



EN

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

**ANNEX XV**

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 Support measures for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and measure in the sense of Article 24(1) of Regulation 2021/947.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Support Measures for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme CRIS number: 2022/043-842 (INTPA) and 2022/044-016 (NEAR) OPSYS reference: ACT-60833/JAD.972108 (INTPA) and ACT-60858/JAD.974637 (NEAR) Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out worldwide
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	MIP priority 5: “Delivering by working together” and its specific results: 1. Enhanced effectiveness and visibility of EU action and funding for human rights and democracy. 2. Enhanced space for open and constructive dialogue between civil society, partner countries’ national authorities and the EU in the framework of human rights dialogues and consultations with partner countries.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	151 – Government & Civil Society - general
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: SDG 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels Other significant SDGs:

	- SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - SDG 10: reduce inequality within and among countries			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15160 - Human rights 15150 – Democratic participation and civil society			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	90000 – Other			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<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			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<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"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<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"/> <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line 14.02 02 11  Total estimated cost: EUR 5 411 557  Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 5 411 557  The contribution is for an amount of EUR 1 652 277 (EUR 1 502 277 for INTPA and EUR 150 000 for NEAR) from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 2 579 952 (EUR 2 429 952 for INTPA and EUR 150 000 for NEAR) from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 and for an amount of EUR 1 179 328 (EUR 1 029 328 for INTPA and EUR 150 000 for NEAR) from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, 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.			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Procurement - Grants			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

84420

# 2 RATIONALE

## 2.1 Context

There is an increasing trend towards authoritarianism worldwide. Greater restrictions of fundamental freedoms and mass surveillance have hindered the work of civil society, including human rights defenders, journalists, trade unionists, lawyers and other professionals. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated restrictions by authoritarian states which use the global health crisis as an opportunity to further curtail civic and political space.

This Action comes in response to these negative trends and lines up with the key priority of the EU's external action to protect and promote human rights and democracy. This Action also supports the implementation of the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 and lines up in particular with the priority area 5 "Working better together" of the MIP for the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy.

This Action's main objectives is to provide support measures as identified in Article 24(1) of the NDICI Regulation. In particular, the Action intends to prepare, monitor, evaluate and audit the activities financed by the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the funding. It will also add value, complementarity and consistency with geographical programmes while enhancing the human rights and democracy thematic programme's synergy with EU's policy priorities. Furthermore, this Action will enhance the work of civil society actors working on human rights and democracy issues by providing the necessary visibility, opportunity for consultation, access to political dialogue, support to their monitoring activities which will overall enhance their contribution to sustainable development. The mobilisation of civil society actors around these matters will enhance human rights and democracy advocacy efforts at national level. This will in turn increase visibility of EU support and promotion of EU fundamental values in third-country partners.

The end beneficiaries of the action are civil society organisations active in the field of human rights and democracy including women's rights organisations, human rights defenders and more generally communities of third partner countries. Additional networking activities will ensure their long-term involvement around these issues.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Improving the quality and efficiency of implementation of the Human rights and Democracy thematic programme and ensuring the achievement of its objectives requires an adequate follow-up of interventions through audits, evaluations, expenditures verification, studies and field visits.

Moreover, human and democracy thematic interventions require continuous engagement with civil society organisations as main targeted beneficiaries. This should occur across the project lifecycle following the human rights-based approach to development methodology and gender mainstreaming. Additional parallel activities to human rights and democracy interventions in the form of training sessions, conferences, workshops, visibility and communications actions are therefore needed.

Finally, human and democracy thematic interventions take place in sensitive environments or tackle politically sensitive topics which also require raising of the level of awareness of civil society actors and enhance their ability to engage with state actors as well as the EU in its formal human rights dialogues with partner countries.

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

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

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

The end beneficiaries of the action are civil society organisations active in the fields of human rights and democracy, human rights defenders and more generally citizens and communities of the partner countries in which the HR&D thematic programme will be implemented. Support measures can mitigate some of the risks where national authorities are not empowering an active civil society in their respective countries.

### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide by ensuring the sound management of the HR&D thematic programme, the achievement of its expected objectives and results, its political relevance, visibility and outreach and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact.

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

- 1) Improve the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for the implementation of the programme including information and communication actions.
- 2) Ensure and strengthen the involvement of civil society organisations (including women's rights organisations, social movements) in the preparation and follow-up of dialogues on human rights taking place between the European Union and third countries.

