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

**ANNEX VII**

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 the Team Europe Democracy Initiative**

**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 the Regulation 2021/947.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Team Europe Democracy Initiative CRIS reference: 043-840 OPSYS reference: ACT-60854 / JAD.973340 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument ( <u>Global Europe</u> )
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Yes
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Global The action shall be carried out with priority in the following countries (indicative list): Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo Brazzaville, Congo RDC, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea- Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Moldova, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
<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>	Priority 2. Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies Priority 3. Promoting a global system for human rights and democracy Priority 4. Safeguarding fundamental freedom, including harnessing the opportunities and addressing the challenges of new technologies Priority 5. Delivering by working together

PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Priority 2. Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies Priority 5. Delivering by working together DAC sector code 150 – Governance and Civil Society			
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	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 SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	Main DAC code – 15150 – Democratic participation and civil society Sub-code 1 – 15160 – Human Rights Sub-code 2 – 15170 – Women’s rights organisations and movements, and government institutions Sub-code 3 – 15153 – Media and free flow of information Sub-code 4 – 15151 – Elections Sub-code 5 – 15152 – Legislature and political parties Sub-code 6 – 15130 – Legal and judicial development Sub-code 7 – 15113 – Anti-corruption organisations and institutions			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	10000 – Public sector institutions 40000 – Multilateral organisations			
<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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"/>
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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(s) (article, item): 14.020211  Total estimated cost: EUR 15 400 000  The contribution is for an amount of EUR 6 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 9 400 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023. The Member States that will take part in the Team Europe Initiative are Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, The Netherlands. Germany is co-financing the project, Sweden and Denmark might provide contributions in kind.			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				

13. Type of financing <sup>1</sup>	<p><b>Direct grant with entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1</b></p> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2.</p>
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## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Democracy is in decline. The world is experiencing a wave of ‘autocratisation’ characterised by increasing executive power, erosion of democratic institutions, and a general constriction of fundamental freedoms. One-third of the world’s population now lives in countries undergoing autocratisation. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this worrying trend.

Democracy is essential for sustainable development. It increases economic growth, reduces inequalities, lowers rates of mortality and improves social outcomes. Nevertheless, democracy is often portrayed as a western invention; unfit and unnecessary for the wider world. The actions under this component will debunk such ‘myths’, showcasing the advantages of democratic systems and promoting the best ways to support them, whatever the context. In order to do this we will partner with experts, practitioners and partners from different world regions and especially the global south.

In the current context of political polarisation and social fracture, the need for (re)-building alliances on democracy and democracy support is all the greater and urgent. This requires a bold and inclusive ‘Team Europe’ approach, including *European Union* (EU) Member States with different experiences and history, capable of developing a coalition beyond our borders, bringing in all states committed to building, protecting or improving their democracy.

The action follows the project initiated in 2021 to respond to the Summit for Democracy, which entailed actions at three different levels: increasing the knowledge base on democracy support and democracy research support, creation of networks between EU MS, CSOs, practitioners and democracy partners with the purpose of exchanging information and creating collaborations on democracy support, including developing a more coherent vision on EUs democracy support actions, and supporting civil society in participating at the Summit for Democracy.

Based on the founding values of the EU, this action aims to: promote and protect democracy and human rights worldwide with actions based on academic evidence; shared experiences on democracy support models; and build broad alliances to inform international and national policies, programmes and actions.

*It will work along four lines of action:* (1) a ‘one stop shop’ for democracy research and analysis, including on democracy support; (2) a structured operational network with Member States, practitioners and civil society, sharing and pooling resources, helping develop conceptual and operational approaches for democracy support, and building coalitions with like-minded partners, including civil society, 3) provision of expertise and support to EU Delegations to improve their work to support democracy in a Team Europe approach, with priority being given to countries that have democratic governance as a priority area in their MIPs, and 4) advocacy and awareness raising for policy norms on open government.

## 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 economic 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.

<sup>1</sup> Art. 27 NDICI

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, etc. These sources 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<sup>2</sup>.

The COVID-19 crisis has put democratic governance under further strain. On the one hand, it has shown the importance of resilient and inclusive democratic institutions to manage the response sustainably. On the other, many have used the crisis as a pretext for further repression, centralising power and suppressing oversight. Globally, low levels of trust in democracy have fallen further as restrictions on civil liberties have fanned anti-government sentiment. Additionally, much of public life has turned online, presenting huge opportunities but also unprecedented challenges. Supporting democracy in the post-COVID-19 age must take into consideration all these challenges, helping partners renew and reshape their democracies for the digital age.

The EU and Member States are the biggest donor for democracy support, while European diplomats are universally recognised for their prominent role in defending democracy and human rights and for speaking out against violations. As such, the EU is well placed to lead an international coalition to promote democracy. Based on the work on Democracy Support Alliance, the response to this proposal from MS has been overwhelmingly positive, with both political and operational arms of MS showing support.

A global TEI on democracy is the logical extension to the Human Rights & Democracy thematic programme – allowing innovation and actions where bilateral initiatives cannot (for political or logistical reasons). A global Team Europe Democracy (TED) will facilitate EU action in even the most sensitive country environments. Additionally, this action will facilitate improved communication about the role of the European Union as a constant supporter of democracy around the world. Improved coordination should enhance European visibility, improve shared knowledge and peer learning, lead to longer-term coherence of spending priorities and more effectively streamline resources.

The proposed initiative has received widespread and strong support – almost all MS have expressed interest, and the following fourteen states have indicated their interest in contributing to the Team Europe Initiative: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Contributions are organised following the identified priorities of the TEI. Some concrete examples are: Sweden: 10.5M for political parties and free elections (yearly); Finland: 5M for democracy actions and rule of law (yearly); Netherlands: 18.5M on media; Belgium: 2M on democracy; Denmark: 2M on Tech4Democracy). Sweden and Denmark are considering to contribute in terms of human resources (expertise).

