



EN

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

**ANNEX**

of the Commission Implementing Decision amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 9286 of 16.12.2021 on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Thailand for 2021-2023

**Action Document for EU-Thailand Cooperation Facility**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans of Article 23 of [NDICI-Global Europe](#) Regulation.

## 1. SYNOPSIS

### 1.1. Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	EU-Thailand Cooperation Facility CRIS number: NDICI ASIA/2021/43326; OPSYS no. ACT-60435 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No, but coordination will be ensured with the ASEAN Team Europe Initiatives
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Thailand
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme for Thailand 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	The proposed action intends to <b>enhance the EU-Thailand partnership</b> . The Cooperation Facility will support this objective by providing a facility for continuing and reinforcing EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogue. It will promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, complemented by increased awareness, understanding, and approval of the EU and its role in the country, the region and the world. More specifically, the Facility will promote universal and shared values on human rights, democracy, gender equality, security, the environment, business and trade relations. By doing so it will deepen bilateral trade and investment relations, based on shared principles on sustainable production and consumption, strengthen environmental protection and conservation in Thailand, while supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more broadly, the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, it will allow the EU to uphold universal Human Rights values, to better respond to global challenges and to build resilience in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner in its relationship with Thailand and other partners.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	43010- Multi-sector

<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: 17 (partnerships for the goals) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 5- gender equality, 8-decent work and economic growth, 9-industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11-sustainable cities and communities, 12- sustainable consumption and production, 13-climate action, 15-life on land and 16-peace justice and strong institutions.			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC 410 - General Environment Protection – app. 30% DAC 330 – Trade policies and regulations - app. 30% DAC 150 – Government and CSOs - app. 40%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	Other – 90000, Private Sector - 60000, International Organisations - 40000, NGOs - 20000			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	job creation		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

#### BUDGET INFORMATION

<b>12.Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 South and East Asia</p> <p>Total estimated cost: 12 000 000 EUR</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: 12 000 000 EUR</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of 6 000 000 EUR from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2021, for an amount of 4 000 000 EUR from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2022 and for an amount of 2 000 000 EUR from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2023.</p>
-----------------------------	--

#### MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<p><b>Direct management</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with: the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.3</p>
------------------------------	--

### 1.2. Summary of the Action

**The proposed action intends to enhance the EU-Thailand partnership.** The Cooperation Facility will support this objective by providing a facility to continue and reinforce EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogue. It will promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, complemented by increased understanding and visibility of the EU and its role in the region and the world scene. More specifically, the Facility will promote universal and shared values on human rights, gender equality, democracy, security, the environment, business and trade relations. By doing so it will deepen bilateral trade and investment relations, based on shared principles on sustainable production and consumption, strengthen environmental protection and conservation in Thailand, while supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more broadly, the implementation of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will also allow the EU to uphold universal Human Rights values, and to better respond to global challenges and build resilience in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner in its relationship with Thailand and other partners.

The Cooperation Facility will consist of a wide range of tools, initiatives and activities to achieve the objective of advancing EU strategic interests and priorities in Thailand, of enhancing the EU-Thailand partnership, and of strengthening Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy.

**The Overall Objective (Impact)** of this action is to enhance the EU-Thailand partnership.

**The Specific Objectives (Outcomes)** of this action are to:

1. Continue and reinforce EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogues;

2. Promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, including human rights and gender equality, with a particular focus on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
3. Build increased awareness, understanding and approval of the EU and its role in the country, the region and the world, through data-driven campaigns targeting new audiences.

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

Thailand, an upper Middle Income country (MIC), has a difficult contemporary political history with 13 military coups d'état and 20 constitutions since 1932, reflecting a high polarisation and a political culture with a strong winner-takes-all element. The latest military coup occurred in May 2014. A new constitution was adopted in 2016 and general elections were held in 2019, the first fully contested polls since 2011, leading the general who was behind the coup in 2014 to become an elected Prime Minister. The general election that took place in May 2023 saw the overwhelming victory of two opposition parties, with the former opposition and second-runner Pheu Thai Party eventually forming a coalition with conservative parties from the previous government. Thailand's economy is the second largest in ASEAN. As a tourism and manufacturing hub, Thailand was particularly impacted by the pandemic. Thailand's recovery has been slower than other major ASEAN economies and growth continues to diverge from its ASEAN peers. Thailand's human development index (UNDP) was slightly dented by the pandemic but remains in the category of "very high human development" and slightly higher than China's.

