support in a balanced way.
Security-related	Women and young political candidates are facing harassments, threats and even physical or sexual violence in certain contexts.	M	H	The programme will carry out security assessments before delivering support to candidates. Amongst possible mitigating measures, trainings and networking opportunities will be offered in a neighbouring country in order to avoid fuelling existing threats.

Lessons Learnt:

As regards **women political participation**, the programme will build upon experience of projects in this field implemented at country level, adding now a missing global dimension. It will also draw from the experience of “INTER PARES” (see below) supporting gender-focused peer to peer activities, as well as mainstreaming gender issues across all partnership work. The added values of the programme will be:

- The programme will apply the transformative approach by promoting social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women’s political participation.
- The programme will engage girls and young women and support their growth and pathways to greater political power and influence, encouraging cross-generational learnings, sharing leadership best practices, and activating and strengthening new and existing networks of women to engage in politics and leadership
- A new and innovative component will be Violence against women in politics: In 2021, the CSW theme united two strands of work that, until recently, were treated separately: women’s political participation and the elimination of violence against women. Specific attention will be paid to violence in the media and violence via digital technologies.
- Digitalization will be another important component, in line with the priority of the commission: Vibrant safe public spaces, and safe online environments can amplify women’s voice and increase their political leadership.

The component on **youth participation in public affairs** will get inspiration from previous successful projects on youth participation, notably under the EIDHR, and the many projects of schools of Democracy, schools of politics, citizen election observers funded by EU delegations at country level. It will also inherit the legacy of “Supporting Democracy: a citizen’s program.” Experience supporting civil rights activities under the EIDHR Human Rights Crises Facility and the complementary work of other donors and partner organisations feed into the design of the action. Actions by Commission’s DG NEAR in the field of democracy promotion are worth exploring for possible replication in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. The FPI Sustaining Peace during Electoral Process (SELECT) project, implemented by UNDP, which started in October 2021, will gather knowledge and lessons learnt, inter alia on Youth participation and support to Parliaments, which will directly benefit the present action. Handicap International / Humanité & Inclusion is carrying out a 22 M EUR program with the previous thematic line for CSO-LA in West Africa: the many success stories emanating from this program and the networks created are source of inspiration and opportunities for the present action.

As regards **parliamentary strengthening**, key lessons have been drawn from the pilot project entitled “INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership - *EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments*” launched in 2019 with the aim of building the capacities of parliaments in partner countries in a peer-to-peer approach, facilitating exchanges and sharing of experiences with EU MS parliaments. The first lesson is that the peer-to-peer approach has proven to be a successful modality for institutional capacity building drawing on a very unique type of EU public sector expertise. The *European parliamentary know-how* is genuinely valued by partner parliaments around the world, in particular in countries transitioning to democracy. Moreover, EU MS parliaments themselves have shown high

interest in engaging and participating in project activities and have demanded that the project is continued and further built upon. EU Delegations have also highly appreciated the project. Because of its pilot nature and relatively small budget, INTER PARES was only able to provide support in 15 countries, out of the over 40 EU Delegations that expressed interest. Due to its high specialisation and capacity for rapid deployment, the project was able to offer timely support contributing to swift EU engagement in changing political contexts helping to seize the momentum (Malaysia, The Gambia, Libya, Chile...). Moreover, INTER PARES proofed an excellent opportunity for a first EU engagement with a partner country's parliament that can then be sustainably built upon by the relevant EU Delegation with a country-specific bilateral project.

In terms of managing relations with stakeholders, an important lesson is that only a project managed centrally at headquarters can efficiently deal with all EU MS parliaments, channelling requests from partner parliaments and expressions of interests by EU MS parliaments. A further positive experience that should be retained was the fact of engaging at both levels, the political level (Speaker, Bureau and Members of Parliament) and the administrative level (secretariat and its staff), considered the backbone of parliaments. Finally, INTER PARES's global engagement and activities, including supporting the development of international standards for democratic parliaments, bringing together the community of practice around the AGORA platform and other initiatives, organising thematic conferences, and producing knowledge, including a series of e-learning modules, were impactful and appreciated, and should continue and further build upon.