Beyond the TED itself (5MEUR under Special Measure adopted in August 2021) EU contribution will be constituted by ongoing projects on Democratic Governance (approximately 30m EUR) and future flagships of the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy (approximately 100m EUR).

Furthermore, almost 67 Delegations have identified democratic governance as a priority for action under Global Europe. Some EU Delegations, such as Congo DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Mali and South Sudan, intend to work on democracy support through Team Europe Initiatives. It will be essential to work with EU MS to enhance support for the reforms proposed and to find synergies.

The Action is fully in line with the **Treaty on the European Union (TEU)**, in particular Article 2, which states that *'The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non- discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail. It is also in line with article 3.5 "In its relations with the wider world, the Union shall uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizens.'*

<sup>2</sup> Data from V-Dem Democracy Report 2021: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/publications/democracy-reports/>

“ and with article 21 *“The Union’s action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law”* and “ 2. The Union shall define and pursue common policies and actions, and shall work for a high degree of cooperation in all fields of international relations, in order to:

(a) *safeguard its values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity; (b) consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international law;”* This Action is inspired by the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, in particular by Article 21, which states that ‘*everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives*’ and by the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, in particular Article 25. It is further inspired by the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), in particular Article 5, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), in particular Article 7.

The Action is relevant for the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. It contributes to the progressive achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), primarily SDGs 16 and 5, while also contributing to SDGs 17 and 10. It will be implemented in line with the **Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness**<sup>3</sup> and the Accra Agenda for Action, in full respect of the principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability. It is also fully in line with Article 21, which provides that *‘The Union’s action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law’*.

The actions help to implement the **European Commission’s priorities for 2019-2024**<sup>4</sup>, as regards making the EU a **stronger global actor**, responding efficiently to global challenges, projecting its values and contributing to peace and prosperity in the world, and as regards **democratic change**.

The Action is in line with the **Global Strategy for the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy**<sup>5</sup>, where democracy features prominently, and with the **New European Consensus on Development**<sup>6</sup>, in particular paragraph 61, which states that *‘The EU and its Member States will promote the universal values of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights for all, because they are preconditions for sustainable development and stability’*. In accordance with the New European Consensus on Development, the EU and its Member States will also *“support initiatives to tackle corruption and to introduce more transparency and accountability in public funding and the delivery of public services”*.

The *EU gender equality strategy 2020-2025* and the *Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025* focus on key thematic priority areas, including strengthening girls’ and women’s leadership, voice and participation specifically.

The Council Conclusions on Democracy of 2019<sup>7</sup> restate the commitment of the EU and Member States to work together to support democracy actions around the world: *‘The Council therefore agrees to further develop a common and practical response based on a close cooperation between the EU institutions and Member States to these challenges.’* The Council Conclusions also reiterate that *“the accountability of leaders and public officials to citizens is as essential element of democracy. In this context, the EU reiterates its support for the efforts to combat corruption”*.

The EU Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan 2020-2024<sup>8</sup> repeats the engagement to coordinate action by the EU and Member States: *‘Effective implementation of the objectives set out in the action plan requires coordinated action by the EU and Member States’*.

3 <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/parisdeclarationandaccraagendaforaction.htm>

4 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024_en)

5 ‘Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe. A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy’.

6 The New European Consensus on Development “- ‘Our world, our dignity, our future’”.

7 Council conclusions on Democracy Support in the EU’s External Relations adopted by the Council of the European Union, available at: [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/111250.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/111250.pdf)

8 [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/30003/web\\_en\\_actionplanhumanrights.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/30003/web_en_actionplanhumanrights.pdf)

The **Multiannual Indicative Programme (2020-2024) for Thematic Programme Human Rights and Democracy 2021 - 2027** under Objective 2 includes support for ‘Promoting pro-democracy organisations, networks and alliances’: *‘The programme shall assist pro-democracy organisations and networks in monitoring democratic processes and producing research and evidence-based studies. Furthermore, it shall foster alliances and coalitions between democracies, and promote collaboration between civil society organisations, networks, and states to promote democracy. It shall provide a European hub for democracy support, developing and standardising best practices.’* This activity will also contribute to MIP Priority 2: “Building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies” and its specific objectives: “to improve transparency and accountability of democratic institutions” and “to enhance civil society’s role in oversight of public and private sectors”.

The NDICI **CSO Thematic Programme**<sup>9</sup>, has as the overarching priority of the programme at both global and country level “an inclusive, participatory, empowered, and independent Civil Society and democratic space in partner countries; and an inclusive and open dialogue with and between Civil Society organisations.”

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Recent years have shown a remarkable decrease in the democratic quality in countries around the world. Worrying trends such as increased authoritarianism and a reduced space for civil society are coupled with the nefarious effect of the COVID 19 pandemic. Peaceful pro-democracy protests are banned and the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly are eroded in many countries. Political parties have limited space to operate, as many countries repress any form of political dissent or opposition. Increased participation of women in decision-making has been reported, but there is still a long way to go towards achieving gender parity globally. Non-democratic alternatives are growing in influence, simultaneously constricting space for debate, oversight and opposition.

Across countries, we see these authoritarian trends fuelled by illicit financial flows, political corruption and weak institutions. The rise in authoritarianism is inextricably linked to corruption and is cross-border by nature; unchecked kleptocrats siphon funds to cement their hold on power, and launder that money in tax havens.

Moreover, the misuse of digital technologies for disinformation purposes and voter manipulation and the spread of hate speech to silence criticism pose new challenges to democracy, particularly to electoral integrity and democratic decision-making. Rising levels of corruption are distorting the democratic process, thereby undermining the rule of law and confidence in democratic institutions, particularly among young people.