With the upgrade of EU-ASEAN relations to the level of strategic partners, the EU's relevance as an interlocutor for Thailand is key for the EU's broader influence in the region. As a member of ASEAN, Thailand benefits from several multi-country programmes, including two Global Gateway flagship initiatives: the "Green Team Europe Initiative" and the "Team Europe Initiative on Sustainable Connectivity".

In line with the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the EU is pursuing a balanced and broad engagement with Thailand to improve overall relations and to promote universal and shared values on human rights, including gender equality and women's empowerment, labour, democracy, the environment and multilateralism.

The EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, signed in December 2022, provides the opportunity to deepen cooperation across areas of common interest. In March 2023, the EU and Thailand announced the relaunch of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and three rounds of negotiations have taken place so far (September 2023, January 2024, June 2024).

The EU has a strategic interest in strengthening its relationship with Thailand because:

- The Kingdom is an important and committed ally in defence of multilateralism and a rules-based international order; Thailand could become a partner in security cooperation.
- Thailand remains an influential player within ASEAN and can therefore play a significant role in implementing the recently concluded EU-ASEAN strategic partnership;
- EU-Thailand engagement and cooperation will be instrumental to the proactive implementation of EU strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- The EU and Thailand have strong economic ties and deeply rooted people-to-people relations add to the EU's interests, with 5 million EU tourists visiting Thailand each year (pre COVID-19) and a significant number residing permanently in the country;
- Thailand shares the EU's strong political commitment to sustainable development; the Kingdom has proven to be an important partner in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda.

The Cooperation Facility will be instrumental to the implementation of the **EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**, and its focus on responding to emerging dynamics that are affecting regional stability. The Cooperation Facility will consist of a wide range of tools, initiatives and activities to achieve the objective of advancing EU

strategic interests and priorities in Thailand, of enhancing the EU-Thailand partnership, and of raising Strategic Communication (via public campaigns) and Public Diplomacy as part of a campaign (where relevant).

These political objectives are also strongly linked to our ASEAN interests and cooperation. This Facility and the funding from the regional instruments, under the framework regional TEIs, will be mutually reinforcing.

The Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Thailand is limited to dialogues facility, technical assistance, and strategic communication and public diplomacy under the form of a Cooperation Facility to support EU strategic interests and priorities in Thailand.

The Cooperation Facility will support and facilitate political dialogue between Thailand and the European Union, including support to key policy dialogues linked to the **PCA** and the **FTA**, business cooperation, regulatory framework convergence, economic diplomacy and security issues as well as a continued **dialogue on the SDG agenda**, including sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, environmental issues and the fight against climate change. Strengthening the economic partnership between the European Union and Thailand, especially enhancing open, sustainable and assertive trade and investment will be essential. Good Governance, including anti-corruption and rule of law, and ensuring an inclusive and sustainable recovery are cross cutting issues, which will be emphasised in all aspects of the cooperation with a view to strengthen the role of Thailand in ASEAN and as a partner in Multi-lateral fora, as well as in security sectors such as cyber-security and maritime security. Furthermore, the Facility will support ongoing dialogues with civil society and the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III). Finally, the Facility will cater for enhanced strategic communication and public diplomacy efforts of the EU in Thailand.

The Cooperation Facility consists of a wide range of flexible tools, which should allow for fast assistance and implementation of technical assistance, studies and peer to peer exchanges of experiences where needed. It will also deliver results and enable advocacy on some of the fundamental values of the EU, namely human rights, a strong civil society and gender equality. The facility will allow for an even more coordinated approach, reacting better and faster to emerging crises and challenges. Through strategic communications activities targeting general citizens, in particular those in the 18-35 years old cohort, it will enhance the public awareness, understanding and approval of the special relationship between the EU and Thailand, as set out in the Global Gateway strategy.