As for support to **political parties**, relevant lessons have been learned from the "Pilot Programme to Strengthen Political Parties" launched in the form of global call for proposals in 2017 under which five grants were awarded. The first lesson learned was the relevance of the programme and the need to boost support to political parties as part of EU democracy support. A further important lesson learned was the need for more flexibility in programme design, to be able to respond to changing political contexts. In this sense, a programme that is centrally managed at headquarters, but that can deploy rapidly the necessary expertise and conduct relevant activities at country level upon request by stakeholders and EU Delegations, would seem more efficient. A further lesson learned is the need to work at both levels of promoting multi-party dialogues, on the one side, and building the capacities of political parties themselves, on the other. In terms of specific activities, peer-to-peer exchanges as well as mentoring initiatives have proven successful and should be retained.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that by enhancing women and youth political participation and by strengthening parliaments and political party systems, with a stronger focus on women and youth, more pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracies can be fostered around the world.

The specific objective of the first component of this action is to advance **women's political participation** through global evidence gathering, knowledge, networking and action. The aim is to put in place a flagship programme that will drive transformative change through the facilitation of high-level political networks and power discourses at global level, in cooperation with women politicians and leaders such as Ministers, Parliamentarians, and Senators. On one hand the action will support networking of women in politics and already existing dialogue mechanisms on women's political participation at global, regional and local level to promote access to politics to women. On the other hand, it will strengthen and improve access and exchange of knowledge, statistics disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible). Applying a transformative approach, specific actions will be carried out to promote social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women's political participation. Awareness will be raised on traditional gender roles, gender-based stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes on women's political participation, particularly VAW in politics.

As regards **youth political participation**, the specific objective of this component is to raise awareness of the benefits of democracy and good governance amongst young people and in particular young women and supporting their active involvement in public affairs. The aim is to support initiatives that promote a better understanding of democracy and encourage young people to take on an active role in monitoring democratic processes. Some will dedicate themselves to a political career, through political movements and parties. Some others will gain active experience in the safe exercise of their civic rights by taking part in peaceful mass movements or protests. This will enable young people to deepen their understanding of democracy and its processes and their own place in it. By supporting the engagement of cross-border networks of young people it helps foster inclusiveness and a sense of global citizenship. This action also recognises that youth political participation is often done via non-formal and non-partisan forms, and encourages such movements, insofar as these are peaceful and democratic in respect of international human rights norms. Through doing this, this action leads to greater involvement of youth in different forms of political life, which will lead to more inclusive and representative democracies.

In turn, in order to encourage **parliaments** to contribute towards a more a pluralistic and inclusive democracy, the action will act on two mutually-reinforcing fronts. On the one hand, it will support strengthening their institutional capacities from within, in a peer-to-peer approach, through exchanges with EU MS parliaments, building upon the successful pilot of "INTER PARES". On the other hand, it will encourage them to perform better from without, by strengthening civil society's engagement with parliaments, in particular through support to PMOs, which typically involve mainly youth. Both subcomponents will operate both at global level, building communities of practice, producing knowledge, sharing best practices, as well as at country level, piloting smaller-scale interventions, upon request and/or with close involvement of EU Delegations. A strong focus on women and youth will be ensured throughout.

As regards **political parties**, the aim is to put in place a flagship programme that, beyond conducting activities at global level (building communities of practice, producing knowledge, sharing best practices) operates at country level, being flexible and rapidly deployable, able to carry out concrete activities on the ground upon request and/or with close involvement of EU Delegations. This will be done through two subcomponents. The first subcomponent will focus on reinforcing multi-party systems, in particular, promoting multi-party dialogues, addressing issues of common concern to political parties. A second subcomponent will focus on strengthening the capacities of political parties themselves and their members, with a strong focus on women and youth. Both subcomponents will be complementary and coordinate activities at global and country level.