Public trust in the functioning of governments and political parties is at historically low levels, especially concerning transparency and accountability. Many countries are already demonstrating clear signs of state capture, where systemic political corruption allows private interests to influence a state’s decision-making processes to their own advantage.

Reversing these negative trends requires sustained efforts to increase the effectiveness of democracy support actions. This means that more coordination, engagement and visibility of actions are needed. Better results will be achieved only if all actors work together more systematically and coherently. Democratic societies with governments that are open, transparent and accountable to the public can counter the scourge of authoritarianism, promote equality and protect human rights.

Despite being the largest donor on democracy (50% more than the US), EU and MS initiatives are not presented in a coordinated and cohesive way. Furthermore, there is no clear data on the real amount or the number of organisations, projects and individuals supported each year by the EU and Member States.

In practice, EU and Member State representatives meet at country level to coordinate political messages, organise demarches, and find opportunities for joint programming. This has facilitated Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) on democratic governance in some 5 countries and joint programming on democratic governance in two countries.

<sup>9</sup> Thematic Programme for Civil Society Organisations Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 - [https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/mip-2021-c2021-9158-civil-society-organisations-annex\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/mip-2021-c2021-9158-civil-society-organisations-annex_en.pdf)



Of those, only two TEIs have a clear democracy focus (Malawi and Guinea) and three TEIs (Sudan, Kenya, Niger) include some activities related to democracy.

This lack of TEIs is in contrast to the high number (58) of MIPS with actions in support to democracy. This implies that there is a need and demand for democracy support actions. From consultations with Member States, there is also high interest for coordinated action. These two needs point out to a structure which can provide expertise at local level to facilitate working on TEIs or actions in Team Europe approach.

The main stakeholders for this action are **independent civil society**<sup>10</sup>, in particular Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and international organisations in the area of democracy support. Activities foreseen under this action document will support CSOs and international organisations in monitoring the state of democracy around the world, to report on violations of civil liberties and human rights, and to provide evidence on best practices in democracy support. The activities will also bring together organisations working in different areas of democracy, human rights and governance support to improve collaboration with each other and with TED members and share their experience within the TED network. The objective of the component 4 of the action is to create space for - and support - both government and civil society reformers by elevating open government to the highest levels of political discourse, providing 'cover' for difficult reforms, and creating a supportive community of like-minded reformers from countries around the world. Ultimately, the goal is to improve the quality of governance and to strengthen democracy, and the quality of services that citizens receive. This Action is complementary to and will be coordinated with actions under the Thematic Programme for Civil Society Organisations.

**EU Delegations** (EUDs) will be the secondary stakeholders. The action will support EUDs with data, evidence and expertise to help them better develop and deliver actions to support democracy. It will 'geographise' the global support for democracy research and expertise, applying it at a practical, country level. It will help EUDs to better collaborate with Member State representatives in the field, supporting common EU and MS initiatives. EUDs and Member States will be supported in mapping actors and resources, identifying possible common actions and making them more visible and coherent.

Thirdly, this action will target **Member States**, at Headquarters level and in partner countries, including Member States Development agencies and stakeholders from Member States. Member States have strong interest in and their own experience with democratisation. This network aims to encourage all Member States to deepen their involvement in democracy support, including those with a more recent experience of democratic transition. This action will foster better cooperation and better understanding and coherence of EU and Member State actions in support of democracy. The activities envisaged will bring together operational expertise and facilitate exchange on human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance.

Additionally, the action will include support for **partner countries** which support democracy or wish to engage in democratisation. The action will facilitate dialogue with governments, support representation of civil society organisations in international conferences for democracy and provide expertise to implement Team Europe actions.

Various coalitions for democracy exist at diplomatic level. These platforms are fora for exchanges at multilateral level, and for developing and issuing statements about the importance of democracy. However, these coalitions do not translate into coordinated and sustained actions on the ground. This action aims to provide a forum for Member States, EU Delegations and CSOs to develop a common understanding of the dividends of democracy and to develop evidence-based common actions.

The final beneficiaries are citizens in target countries, who will benefit from more information on the state of democracy and democracy actions, as well as a higher level of democracy support from a coordinated range of EU actors.

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<sup>10</sup> According to NDICI Article 2 (7), "civil society organisations" embrace a wide range of actors with multiple roles and mandates, which may vary over time and across institutions and countries, and includes all non-State, not-for-profit, independent and non-violent structures, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, including political, cultural, religious, environmental, social or economic, operating at local, national, regional or international levels, and comprising urban and rural, formal and informal organisations.



### 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Team Europe Democracy Initiative will enhance coordination between Member States, leveraging their individual contributions and expertise. The action will improve awareness of democratic backsliding and human rights violations around the world and engage in strategic communication with partners about the benefits of democracy.

**The overall objective (impact)** of this action is to improve democracy and rule of law worldwide.

**The specific objective (outcome)** of this action is to contribute to a coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy and rule of law.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Outcome are:

- 1.1 European democracy support is based on up to date evidence and analysis
- 1.2 Effectiveness and visibility of EU action and funding to democracy and rule of law is enhanced
- 1.3 Capacities of EUDs, stakeholders and implementing partners to implement Team Europe activities on democracy and rule of law in selected partner countries are increased
- 1.4 Inclusive co-creation and implementation of action plans on anticorruption and accountability is facilitated

#### 3.2 Indicative Activities

*Activities related to output 1: European democracy support is based on up to date evidence and analysis*