Initiatives envisaged under the ASEAN Green Team Europe Initiative would potentially complement activities undertaken under the Cooperation Facility. The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiatives foreseen under this annual 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.

The action supports the EU strategic interests and priorities in Thailand. The action is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, including the Indo-Pacific Strategy and the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action 2018-2022, the new European Consensus on development, the external dimension of the European Green Deal including its sustainable finance and green bond chapters, as well as the other main priorities of the European Commission, including Green Partnerships, Digitalisation, Sustainable Growth and Jobs, Migration and Mobility, Gender Equality (GAP III) as well as Partnerships for Human Development, Peace and Governance.

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Thailand is stuck in the **middle income trap**, and the fight to overcome this trap has been made very challenging by the pandemic and the enormous challenges it has brought with it for the Thai economy. For many years, Thailand has been considered among the most unequal in the world and the pandemic worsened the situation.

Thailand is a key ally of the EU in ASEAN and a driver of ASEAN integration in a number of key areas, including on non-traditional security issues at the national and regional level. The Royal Thai Government is strongly committed to the SDG agenda and domestic policies are well aligned to the 2030 agenda through the philosophy of sufficiency economy, which advocates for a balanced way of living and aims at improving human well-being as a development goal.

Thailand continues to be a regional leader on environmental protection and circular economy initiatives. Furthermore, in 2020 Thailand has launched the BCG strategy (bio-economy, circular economy, green economy) which complements the Thailand 4.0 strategy. As the country enters the next phase of its development, it seeks to balance its economic recovery with environmental and social dimensions, notably by tackling the outstanding challenges on environment and human and labour rights. The Royal Thai Government recognises that gender equality and women empowerment are key aspects of Thailand's sustainable recovery, and the main priorities are well aligned to the GAP III.

Thailand is **vulnerable to climate change**, frequent flash floods threaten the livelihood of millions of people living in the northeast of Thailand, and rising seawater is on the doorstep of Bangkok, which, because of its location in the middle of the delta, is sinking slowly. The National Climate Change Master Plan (2015–2050) is a key document, along with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) roadmap on Mitigation 2021-2030) in steering Thailand's effort in addressing climate change. Thailand is home to significant natural resources and is a regional leader in the protection of these, investing more in its national parks than any other ASEAN Member State. Thailand has shown significant interests in investments linked to circular economy or Bio-Circular-Green economy (BCG), which has been given a place in the national planning process equal to that of Thailand 4.0, both policies considered as vehicles to modernise Thailand and escape the middle income trap. Investments in digital economy is an important part of both strategies.

Thailand has been a **crossroad for migration** within South-East Asia for centuries and unsafe, irregular and unordered migration constitutes a major future challenge for Thailand. In less than a generation, Thailand has transitioned from being a net-sending to a net-receiving nation for labour migration. Migrant workers from neighbouring (and poorer) countries constitute the vast majority of Thailand's current population of migrants. Furthermore, a wide variety of other groups' residents within the country do not hold citizenship status, including stateless persons, asylum seekers and refugees. There are 3,005,376 registered migrant workers in Thailand, of which 1,291,722 or 43% are women, mainly from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. Women migrant workers are generally employed in lower-skilled, lower-wage functions than men<sup>1</sup>.

Key areas of joint interests include external aspects of the **European Green Deal**, in particular climate change, environment, oceans, urbanisation and responsible consumption/production, cooperation, exchanges and peer learning on **science, technology and innovation, digitalisation/digital transition** of their economies. Thailand is very keen to engage in these issues and a strengthened dialogue and cooperation could benefit both parties. As highlighted by international human rights organisations, The Government of Thailand has undertaken inclusive processes to develop a national action plan on business and human rights. There is a growing interest in and awareness of the business and human rights agenda and its importance in Thailand, especially among larger companies with exposure to global markets.<sup>2</sup>

Prosperity, inclusive growth and decent work, labour migration are key issues for the sustainable development of Thailand, increasingly characterised by inequality and increasing pockets of poverty. Finally, Thailand is a key partner in a number of multi-lateral fora including ASEAN as well as in connection to multilateral agreements and international conventions on labour rights, sustainable development and biodiversity. Thailand's **gender parity** scores have improved, from being ranked 79 in 2022 to 74 out of 146 countries in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap Index 2023. Thailand made significant improvement on gender parity in the category of educational attainment with a score of 0.995 percentage points, ranked 61st up from 92nd in 2022. It also scored 0.772 percentage points in economic participation and opportunity, rising to 24th in the list. The scores in these two categories pushed the overall ranking up from 79th to 74th. However, in the category of political empowerment, Thailand scored only 0.101 percentage points, ranking it at 120th.