This action will be implemented in a Team Europe approach, as part of, and in full complementarity with, the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Democracy. This Action will ensure complementary, synergy and coordination with other EU and EU MS-funded programmes, both at country level as well as globally, notably with the thematic programme for Civil Society Organisations.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To foster functioning pluralistic, participatory and representative democracies	1 International IDEA GoSD Index 2 EUI Democracy Index 3 V-Dem Institute Democracy Index	1 2	1 2	1 International IDEA 2 EIU 3 V-Dem Institute	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Strengthen women and girls political participation, incorporating their needs, interests, concerns, contributions and perspective into political life, without discrimination on any basis.	1.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (MIP indicator) 1.2 Improved systems for collecting quality, disaggregated and globally comparable data on women's political participation and leadership	1.1 1.2	1.1 1.2	1.1 Inter-Parliamentary Union Parline Database 1.2	
Outcome 2	2. Contribute to young people being better informed, networked and empowered on actively, safely and legally participating in civic activism and political office	2.1 Percentage of citizens who are [very/fairly] satisfied with the way democracy works in their country 2.2 Number of non-EU countries improving V-DEM Participatory Component Index (PCI). (MIP indicator)	2.1 2.2	2.1 2.2	2.1 Data from Afro Barometer, Asian Barometer, Latinobarometer 2.2 .2 V-Dem database and reports	The implementation will be tasked with following and reporting on those indicators in a specific yearly report.

		<p>2.3 Number of countries which national youth strategy comprises youth participation in public affairs</p> <p>2.4 Country score according to the Worldwide Governance Indicator (WGI) on "Voice and Accountability"</p> <p>2.5 Extent to which parties modify internal rules to formalize wider participation in decision making</p>			<p>2.3 Action progress report</p> <p>2.4 Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) - Voice and Accountability Dimension</p> <p>2.5 Baseline and endline assessments of party internal rules & statutes</p>	
Outcome 3	3. Contribute to making key democratic institutions and actors more inclusive, accountable and pluralistic, with a focus on women and youth	<p>3.1 Number of parliaments receiving EU funded actions (MIP indicators)</p> <p>3.2 Number of non-EU countries improving their V-DEM Participatory Component Index (PCI) (MIP indicator)</p>			<p>3.1 Reporting data</p> <p>3.2 V-DEM Database and reports</p>	This data will be monitored by the implementing partners.
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 Networking of women in politics and already existing dialogue mechanisms on women's political participation at global, regional and local level to promote access to politics to women and young leaders is set in motion	<p>1.1.1 number of women and girls participating to the networking for women in politics and for new generations of women and girl activists</p>	<p>1.1.1</p> <p>1.1.2</p>	<p>1.1.1</p> <p>1.1.2</p>	<p>1.1.1</p> <p>1.1.2</p>	
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Availability of data and analysis on women political participation is increased	<p>1.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders to inform evidence-based decision making</p>	<p>1.2.1</p> <p>1.2.2</p>	<p>1.2.1</p> <p>1.2.2</p>	<p>1.2.1</p> <p>1.2.2</p>	
Output 3 related to Outcome 1	1.3 Social norms, attitudes and behaviours conducive to enhance women's political participation promoted	<p>1.3.1 Number of people reached by campaigns to promote women's political participation in politics</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of people trained on identification of hate speech, harassment and violence against</p>				