- 1.1. Research, data collection, analysis and production of democracy indices (I-IDEA Global State of Democracy, Varieties of Democracy, Freedom of the Press, etc.)
- 1.2. Research and analysis on democracy support by EU and other donors
- 1.3. Map the support for research and analysis in the EU and Member States; identify gaps and strategic opportunities
- 1.4. Label and communicate strategically on Team Europe Democracy's support for research on democracy support and human rights
- 1.5. Support for follow up actions (such as side-events) agreed within the framework of the Summit for Democracy 2022/2023 and other similar events

*Activities related to output 2: Effectiveness and visibility of EU action and funding to democracy and rule of law is enhanced*

- 2.1 Establish and strengthen networks in the wider field of democracy, good governance and human rights
- 2.2 Support the work of Team Europe Democracy network formed by EU Member States
- 2.3 Support the work of a network of practitioners, including CSOs, academia, international organisations and other stakeholders, by feeding information, providing spaces for networking, producing technical studies and analysis relevant to the priority themes (accountability and rule of law, media and digitalization and political and civic participation) including taking into account the recommendations of EU Election observation missions and reports from follow-up missions. In the set-up of the network and its works, special attention will be given to women and youth participation. The thematic group "political and civic participation" will work on gender and youth empowerment.
- 2.4 Support the secretariat of the main Team Europe Democracy network and coordinate the different channels of dialogue and TEIs

2.5 Support the networks with expertise, such as mapping of resources, current projects and priorities, identifying relevant evidence upon which to base joint actions including taking into account the recommendations of EU Election observation missions and reports from follow-up missions.

2.6 Organise democracy dialogues and events within the networks, with a particular focus on women and youth participation

2.7 Organise dialogue meetings, events and exchanges of experience and best practice with a view to communicating Team Europe's support for democracy

*Activities related to output 3: Capacities of EUDs, stakeholders and implementing partners to implement Team Europe approach activities on democracy and rule of law in selected partner countries are increased*

3.1 Mappings, needs assessments, context analysis and conflict and fragility analysis and other relevant analysis for the formulation of programme/projects on democracy support at country level in Team Europe approach

3.2 Support for the monitoring of programmes/projects, including identification of indicators following a Team Europe approach

3.3 Technical studies, comparative analysis and legal analysis on specific issues relating to democracy and democracy support, tailored to the country context

3.3 Programming-related advice, analysis and planning in order to implement actions promoting democratic governance and rule of law in a Team Europe approach taking also into account the recommendations of EU Election observation missions and reports from follow-up missions.

3.4 Legal analysis and comparison with international frameworks and best-practices in order for the EU Delegations and EU MS to be better equipped to advocate for reform at country level

3.5 Trainings and workshop on key democracy themes, with a particular attention to women and youth participants

*Activities related to output 4: Inclusive co-creation and implementation of action plans on anticorruption and accountability is facilitated*

4.1 Support inclusive co-creation and implementation of action plans, with a focus on anti-corruption, civic space and inclusion. At the country level, support intensive engagement of EU and MS with target countries to advance co-creation of action plan commitments on key themes, including beneficial ownership, open contracting, political integrity, civic space and inclusion

4.2 Support active engagement of national and local civil society in target countries - including through competitively awarded mini grants - to engage in national processes to advance their policy advocacy goals, particularly on issues pertaining to anti-corruption, civic space and inclusion

4.3 Support proactive outreach of EU and MS to broaden engagement with key line ministries and institutions such as parliaments, independent state agencies (such as independent audit agencies, human rights commissions and others), justice institutions and others that are key to implementation of ambitious reforms on key open government issues such as anti-corruption, civic space and inclusion

4.4 Deepen ongoing cross-country learning on beneficial ownership and open contracting through development of multi-stakeholder regional or sub-regional communities of practice and regular cross-regional peer exchanges

4.5 Build on experience of coalition-building in the areas of beneficial ownership and open contracting to tackle wider issues of political integrity. Facilitate cross country peer-to-peer exchanges with both government and civil society and involve the relevant independent authorities to inform both co-creation, as well as ongoing implementation of reforms

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

#### **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 the action in this document will be actively promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through dedicated activities. As the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III rightly points out, ‘Gender equality is a core value of the EU and a universally recognised human right, as well as an imperative to well-being, economic growth, prosperity, good governance, peace and security’. This action is especially relevant to GAP III’s thematic area of engagement number 4 ‘Promoting equal participation and leadership’, contributing in particular to the following GAP III objective : ‘Enabling conditions created for equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making’. Gender equality will thus be a significant objective of this action (OECD-DAC marker G1) and will be mainstreamed across all results and activities.

In practice, this means that gender aspects will be taken into consideration in the different components as follows: The research component (component one), which analyses the quality of democracy worldwide, relies on gender disaggregated indicators, and gender specific indicators, which allows for the monitoring of gender aspects, such as the levels of political participation of women, attacks against women journalists, etc.

The network component will mainstream gender in its operation aspects and promote collaboration to support women’s political empowerment through one of its workstreams. Through the third component, the expertise to EU Delegations will actively mainstream gender and promote women and youth political participation, inclusion of women and youth in events, consultations, etc.

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## Human Rights

The action also uses the **human rights-based approach (RBA)** as a methodology, 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) all rights are applied; 2) participation and access to the decision-making process; 3) non-discrimination and equal access; 4) accountability and access to the rule of law; and 5) transparency and access to information.

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## Democracy

The actions help to implement the **European Commission’s priorities for 2019-2024**<sup>11</sup>, as regards making the EU a **stronger global actor**, responding efficiently to global challenges, projecting its values and contributing to peace and prosperity in the world, and as regards **democratic change**. The Action is in line with the **Global Strategy for the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy**<sup>12</sup>, where democracy features prominently, and with the **New European Consensus on Development**<sup>13</sup>, in particular paragraph 61, which states that *‘The EU and its Member States will promote the universal values of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and human rights for all, because they are preconditions for sustainable development and stability’*. This action will also contribute to reinforce the follow-up of Election observation missions.