Several human rights issues and challenges persist and human rights reforms should be promoted to be up to standards with international human rights treaties and commitments.

<sup>1</sup> <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/thailand>

<sup>2</sup> OHCHR, Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, 2019

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

The facility will be able to respond to requests for support from a variety of stakeholders including the Government of Thailand at national and local level (eg Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Labour etc).

International Financing Institutions, in particular European development financial institutions (DFIs) are not currently active in Thailand but it is expected that they will be more closely involved in the coming years.

Other key stakeholders include civil society organisations in Thailand especially those involved in work on policies of EU interests, global challenges or fundamental values of the EU, as well as Thai and European, the private sector, which will play a key role across all priority areas. The Cooperation Facility will maintain an open approach to engage and benefit a wide range of stakeholders as appropriate.

The action will support an enabling environment for civil society in line with the civil society roadmap and the country level implementation plan (CLIP) for gender equality. Strengthening the capacity of civil society and ensuring meaning full dialogue and engagement will be sought through different components of the action. Thai civil society views the relation with the EU favourably and positively. Support will focus on capacity building, outreach and inclusion of the most marginalised in society. A specific focus will be placed on Youth and Women.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to **enhance the EU-Thailand partnership**.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Continue and reinforce EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogues;
2. Promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, including human rights and gender equality, with a particular focus on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
3. Build increased understanding and visibility of the EU and its role in the region and the world scene.

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

- 1.1 Contributing to Outcome 1: A Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Facility is established.
- 2.1 Contributing to Outcome 2: Strategic partnership on EU-Thailand interests
- 3.1. Contributing to Outcome 3: Strategic Communication and, where relevant, Public Diplomacy activities will be put in place.

#### 3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to **Output 1.1: The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Facility** is established to support:

- A. Policy Dialogues (including under the PCA) on:
  - a. Political affairs, trade and investment, security, gender equality and women and youth empowerment, environment/climate change, development and SDGs, good governance, human rights, rule of Law, science and research.
  - b. The external dimension of the European Green Deal (including forests and eco-systems as well as circular economy) to mainstream and strengthen climate, biodiversity and natural resources monitoring, protection and restoration, sustainable management and use.
  - c. Trade issues, including in support of FTA negotiations, including economic governance, market liberalisation, trade and sustainable development, structural reforms and regulatory convergence.

Activities related to **Output 2.1: Strategic partnership on EU-Thailand interests**, linked to the PCA Facility on:

- A. Cooperation between European and Thai businesses to promote decent jobs for all, improve the business environment, facilitate market access and mobilise sustainable investments (in synergy and complementarity with regional, thematic, blending, EFSD+ and FPI interventions).

- B. Structured dialogues with civil society organisations, youth organisations and women's organisations as well as indigenous organisations and human rights defenders, which will also ensure the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues and the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III.
- C. Promote regulatory cooperation, standards, market access and other relevant policies in the trade, digital and economic diplomacy area, including decent work and environmentally and socially sustainable supply chains\*, business and human rights, including labour rights, indigenous people and people living in remote areas.

Activities related to **Output 3.1.: Strategic Communication and Public diplomacy** activities linked to the PCA Facility:

- A. Design and roll out at national level of (a) major public campaign(s) aimed at ordinary citizens, primarily in the 18-35 age cohort, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, understanding and approval of the EU's partnership with the country. All such campaigns will be data-driven, rigorously tracking hard KPIs that will allow content to be constantly adjusted in line with evidence of the material and approaches that resonate most successfully with the audience.
- B. Where relevant, public diplomacy activities may be supported to strengthen networks and long-term relationships with key target audiences and partners (e.g. youth, students, academics, think tanks, CSOs, business, creative industries), as part of a broader campaign.