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

- Output 1.1 contributing to Outcome 1: The impact of human rights thematic programme is better monitored, assessed and disseminated.
- Output 1.2 contributing to Outcome 1: CSOs are better guided in implementation of human rights and democracy thematic interventions and their expertise on priority human rights issues benefits from improved networking.
- Output 1.3 contributing to Outcome 1: EU staff are supported in the follow-up of human rights and democracy thematic interventions.
- Output 2.1 contributing to Outcome 2: Joint civil society recommendations do feed into EU human rights dialogues with third countries;

#### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1

- Research and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof
- Audits, evaluations;
- Information and communication activities, including the development of communication strategies to enhance the visibility of the EU and human rights issues, publications, production of promotional material

Activities related to Output 1.2

- Organisation of meetings and training: workshops, civil fora, seminars, working groups, etc.;

Activities related to Output 1.3

- Support for programmes: needs assessments, preparatory activities, studies, exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the management of actions, including interests for late payments;

Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Preparatory activities, such as small-scale studies, prior consultations and technical meetings with civil society organisations active in human rights and women rights in the third country concerned, both in Brussels and in third countries, to prepare for the formal dialogue;
- Seminars and meetings with civil society organisations of the third country and of the European Union in order to discuss specific thematic issues in greater depth;

Follow-up activities, such as debriefings with civil society organisations on the outcomes.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

Cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and women's empowerment, disability, human rights and democracy and digitalisation as well as respect for the environment are crucial to the Human Rights and Democracy programme and its implementation at global and country level. All support measures made available through this action will help analyse, address and integrate crosscutting issues from the identification to the evaluation of actions funded under this programme. This programme will contribute to the Gender Action Plan III 2021 – 2025, and ensure that studies, call for proposals and grant proposals contain gender aspects.

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

**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 G1. This implies that contracts funded through this action will help analyse, address and integrate gender equality and women's empowerment from the identification to the evaluation of actions funded under this programme.

#### **Human Rights**

A Human rights-based approach will be ensured in all the phases of the different activities by promoting inclusion and participation, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability.

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. Even though people with disabilities are not targeted by this action, the human rights-based approach applied will ensure their inclusion, participation and non-discrimination.

#### **Democracy**

This action will ensure the participation of civil society organisations representing traditionally excluded and discriminated individuals and groups, e.g. women, indigenous peoples, representatives of minorities, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and migrant workers, human rights defenders (including the environment of human rights defenders), trade unionists promoting labour rights, and LGBTI persons.

#### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

N/A

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

N/A

#### **Other considerations if relevant**

N/A

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	'Shrinking space' limits the participation of independent CSOs and the space for a genuine dialogue on sensitive issues is limited (fear of reprisal by local CSOs)	Low	Low	<p>Selection of CSOs participating in the process to take this risk into account.</p> <p>Consultation of CSO roadmaps of the concerned countries if available.</p> <p>Restricting visibility of the consultations.</p> <p>Recourse to informal human rights dialogue</p>
External & Internal environment	Lack of participation of women's rights organisations due to gender social norms and resistance to gender equality	Medium	Medium	<p>Selection and consultation of women's rights organisation in the process.</p> <p>Training EU staff on the importance of gender mainstreaming in all actions.</p>
<p><b>Lessons Learnt:</b></p> <p>Support measures have played a key role during the period 2014-2020. They have contributed to optimise the implementation of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) reinforcing its efficiency, performance and impact. They have been fundamental in the development and dissemination of the human rights-based approach and the gender mainstreaming through toolboxes, trainings and focused support. They have also been instrumental in bringing forward the EU's policy priorities established in the 2015-2019 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and in the EU human rights guidelines and by supporting meetings, exchanges and the participation of strategic actors in different fora.</p> <p>The same approach will be kept in the budget period 2021-2027. Support measures will accompany and reinforce all the actions carried out in the framework of the HRD thematic programme, optimising their implementation, increasing their impact and ensuring capitalisation on activities. This action will be key to follow-up on and to measure the implementation of the updated Toolbox on a human rights-based approach to development. Support measures will also be key to follow up on commitments enshrined in the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues revised in 2021 to better respond to growing attacks on human rights globally. The Guidelines emphasise the key importance of a genuine engagement with CSOs before and after the dialogues.</p>				
N				

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

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

By supporting and strengthening civil society organisations in promoting human rights and democratic governance by mobilising their expertise and integrate their inputs, we can enhance the gender mainstreaming, EU human rights toolbox, the human rights dialogues with third countries and the civic and political space in these countries and consequently contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide.