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## Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Conflict sensitivity mainstreaming strategies will be adapted to the three components as follows:

The research component includes conflict related indicators which enables analysis of conflict trends and risks in project countries. Component 2 and 3, will develop conflict sensitivity mainstreaming in all parts of the project/programme cycle, including (conflict sensitive) context analysis, implementation and evaluation. Activities covered by this action will be designed in a “do-no-harm” approach, to ensure that any intervention by EU or MS in a context does not exacerbate existing conflict dynamics or cause any unintended negative consequences.

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## Other considerations if relevant

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<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024_en)

<sup>12</sup> ‘Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe. A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy”

<sup>13</sup> The New European Consensus on Development “- ‘Our world, our dignity, our future”.

The action will also duly consult and involve **civil society** in its design and implementation, in line with the Communication on engagement with Civil Society<sup>14</sup> and will aim to engage and involve **young people**, in view of the upcoming EU Youth Action Plan (YAP), duly considering young people's issues.

This action has civil society at its centre. Through component 1, it supports the work of civil society to monitor human rights abuses and democracy progress. Through component 2 it supports enhanced involvement of CSOs in policy making in the area of democracy support, supporting consultation, networking, etc. Component 4 – involvement of CSOs in monitoring accountability of the government.

The action will pay special attention to harnessing the opportunities and dealing with the challenges of the **digital transformation**, in particular its impact on democratic governance and human rights, in accordance with the EU's policy on Digital4Development<sup>15</sup> and the Open Internet<sup>16</sup>.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1 – External Environment	Democracy continues to decline in a large number of countries, making it increasingly difficult to work on the ground with partner countries.	M	H	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.
2 – Planning processes and systems	Analysis produced is not used by EUDs and Member States for their actions.	L	H	HQ to involve EUDs and Member States in tailoring research for their needs, monitor the quality of analysis, communicate to EUDs and Member States regularly, and adapt research to changing environments.
2– Planning processes and systems	Member States do not show interest in common initiatives, and/or are not active in political or operational initiatives.	M	H	Member States have already expressed interest in initiating networks and working better together. A secretariat for the networks and the action would ensure continuous communication and consultation.
2- Planning processes and systems	Activities exacerbate existing conflict dynamics or cause any unintended negative consequences	M	H	The Secretariat plans the action together with the EU Delegation, HQ institutions and stakeholders, to ensure good analysis. Any activity that might cause harm will not be undertaken.

<sup>14</sup> 'The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations, available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM%3A2012%3A0492%3AFIN%3AEN%3APDF>

<sup>15</sup> Digital4Development: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy development policy, available at : [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-digital4development\\_part1\\_v3.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-digital4development_part1_v3.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> See for example the Foreign Instruments Policy project: *"Promotion and Development of the Open Internet in Africa"* launched in 2021

1– External Environment	Risk of overlapping activities; duplication.	H	M	Given that this action covers countries which benefit from NDICI funding, specific care will have to be devoted to keeping all stakeholders abreast of planned activities. EUDs will be consulted before any activity is planned.
1– External Environment	The implementing partners of the project do not adapt to its requirements.	L	M	A Steering Committee including EU institutions will steer the activities of the project.
1– External Environment	In country stakeholders do not show interest to work on democracy support	M	M	Member States have already expressed interest in initiating networks and working better together. A secretariat for the networks and the action would ensure continuous communication and consultation.  Secretariat to follow “do no harm” principles.  TED will engage in countries where there are windows of opportunity for democratic progress and buy in of local stakeholders.
1– External Environment	The COVID-19 health crisis does not allow travel and in-person meetings, such as the Summit for Democracy and other events.	H	M	Meetings will be held online as necessary, with physical meetings only when they add value and it is practical to organise them.

#### Lessons Learnt:

The design of this action primarily draws lessons from the following projects financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) in 2014-2020. It also draws lessons from the EU *‘Pilot Exercise on Democracy Support’*, which has been developed to pilot the implementation of the EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support. Lastly, this action will take into consideration the findings and recommendations by MS and CSOs elaborated during the implementation of the Democracy Support Alliance project launched in 2021.

- The “*Democracy Support Alliance*” promotes and protects democracy and human rights worldwide with actions based on academic evidence; share experiences on democracy support models; and build broad alliances to inform international and national policies, programmes and actions. The Democracy Support Alliance was a pilot initiative to map out interest and gather support from EUMS in creating a Team Europe Democracy Initiative at the global level. During consultations and implementation of the Democracy Support Alliance action, EU MS provided feedback priority themes, as well as on the modalities of work and desired impact. Support has been strong with several EU MS contributing to report their total ODA through this initiative through current and new projects, as well as generous contributions in-kind (expert consultants and national seconded experts). Partnerships with research institutions, international CSOs and other international organizations have also been concluded with the aim of proving evidence-based policy recommendations and knowledge on democracy support best practices and lessons learned, to strategically base EU democracy support strategic decisions.