### 3.3. Mainstreaming

Cross cutting issues will be integrated in the different components of the Cooperation Facility. Climate change, environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender, education are elements of the PCA agreement and some of these issues would also be addressed under the provisions on trade and sustainable development proposed by the EU for a future FTA. Support measures will tackle these aspects to support policy dialogue and political processes. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and in the perspective of building back better, public health and crisis response in the case of global pandemic will be relevant crosscutting issues. Initiatives aimed at disaster risk reduction will be coordinated with ECHO. Finally, conflict prevention work will be undertaken with the communities in the Deep South of Thailand where a low-intensity conflict has taken centre stage in the past decades.

#### Environmental Protection & Climate Change

##### Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B (not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design).

##### Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

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 gender considerations will be taken into account throughout implementation in all activities undertaken under the cooperation facility. At the same time the Facility will be the tool used to implement the GAP III in Thailand. Key areas of priority have been identified in the Country-Level Implementation Plan for Thailand.

Gender equality, human rights and human rights based approach will also be integrated in relevant (capacity building) activities, documents (i.e. ToRs etc), as minimum requirements of expertise. Gender analysis and recollection of sex-disaggregated data will be a promoted practice for actions of the Delegation.

#### Human Rights

Respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the European Union. Strengthening the human rights dialogue with Thailand, and aligning the legal framework (ratification of international human rights treaties) is a key activity

\* Funding for Aid for Trade, TRTA expected from regional programme.



under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Facility. The design and implementation of the program will give attention to those who are most marginalised, excluded or discriminated against and living in vulnerable situations.

#### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that disability is not considered the overall nor a specific objective of the facility. However, in all activities all possible measures will be taken to ensure an inclusive policy dialogue. Therefore attention will be paid to ensure and enable the participation of people with disabilities in the activities under the facility, and to ensure that the achieved results will be accessible for people with disabilities.

#### **Democracy**

All activities, including policy dialogues with the Government of Thailand will aim at strengthening the democratic system of Thailand to ensure that Thailand stays on the path of democracy. This is also supported by a strengthening of the inclusiveness of the dialogue as well as a focus on respect for human rights, good governance, transparency, anti-corruption and the importance of the rule of law.

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

Building resilience and preventing conflicts are relevant in the deep south of Thailand, where a protracted crisis has been ongoing for many years. The EU will work to strengthen the dialogue between the two parties and ensure the inclusiveness of the peace process. Thailand is prone to environmental disasters, protecting the environment, adapting to climate change and building resilience of communities living within or in close proximity to forest and water resources are key issues of thematic funding in Thailand as well in the foreseen increased policy dialogue. The EU has provided assistance to the Myanmar refugee along Thai-Myanmar border including basic health and education needs, livelihood activities and this support for protection and return will be extended to post-2021 coup refugees. A conflict-sensitive approach will be ensured in relevant actions under the Facility.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Building resilience and preventing disaster are primarily relevant in Thailand for conflicts linked to environmental resources. Protecting the environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change and building resilience of communities living within or in close proximity to forest and water resources are key issues of thematic funding in Thailand as well as in the ongoing policy dialogue. Following the COVID-19 pandemic and in the perspective of building back better public health and crisis response in the case of global pandemic will be relevant crosscutting issues.

#### **Other considerations if relevant: Digitalisation and minorities**

The promotion of digital solutions and technologies will be ensured throughout the Action, e.g. to support the green transition and other aspects of sustainable development.

Inclusivity of marginalised communities, minorities, the poorest, indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities and people living in severe poverty, vulnerable women, children and youth will be taken into account when designing specific activities.

### 3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	The political environment in Thailand is unstable and cooperation can be volatile.	medium	high	Flexibility under the Cooperation Facility will allow us to respond and adapt to these changes and to include new or rapidly expanding areas of potential cooperation.
People and the organisation	Stakeholders disengage in the dialogue	low	medium	A pipeline of mutual priorities and strategic initiatives will be developed to ensure the authorities' involvement and engagement.