### 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 contribute to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide by ensuring the sound management of the HR&D thematic programme, the achievement of its expected objectives and results, its political relevance, visibility and outreach and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact.	Percentage of KPIs improved	70% of green KPIs 12/2020	80% of green KPIs in 2022		<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Enhanced effectiveness and visibility of EU action and funding for human rights and democracy	Number of advocacy strategies and campaigns to promote human rights and democracy worldwide funded by the EU.  Number of people reached by advocacy strategies and campaigns to promote human rights and			Campaigns reports	Campaigns can be launched

		democracy worldwide funded by the EU (disaggregated by sex)			Campaigns reports	
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Enhanced space for open and constructive dialogue between civil society, partner countries' national authorities and the EU in the framework of human rights dialogues and consultations with partner countries.	<p>Number of CS representatives (disaggregated per sex, type of CS and country of origin) participating in EU-funded human rights events, in particular the EU-NGO Human Rights Forum.</p> <p>Number of Human Rights Dialogues benefiting from CSO contributions through EU support</p>	<p>150 (2020)</p> <p>3 (2020)</p>	<p>150 (2022)</p> <p>5 (2022)</p>	EU Annual reports on Human Rights and Democracy Annual reporting on HR dialogues	Clear follow-up on CSO recommendation is made
<b>Output 1 related to Outcome 1</b>	The impact of human rights thematic programme is better monitored, assessed and disseminated.	Number of evaluations and audits conducted (% gender sensitive)	15 (2020)	18 (2022)	CRIS/OPSYS	Contracts are well encoded
<b>Output 2 related to Outcome 1</b>	CSOs are better guided in implementation of human rights and democracy thematic interventions and their expertise on priority human rights issues benefits of improved networking.	<p>Number of outreach and communication events with CSO organised</p> <p>1 Number of outreach and communication events with women organisations.</p>	<p>3 (2020)</p> <p>? (2020)</p>	<p>4 (2022)</p> <p>1 (2022)</p>	<p>CRIS/OPSYS</p> <p>CRIS/OPSYS</p>	<p>Contracts are well encoded</p> <p>Contracts are well encoded</p>
<b>Output 3 related to Outcome 1</b>	EU staff are supported in the follow-up of human rights and democracy thematic interventions.	Number of EUDs supported in the assessment of their call for proposals	18 (2020)	21 (2022)	Service contract reports	Staff still needs support in their assessment of proposals.

<b>Output 4 related to Outcome 2</b>	Joint civil society recommendations do feed into EU human rights dialogues with third countries;	Number of Civil Society Seminars in preparation of Human Rights Dialogues with partner countries.	1 (2020)	1 (2022)	CRIS/OPSYS	There is need at Delegation level for CSO seminars.
--------------------------------------	--	---	----------	----------	------------	---

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

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

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

### 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>1</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

Activities foreseen under these special measures may be implemented through grants, such as events co-organised by civil society organisations with a specific mandate or expertise on human rights and democracy.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

Potential applicants i.e.: local authorities, public bodies, international organisations, NGOs and economic operators such as SMEs will be selected based on their relevance for the nature and objectives of the action, their operational and financial capacity.

##### **(c) Justification of a direct grant**

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without call for proposals may be activated if it is justified under the cases referred to in Article 195 (c) or (f) of the Financial Regulation. The direct award will be duly substantiated, providing factual justification on the application of the invoked case.

#### 4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

The bulk of this action (audits, evaluations, technical assistance) will be implemented following procurement procedures.

#### 4.3.3 Changes from direct to indirect management mode

If deemed necessary by the nature of the outcome to be achieved, a part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an international organisation and/or an EU Member State organisation, selected based on the following criteria: relevance for the nature of the action, their operational capacity, their added value, their transparency and the absence of conflict of interest.

<sup>1</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

#### 4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Third-party contribution, in currency identified</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.2		
<b>Objective 1 &amp; 2</b> composed of	5 411 557	To be determined
<b>Procurement</b> (direct management) – cf. section 4.2.2	4 420 401 (INTPA) 450 000 (NEAR)	N.A.
<b>Indirect management</b> with MS organisation or an international organisation>- cf. section 4.2.2	To be determined	To be determined
<b>Grants</b> (direct management) – cf. section 4.2.1	541 156	To be determined
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5 411 557</b>	<b>To be determined</b>

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The contracting authority for the action shall be the European Commission. The overall responsibility for the implementation of the action lies with the relevant services of the European Commission at the headquarters level.

In line with its specific objectives, the action will ensure active and meaningful participation of key stakeholders and rights holders such as youth, persons with disabilities, women organizations and organizations representing vulnerable and marginalized groups.

### 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

#### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

#### 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components. The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>2</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary.

The financing of the evaluation shall 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.

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.

---

<sup>2</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (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"/>	Group of contracts 1	This action will be implemented through several contracts.