- *Supporting Team Europe Democracy* is the first phase of putting in place this action. It is a project which implements component 1 of this action - Research, data collection, analysis and production of democracy indices. The project is implemented by International IDEA and partners European Partnership for Democracy and Reporters without borders. The project has launched the research into democracy assistance and supports the democracy indexes. This project will continue to be supported by this action.
- ‘*Supporting Democracy – A Citizens’ Organisations Programme*’. This project helped EU Delegations to involve civil society in the EU democracy pilot exercise, particularly in elaborating and implementing the democracy action plans. The facility helped Delegations to work in depth with civil society on democratic accountability, promote digital technologies for democratic participation and tackle shrinking civil space.
- ‘*Media and freedom of expression in the framework of EU democracy support (Media4Democracy)*’ helped EU Delegations to increase understanding and implementation of the EU Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline. The technical assistance increased the number of Delegations’ actions in support of media.
- ‘*Global Monitor of COVID-19’s Impact on Democracy and Human Rights*’. This project was rapidly set up in June 2020 to facilitate information on the democracy and human rights implications of measures adopted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ‘Global Monitor’ has been instrumental in raising awareness about democratic decline and human rights violations during the pandemic. Its ‘one-stop-shop’ approach, with regular updates, has proven to be a success, which is now worth expanding and consolidating on a longer-term basis.
- ‘*Digital4Development*’ working document provides the EU Delegations staff with ideas on how to mainstream digital technologies and policies into the current European Union Development Aid with a view to ensure coherence of our actions and consistent implementation of our policies and programmes.
- “*INTER PARES / Parliaments in Partnership - EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments* ” –strengthens representative and inclusive democracy through support to the effective functioning of parliaments in partner countries, by enhancing their legislative, oversight, representative, budgetary and administrative functions. It actively involves Parliaments from Member States, which support peer-to-peer, demand-driven parliamentary strengthening operations with Parliaments from partner countries.
- ‘*Case for Democracy*’ aims to develop a common understanding on the scientific evidence on the dividends of democracy in key areas of development, among democracy support stakeholders from around the world. The projects brings together academia, policy makers and practitioners to share the scientific evidence on dividends of democracy, and to discuss the dividends of democracy in key areas of development at global level, to build a coherent narrative on why democracy support and protection is important. *Case for Democracy* documents the evidence on the dividends of democracy and distribute that documentation widely among democracy support stakeholders around the world.
- “*SANCUS - Strengthening Accountability Networks among Civil Society* seeks to contribute to greater democratic accountability of public institutions globally, specifically by empowering civil society to demand systemic change to address accountability and anti-corruption deficits in 16 countries over 36 months. It was launched in 2021 and it establishes networks of CSOs - within and across countries - to increase public demand for accountability. Building on these networks, SANCUS targets two complementary ‘levers’ of accountability. With the ‘vertical lever’, it mobilises CSOs to demand that specific duty-bearing agencies (e.g. service providers, ministries) become more accountable to rights holders. Simultaneously, the ‘horizontal lever’ mounts pressure on democratic check-and-balance institutions (e.g. parliaments or audit institutions) to uphold their mandate to keep those duty-bearer agencies accountable. This action will be complementary to SANCUS, building on lessons learned from the project and avoiding any duplication.
- In addition, a ***European Endowment for Democracy (EED)*** became operational seven years ago following a joint effort from European countries and EU institutions. Its main objective is to foster sustainable democracy in countries in political transition and in societies struggling for democratisation in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, Turkey and the Western Balkans. It provides rapid, safe and flexible financial support to pro-

democracy actors, civil society activists and independent media. EED adds value by empowering new activists and groups with limited or no access to other donor funding – whether due to restrictive legal environments, government repression, security concerns, or political sensitivities. The European Commission (DG NEAR) is the main funding partner of EED since 2013, with an on-going common portfolio of more than EUR 50million. EED also maintains partnerships with the main democracy and human rights organisations, contributing to policy papers and high-level events, often also in partnership with the European Parliament. The Council Conclusions on Democracy of October 2019 explicitly refer to the EED, as a major recognition of its accomplishments and its establishment as a trusted EU partner on democracy support.

Other relevant organisations have implemented actions, from which lessons can be learned:

- Published every year since 2002 by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the **World Press Freedom Index** is an important advocacy tool based on the principle of emulation between states. Because it is well-known, its influence over governments is growing, and many heads of state and government fear its annual publication. The Index is a point of reference that is quoted by media throughout the world and used by diplomats and international entities such as the United Nations and the World Bank.
- **Freedom House** publishes their annual flagship report '**Freedom in the World**' which assesses the real-world rights and freedoms enjoyed by individuals, amongst which freedom of expression is one of those monitored. Following this, the organisation also produces a spinoff report of freedom of expression, with a focus on either freedom of press or freedom on the net.
- **UNESCO** produces reports monitoring press freedom. Amongst one the latest reports is '**Reporting Facts: Free from Fear or Favour, In-Focus edition of the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development**' which analyses the factors interfering with editorial independence. The organisation is a point of reference on supporting media development due to its long-standing commitment to supporting knowledge sharing.
- The **Open Government Partnership** (OGP) recently launched an analysis by that looks at data over the past 10 years. Called the **Vital Signs** this piece of analysis has two data points that are particularly relevant: 1) Engagement of civil society in co-creation of commitments led to higher ambition and better implementation of the reforms. 2) Anti-corruption commitments in OGP show a high rate of investment.
- Also of relevance is the new Monitoring and Engagement System that, as per CSO MIP, will *inform EU wide actions for democratic governance, civic space and an enabling and accessible environment for civil society*. The action also helps to implement the Joint **Communication** on strengthening the EU's contribution to rules-based **multilateralism**<sup>17</sup>, signed on 17 February 2021: '*The EU will team up with all those who support democracy, access to justice and accountable and inclusive institutions.*'

Overall, the lessons learnt highlight the importance of supporting sound research and analysis on democracy and human rights, and the importance of establishing and strengthen networks, that make sound and relevant expertise available to develop actions on the ground through a Team Europe approach.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52021JC0003>



### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The overall objective of this action is to promote and protect democracy and human rights worldwide through supporting a Team Europe initiative. The specific objective is to contribute to a coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy and rule of law steered by the Team Europe Democracy Secretariat.