Communication and information	Public diplomacy efforts lack credibility	<b>low</b>	<b>medium</b>	Public diplomacy and policy outreach are more effective and credible if designed and implemented in partnership with Thai stakeholders and platforms that share EU values and interests. Engaging with youth and establishing a youth sounding board will therefore facilitate the cooperation and increase the EU's recognition.
-------------------------------	---	------------	---------------	---

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

Thai authorities do not appreciate cooperation of a subordinate nature. The Facility has to be presented as an adaptable tool reflecting a new level of partnership between the EU and Thailand, able to offer enhanced opportunities for peer-to-peer exchanges, mutual learning, and closer engagement with the Government of Thailand, the private sector and CSOs in jointly identified areas of mutual interests.

### 3.5. The Intervention Logic

This Cooperation Facility intends to enhance the EU-Thailand partnership.

It will do so by promoting dialogues, increased convergence and approximation of standards and by improving the understanding and visibility of the EU.

The Cooperation Facility, through its wide range of tools, will enable the EU to pursue strategic interests and coherent policy outreach and dialogue with the Government of Thailand and other key stakeholders.

It will provide funding to foster meaningful engagement in a flexible manner, when possible in strong cooperation with the EU member states active in Thailand.

A variety of stakeholders and actors will be associated to the activities, dialogues and relationships: National Authorities, civil society organisations, private sector representatives, academia etc.

The underlying intervention logic for this action is:

IF policy dialogues on the topics of the PCA and those relevant for the ongoing FTA negotiations are organised and supported THEN increased alignment with EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values will be promoted and ensured.

IF the cooperation facility promotes the implementation and localisation of the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) THEN it will be easier for the EU to build a strong relationship with Thailand that can respond to global challenges and uphold to international commitments.

IF strategic communication and public diplomacy is promoted as a tool for foreign policy activities THEN understanding, trust and visibility of the EU will be strengthened and there will be greater awareness of Thai stakeholders of the EU's role in the region and the world scene.

IF civil society organisations, youth organisations and women's organisations as well as indigenous organisations and human rights defenders are involved THEN the EU-Thailand partnership will be more inclusive and diverse.

### 3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

At action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)). It 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
<b>Impact</b>	To enhance the EU-Thailand partnership	1) signed and implemented PCA agreement	1).PCA not signed 2021	1) PCA signed and successfully started implementation by 2027	1 2	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	Continue and reinforce EU-Thailand relations and policy dialogues	1.1 Number of annual policy dialogues with the government of Thailand including high-level dialogues on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment per year 1.2 Number of annual policy dialogues with non-state actors including with CSOs ensuring the inclusion of women's and girls' organisations 1.3 Number of joint statements with the Government of Thailand.	1.1 xx in 2021 1.2 xx in 2021	1.1 + 10 in 2027 1.2 + 5 in 2027	1.1 1.2	
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Promote an increased alignment between EU-Thailand interests, principles, policies and values, including human rights and gender equality, with a particular focus on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2.1 Thailand signs relevant international treaties/conventions also signed by the EU MS. 2.2 Thailand adopts or approximates relevant EU standards 2.3. Thailand aligns with EU's commitments in multilateral fora	2.1 0 2.2 0 2.3 0	2.1 + 10 in 2027 2.2 + 15 in 2027 2.3 + 15 in 2027	2.1 2.2 2.3	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Increased public awareness, understanding and approval of the EU and its role in the country, the region and the world	3.1 EU awareness, brand recognition and approval rates among target public	3.1 Baseline survey 2022	3.1 + 20%	3.1 Opinion survey 2027	
<b>Output related to Outcome 1, 2 and 3</b>	1.1 A Partnership and Cooperation Agreement Facility is established	1.1.1 Contract (s) signed for the facility	1.1.1 not signed	1.1.1 signed by 2024 and implemented by 2027	1.1.1 1.1.2	
<b>Output related to Outcome 2</b>	2.1 Building a strategic partnership on EU-Thailand interests	2.1.1 Nr of participants to dialogues and consultations (disaggregated by sex, age and other categories) 2.1.2 nr of policy documents, studies and assessments finalised and published	2.1.1 2 per year 2.1.2 0	2.1.1 5 dialogues and consultations 2.1.2 at least 10 by 2027	2.1.1 2.1.2	