		women in politics, gender-based stereotypes and bias, online abuse and misogynist speech.				
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Young people better informed and capacitated on how to engage in monitoring institutions and democratic processes including through domestic election observation	<p>2.1.1 Number of young Domestic Electoral Observers receiving EU-funded trainings with increased knowledge and/or skills disaggregated by sex and gender (where latter is possible). (MIP indicator)</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of young people that received training on issues concerning democracy disaggregated by sex and gender (where latter is possible).</p> <p>2.1.3 Percentage of citizens who are [very/fairly] satisfied with the way democracy works in their country disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible).</p>	<p>2.1.1</p> <p>2.1.2</p>	<p>2.1.1</p> <p>2.1.2</p>	<p>2.1.1 Reports</p> <p>2.1.2 Training participants database</p> <p>2.1.3 Data source Afro Barometer, Asian Barometer, Latinobarometer</p>	The projects emanating from this action document will further develop indicators and gather data.
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	2.2 Cross-border networks of young people active in politics are set up or reinforced to advocate for removing barriers to youth political participation	<p>2.2.1 Number of non-EU countries improving V-DEM Participatory Component Index (PCI). (MIP indicator)</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of members of CSOs working on youth inclusion who were trained or supported through this action disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible).</p>			<p>2.2.1 V-Dem database & reports</p> <p>2.2.2 Training participants database</p>	The projects emanating from this action document will further develop indicators and gather data.
Output 3 related to Outcome 2	2.3 Multi-party systems including legal and financial frameworks are reinforced, with a focus on women and youth representation and participation	Number of young candidates presented in elections by political parties, disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible).			2.3.1 Action progress reports	The projects emanating from this action document will further develop indicators and gather data.

					2.3.2 Training participants database	
Output 4 related to Outcome 2	2.4: Young political activists and political representatives are supported in developing their skills, advocating for youth issues and achieving positions of influence	Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by age, sex and gender where latter is possible).				
Output 5 related to Outcome 2	2.5: Activists (especially youth) exercising their Freedoms of Association and Assembly are better equipped to claim their rights, stay safe and document violations of their rights.	2.5.1 Number of mass protest events accompanied or monitored 2.5.2 Number of spontaneous movements mapped by the project 2.5.3 Number of CSO representatives trained by this Action on youth participation and inclusion disaggregated by age, sex and gender (where latter is possible)..			Documentation of mass protest events/reports on violations	
Output 1 related to Outcome 3	3.1 Parliaments' capacities on key functions (representation, legislation, oversight, budget etc) are strengthened, with a focus on women and youth representation and participation	3.1.1 Number of parliaments receiving EU funded actions (MIP indicators)	3.1.1	3.1.1	3.1.1 Action progress reports	To be monitored by the implementing partner
Output 2 related to Outcome 3	3.2 Political parties capacities are strengthened with a focus on youth and women's political representation and participation	3.2.1 Proportion of women and youth in political parties involved in core-heart functions (youth wing and security/orders service and political rally organisation excluded) 3.2.2 Number of political parties accompanied by the action support	3.2.1	3.2.1	3.2.1 Action Progress reports 3.2.2 Progress Report	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude any financing agreement.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **72 months** from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁰.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants, awarded following call(s) for proposals or direct awards, will contribute to achieving **Objective 2 (Youth Participation in Public Affairs) and Objective 3 (Key Democratic Institutions) of the action.**

(b) Type of applicants targeted

NGOs, foundations, public bodies, international organisations, non-for-profit organisations

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant(s) for any of the above objectives may be awarded without a call for proposals to bodies selected using the following criteria: (i) global remit to support democracy; (ii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks and/or build partnership grassroots organisations; (iii) ability to promote and enhance EU's visibility; (iv) proven expertise and experience in the relevant field; (v) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the resort to an award of a grant without a call for proposals for the part of the Action related to **Objective 2 – Youth Participation in Public Affairs** is justified because the main beneficiary is in legal or factual monopoly situation under (article 195 (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046), as there is no other pan-European democracy support network covering all areas of democracy support in more than 100 countries, including through a comprehensive integrated approach, non-partisan support to youth political participation, multi-party democracy and freedom of speech in the media.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the resort to an award of a grant without a call for proposals for the part of the Action related to **Objective 3 – Key Democratic Institutions – Political Parties** is justified because the main beneficiary is in legal or factual monopoly situation (articles 195 (c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046), as there is only one pan-European umbrella organisation of political foundations.