These objectives are expected to be achieved by combining four lines of action:

- **Component 1** will focus on producing the necessary knowledge and research on the state of democracy, democracy support and human rights violations around the world. This will include gathering sex-disaggregated data, conducting the necessary analysis, reporting, presenting conclusions and recommendations, tailored to inform practical recommendations and best practices on democracy support. The actions under this component will unpack the positive communication around autocratic regimes and will debunk ‘myths’ portraying democracy as being a less efficient model for development. The research will showcase the advantages of democratic systems and promote the best ways to support them, whatever the starting conditions.

This component will help to bridge the gap between academic research and international cooperation in practice, contributing to the adoption of evidence-based policies and programmes. It will also foster more strategic Team Europe approach support for research and advocacy groups, enhancing synergies among CSOs, and facilitate financing of strategic research and advocacy.

- **Component 2** aims at enhancing effectiveness and visibility of EU actions and funding on democracy and rule of law, by focusing on strengthening the Team Europe Democracy initiative and the networks created as its foundation: the Team Europe Democracy network, the practitioners’ network and any other subgroups. The Secretariat of the Team Europe Democracy initiative provides technical expertise and evidence to support strategic orientations by a Steering Committee. While the Secretariat coordinates a team of experts to work with EUDs and MS at local level, the steering committee provides strategic guidance to the work of the TED network. The Steering Committee is chaired by the European Commission’s DG INTPA and formed by EEAS, NEAR, contributing EU MS, a representative of the CSOs, a representative of the implementing partners. The European Parliament and other Commission relevant services are invited as observers. This action aims at furthering the work of the Secretariat and Steering Committee in coordinating and providing resources to the network at different levels of action.

The TED Network and the expertise will be focused around the three priority clusters of TED: accountability and rule of law, civic and political participation, media and digital.

- **Component 3** will ensure that the necessary expertise is provided at country level to enhance the coordination between EU Delegations and MS.

Deployment of expertise will follow the three work streams based on the themes described under component 2 with a gender equality lens and favouring local expertise. Actions in support to Delegations will include activities promoting gender empowerment, especially through civic and political participation.

Support at country level will target primarily EU Delegations in countries which have identified democratic governance as a priority of their MIPs and TEIs<sup>18</sup>. The experts will engage with actors representing the partner country, applying local context awareness and responding to the need for a multistakeholder approach

- **Component 4** will allow to provide deeper support to selected countries and themes, with a focus on innovation, peer support and better implementation of ambitious reforms. It will foster more strategic Team Europe approach support for accountability and anti-corruption, enhancing synergies between partner governments and CSOs, and facilitate inclusive co-creation and implementation of action plans. It will also allow to advance cross-country coalition building and learning on key issues including anti-corruption, civic space, and other enabling open government policy areas. This component will actively support national and local civil society to engage in the OGP process to enable linking their advocacy goals to policy commitments. Support at country level will target primarily governments and CSOs in countries which have identified accountability and anti-corruption as priorities of their MIPs and TEIs, complementing existing initiatives.



### 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

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	Improved democracy and rule of law worldwide	1 Positive trends of democratisation on international indices of democratic governance  2 Increase in share of ODA for Democratic governance  3 Increase in number of donors supporting democracy actions outside the EU  4 Increase in number of countries in which European donors support democracy actions			1 GSoD indices  2 V-Dem Indices  3 OECD database  4 Academic and policy papers	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	A coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy and rule of law steered by the Team Europe Secretariat.	1.1 Number of events organized in partner countries and at international level by EU Delegations in cooperation with the Secretariat to discuss the EUs approach to promoting democracy, good governance, rule of law and human rights.			1.1 GoSD indices  V-DEM indices  Action documents	The EU and Member States will continue support for democracy and human rights in

		<p>1.2 Number of EU and EUMS (Team Europe) actions in the areas of democratic governance and rule of law at global, regional and country level</p> <p>Number of EU-funded interventions in support of CS-led initiatives that have, directly or indirectly, contributed to countering shrinking space.</p> <p>1.3 Increase in communication events dealing with democracy support around the world organized and coordinated by the TED secretariat.</p>			<p>Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies</p> <p>OECD database</p>	<p>external actions</p> <p>EU Delegations implement actions in support of democratic governance</p> <p>The political situation in targeted countries will allow at least some EU Delegations to work on democratic governance actions</p>
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p><b>related to Outcome 1</b></p>	<p>European democracy support is based on up to date evidence and analysis</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of common positions, guidance and best practices adopted by the networks citing data from democracy indices.</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of exchanges between EU MS and democracy research institutions in panel discussions and similar events.</p> <p>1.1.3 Number of democracy dialogues and events with different stakeholders (Member States, Civil Society, Think Tanks) organized within the networks and with support of the TED Secretariat.</p> <p>1.1.4 Number of common positions or guidance on promoting</p>				

		democracy, good governance and rule of law adopted by the networks.				
<b>Output 2</b>  <b>related to Outcome 1</b>	Effectiveness and visibility of EU action and funding democracy and rule of law is enhanced	<p>2.1.1 Number of meetings of networks and taskforces among the EU, Member States and civil society discussing Team Europe approach support for democracy and rule of law around the world organized by the TED secretariat.</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of training seminars, workshops and meetings facilitated for the EU and Member States to enhance the Team Europe approach on democracy and rule of law organized by the TED secretariat.</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of newsletters sent to the network's members and partners by the TED secretariat.</p> <p>2.1.4 Number of regular meetings of TED network members (SC, MS, TC, WS, PN) facilitated by the secretariat.</p> <p>2.1.5 Approval of annual work plan by the SC.</p> <p>2.1.6 Number of joint activities (events, expert discussions etc.) with research institutions.</p> <p>2.1.7 Number of conceptual approaches (good practices, strategies) from Member States and partner countries to promote democracy and rule of law shared with the networks.</p>				