<b>Output related to Outcome 3</b>	3.1 A Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy plan is developed and implemented	3.1.1 Detailed indicators, baselines and targets will be defined in the Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy strategic plan, to be developed.	2.1.1 not signed	2.1.1 signed by 2024 and implemented by 2027		
------------------------------------	--	---	------------------	--	--	--

## 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 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>3</sup>.

#### 4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

n/a

#### 4.3.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

In order to achieve the objectives under section 3.1, service contracts will be signed to implement outcomes 1, 2 and 3

#### 4.3.3 Indirect Management with a pillar-assessed organisation

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity/ies, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- experience in working with public authorities;
- experience in promoting alignment of EU interests, policies and values in partner countries;
- expertise in providing advisory services, capacity building and/or technical assistance to public and private sector;
- knowledge of the Thai context
- capacity to work in partnership with key bodies of the Thai Government enabling smooth facilitation of one or more policy dialogues related to the SDGs.

The implementation by this/these entity/ies entails stronger results on outcome 1, output 1.1 on the SDG dialogue, as well on outcome 2, output 2.1.

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

<sup>3</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.

In case procurement envisaged under section 4.3.2 cannot be implemented as planned due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality will be indirect management based on the criteria set out under section 4.3.3.

In case the part of the action envisaged to be implemented under section 4.3.3 cannot be implemented under the indirect management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the alternative implementation modality will be direct management (procurement) based on the same criteria.

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

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

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

#### 4.5. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components (amounts in EUR)</b>	<b>EU contribution 2021</b>	<b>EU contribution 2022</b>	<b>EU contribution 2023</b>	<b>Total EU contribution</b>
<b>Procurement (direct management) –</b> Total envelope under section 4.3.2  <i>Including on Strategic Communication and where relevant Public Diplomacy</i>	5 000 000	1 600 000	0	<b>6 600 000</b>
<b>Indirect management with a MS/ international organisation – Total</b> envelope under section 4.3.3	1 000 000	2 400 000	2 000 000	<b>5 400 000</b>
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision <sup>4</sup>	will be covered by another Decision	will be covered by another Decision	0
<b>Contingencies</b>	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6 000 000</b>	<b>4 000 000</b>	<b>2 000 000</b>	<b>12 000 000</b>

<sup>4</sup> Where the action is not covered by a financing agreement (see section 4.1), but 'will be covered by another Decision' as it is unlikely that evaluation and audit contracts on this action would be concluded within N+1. These contracts have to be authorised by another Financing Decision.

## 4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Cooperation Facility will be subjected to an advisory mechanism. This group will discuss and provide on a bi-annual basis the strategic and policy guidance needed to ensure smooth project implementation. It will review and endorse annual work plans, monitor project outputs and achievements and not least provide advice on how to address obstacles and challenges identified during implementation. The group should have participation from the main sections of the Delegation.

Sub-groups of the advisory mechanism group may be set-up for specific areas of the Cooperation facility, such as, but not necessarily limited to, strategic communication and where relevant public diplomacy.

The strategic communication and public diplomacy envelope will be managed by the Head of Cooperation, in agreement with the responsible communication unit in DG INTPA, fully respecting the cooperation facility guidelines.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

## 5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partner is responsible for day to day monitoring and reporting based on the agreed indicators in the logframe. Adjustments to the agreed indicators will be subject to a discussion and approval of the advisory committee. The contracting authority will be responsible for the approval of annual reports.

Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results and the implementation of the human rights based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disability when applicable.

### 5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term evaluation and/or a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation would be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to the intention to launch a second phase of the action.

The final evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the facility incorporated a number of different implementation modalities and covered a great variety of issues.

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].



The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>5</sup>. 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.

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. The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## 6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The objective is to engage in meaningful and effective communication with selected target audiences in order to enhance the widespread understanding and awareness of the European Union in Thailand and its role in the region (ASEAN and wider Asian region) and the world. This will be achieved through the implementation of professionally designed, data-driven campaigns.

A Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy plan will be set up, as a component of the Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) Facility via a service contract. (cf sections 4.3.2 and 4.5).

---

<sup>5</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)