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

4.3.2 Indirect Management with a Member State Organisation, an EU specialised agency or an international organisation

The part of the Action related to **Objective 1 – Women Political Participation** - may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) global remit to support democracy and gender equality; (ii) proven expertise and experience in women political participation, (iii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks; (iv) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work, (v) familiarity with EU project cycle management and EU financial and contractual procedures, (vi) ability and willingness to work closely with the EU in jointly steering the action as well as to promote and enhance EU visibility. The implementation by this entity entails Objective 1 – Women Political Participation.

The part of the Action related to **Objective 3 – Key Democratic Institutions - Parliaments** - may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) global remit to support democracy; (ii) proven expertise and experience in parliamentary strengthening and/or political parties, (iii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks; (iv) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work, (v) familiarity with EU project cycle management and EU financial and contractual procedures, (vi) ability and willingness to work closely with the EU in jointly steering the action as well as to promote and enhance EU visibility.

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

If the above-mentioned implementation modalities cannot be implemented due to exceptional circumstances, the parts of this Action in indirect management may be replaced by direct management through the award of grant contracts or the procurement of services; and the Parts of this Action in direct management may be replaced by indirect management with a pillar-assessed entity.

The implementation by an alternative entity would be justified because of the following criteria: (i) nature of the action requiring a degree of experience and expertise in the field of democracy support, (ii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant networks; (iii) capacity to marry the academic (knowledge and research), policy (advocacy) and practitioner (operations) aspects of work, (iv) operational capacity and familiarity with EU project cycle management and EU financial and contractual procedures, (v) ability and willingness to work closely with the EU in jointly steering the action as well as to promote and enhance EU visibility.

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.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3		
Objective 1 – Women Political Participation composed of	10 000 000	N.A.
Indirect management with MS Organisation or international organisation	10 000 000	N.A.
Objective 2 – Youth Participation in Public Affairs composed of	20 000 000	N.A.
Grants	20 000 000	N.A.

Objective 3 –Key democratic institutions composed of	10 000 000	
Indirect management with MS Organisation or international organisation	5 000 000	N.A.
Grants	5 000 000	N.A.
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	40 000 000	N.A.
Evaluation Audit	will be covered from another decision	
Totals	40 000 000	

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

This action will be implemented in a Team Europe approach, as part of, and in full complementarity with, the Global Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Democracy.

An overall **Strategic Committee** will be established to provide strategic guidance, ensure coordination among its four components and review overall implementation. It will be chaired by the European Commission's DG INTPA and comprise the following members:

- EU institutions: European External Action Service (EEAS), European Parliament (EP) and other relevant European Commission departments and services (NEAR, FPI, RTD, JUST, etc.)
- Participating EU Member States
- Implementing partners

Each of the four programme components may in turn have a **Steering Committee** to provide specific guidance and review implementation for the relevant component. It will be chaired by the European Commission's DG INTPA, will include the implementing partners and may comprise any other member considered relevant under each component.

Finally, each project, under each of the different components, may have an **Implementation Task Forces (ITF)** that will be in charge of overseeing the technical implementation of the Action on a regular basis, deciding on concrete activities. It will be chaired by the European Commission's DG INTPA and will comprise the relevant implementing partners.

This program is an INTPA contribution to the **Team Europe Initiative on Democracy – TED**. It will be integrated in the third pillar of TED, "Political and civic participation". TED will not intervene in the management or steering of the projects, which will be financially independent of the TED structures. TED will ensure that actions contracted covered by this AD will be coordinated with similar EU Member States actions. Beneficiaries of the actions will be asked to collaborate and communicate with TED Secretariat to ensure coordination between democracy support actions. Narrative reporting from the actions will be shared with TED Secretariat to ensure lessons learned and coordination.

4.7 Pre-conditions

N/A

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a

permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a(n) final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that this action is a pilot being tested.

Adequate gender equality expertise will be ensured in monitoring and evaluation teams.

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country 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, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

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

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention¹¹ (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress.

Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'.

An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as :

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	PINTV per contract with implementation partner

¹¹ [ARES \(2021\)4204912](#) - 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](#).