		<p>2.1.8 Number of reports and analysis on democracy and rule of law disseminated by the TED secretariat.</p> <p>2.1.9 Number of democracy dialogues and events with different stakeholders (Member States, Civil Society, Think Tanks) organized within the networks and with support of the Secretariat</p> <p>2.1.10 Number of common positions or guidance on promoting democracy good governance and human rights adopted by the networks.</p> <p>2.1.11 Number of organisations participating in TED network, including women's organisations/women led CSOs and groups</p>				
<p><b>Output 3</b> <b>related to Outcome 1</b></p>	<p>Capacities of EUDs, stakeholders and implementing partners to implement Team Europe activities on democracy and rule of law in selected partner countries are increased</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of experts deployed to partner countries, disaggregated by sex.</p> <p>3.1.2 Number conceptual approaches (good practices, strategies) derived from the networks' activities and provided to EU Delegations and other stakeholders in partner countries</p> <p>3.1.3 Number of new projects undertaken by EU Delegations in Team Europe approach</p> <p>3.1.4 Number of events supporting democracy and organised together with EU Member States at country level</p>				

		<p>3.1.5 Number of laws, national guidelines and policies reviewed in consultation with EU Member States at country level</p> <p>3.1.6 Number of consultations organised with EU Delegations, EU Member States and local stakeholders to promote reforms</p>				
<b>Output 4</b>	Inclusive co-creation and implementation of action plans on anticorruption and accountability is facilitated	<p>4.1 Number of government and civil society co-created commitments on anti-corruption, civic space, inclusion.</p> <p>4.2 Number of countries that have a forum for regular multi-stakeholder consultation on implementation of action plans, including where gender groups are involved</p> <p>4.3 Number of CSOs participating in national consultations</p>				



## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

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

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 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>19</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

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

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

The grants will contribute to achieving *Output 1.4 Inclusive co-creation and implementation of action plans on anticorruption and accountability is facilitated*

It will support the elaboration and implementation of action plans on anticorruption and accountability in partner countries.

##### **(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 the above objective may be awarded without a call for proposals to NGOs, foundations, public bodies, international organisations, non-for-profit organisations or consortia thereof selected using the following criteria: (i) Strong commitment for and track record in the field of transparency, open government, working with open data, advocating with partner countries on anti-corruption; (ii) track record and capacity to bring together relevant stakeholders; (iii) Solid knowledge and experience of project cycle management and financial procedures/oversight.

A direct award to Open Government Partnership is justified following the provisions of Art. 195 c) *bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation*; and 195 f) *for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals*; of the Financial Regulation. OGP have a de facto monopoly in the area, as the only organisation working on anti-corruption with 78 national members, a growing number of

<sup>19</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.

local governments and thousands of civil society participants. Together they have co-created over 4000 open government reforms. This is also the only organisation with the technical competence and high degree of specialisation to undertake the activities foreseen in the Action Document.

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

The part related to ***Output 1.1 - European democracy support is based on up to date evidence and analysis, Output 1.2 - Effectiveness and visibility of EU action and funding democracy and rule of law is enhanced; and Output 1.3 - Capacities of EUDs, stakeholders and implementing partners to implement Team Europe activities on democracy and rule of law in selected partner countries are increased*** of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) global remit to support democracy; (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) 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.

#### 4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

If the above-mentioned implementation modality cannot be implemented due to exceptional circumstances, part of the action may be implemented in direct management through the award of grant contracts and/or the procurement of services.

#### 4.3.4 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.

### 4.4 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 3		
<b>Output 1.1 <i>Evidence and analysis</i></b> composed of Indirect management with MS Organisation or international organisation	3 000 000	N/A
<b>Outputs 1.2 <i>Effectiveness and visibility</i> and 1.3 <i>Capacities ... are increased</i></b> Indirect management with MS Organisation or international organisation	9 400 000	N/A

<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision	N.A.
<b>Output 1.4 Action plans on anticorruption and accountability</b> Grants	3 000 000	
Evaluation Audit	will be covered from another decision	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15 400 000</b>	

#### 4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

This action will be implemented in a full Team Europe approach.

For Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, a **Steering Committee** will provide strategic guidance and review overall implementation. It will be chaired by the European Commission's DG INTPA and will comprise the following members: EEAS, NEAR, contributing EU MS, a representative of the CSOs, a representative of the implementing partners. The European Parliament and other Commission relevant services are invited as observers.

For Outputs 1, 2 and 3 a **Secretariat** of the project will act as a project implementation unit. It will coordinate the work of the networks and the Steering Committee, as well as the support to EU delegations and follow up at country level. The secretariat will feed information to TED Networks and creates spaces for exchange and common learning.

For Output 4 a **Steering Committee** formed by INTPA, EEAS and the implementing partner will provide strategic guidance and reviews overall implementation.

The project 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.

The implementing partner of Output 4 will coordinate actions with the Secretariat steering Outputs 1, 2 and 3.

## 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 end, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and produce regular progress reports (not less than annually) and final reports. Each report shall provide an accurate account of how the action is being implemented, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, and the results achieved (outputs and direct outcomes); these shall be measured by corresponding indicators, using as a reference either the Logframe matrix (for project modality) or the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

Reports shall be laid out in a way that allows monitoring of the work plan, its execution and of the budget details for the action. The final report will cover all aspects of the action and the entire period of implementation.

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

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 2 months 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.

Appropriate expertise on gender equality and HRBA will be ensured in monitoring and evaluation teams

The evaluation reports shall be shared with 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 that apply to contracts to implement this action, the Commission may, based on a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements. Such an audit shall be financed by another measure constituting a financing decision.

# 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 Intervention<sup>20</sup> (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	One PINTV per contract with an implementing partner

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<sup>20</sup> [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](#).