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ANNEX 1

of the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the financing of the Multi-Annual Action Plan for Global Challenges – Partnerships for 2022-2023

Action Document for “Looking for Evidence: Results Measurement & Development Impacts mobilizing Local Researchers”

MULTI ANNUAL PLAN 2022-2023

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 NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Looking for Evidence: Results Measurement & Development Impacts mobilizing Local Researchers OPSYS number: ACT-60884 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme for ‘Global Challenges’ Thematic Programme 2021-2027 Multi Annual Action Programme 2022-2023 for Partnerships
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	‘Partnerships’ pillar, specific objective 1: Enhanced global and multilateral partnerships Expected result: develop measurements of progress on sustainable development in order to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data needed for evidence-based decision and policy making (SDG 17.18).
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	430: Other multisector 151: Government & civil society – General 114: Post-secondary education

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: 17 - <u>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>It will contribute notably to the <u>following targets</u>:</p> <p>17.9, <u>Enhance SDG capacity in developing countries</u>: “Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals”.</p> <p><u>17.16 Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</u> is enhanced, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDGs, in particular developing countries.</p> <p>17.19, <u>Further develop measurements of progress</u>: “By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries”.</p> <p>Other significant SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. 			
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>DAC code 43082 : Research/Scientific Institutions - 50 %</p> <p>DAC code 15327: National monitoring & evaluation - 30%</p> <p>DAC code 11430 : Advanced technical and managerial training – 20%</p>			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	<p>3000: Network</p> <p>31001: GDN - Global development Network</p>			
9. Targets	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Migration</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Climate</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance</p>			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input 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"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/
energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 02 43 Total estimated cost for 2022 budget: EUR 2 000 000 Total amount of EU budget 2022 contribution: EUR 2 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: Grants			

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1.2 Summary of the Action

Progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the Decade of Action and the capacity to implement EU’s priorities depends critically on strengthened global partnerships. The proposed Action intends to contribute to the ‘**Global Challenges**’ (GC) **Multiannual Indicative** programme under NDICI-Global Europe for the partnership pillar in supporting the theme “evidence for development”. It will contribute to the Specific objective 1: *Enhanced global and multilateral partnerships* by promoting multilateral networks, dialogues, and shared responsibility.

The action will contribute to SDG 17, *strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development* and indirectly to SDG 4 *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*.

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support **EU-led investment in research for development in the field of evaluation applied primarily to local context**.

The Specific objectives (Outcomes) are the following:

- To support the development of national evaluation and research capacities through “*deep dives*” to define and better understand the development impacts, inter alia of *private sector investments* in partner countries. Deep dives are innovative research-based impact studies that collect data and use rigorous methods to investigate the nature of development impact and discuss causality, while creating case studies for future reference.
- To create a Network of local researchers affiliated to Research Institutes/Universities in Partner countries (Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America) focused on scientific methodology for measurement, to enhance strategic partnerships around knowledge sharing and ensure wide circulation of the final outputs.
- To expand the data collection and the production of information at the national level. By integrating researchers over the intervention cycle and mobilizing local experts, the action also offers to *expand the data collection* and the production of information *at the national level*.
- To stimulate an evidence-informed policy culture in partner countries for better ownership of EU cooperation interventions.

Through the involvement of local academics with experience in development cooperation, the action intends to ***create a developing country perspective***, thus ensuring that recipient countries can claim ***ownership*** of the narrative of the ongoing transformation and boosting the ***legitimacy*** of the development-oriented intervention.

The relationship between researchers, governments, and other local stakeholders will be strengthened via *research case studies based on “relevant EU programs”* with learning potential in partner countries, which will include programs under the Global Gateway¹ selected in agreement with EU delegations and potentially other donor experiences (notably Team Europe Initiatives).

This action will build a network of skilled researchers and committed national institutions that EU and non-EU donors can tap into to complement existing evaluation practices, while contributing to the continued enhancement of the scientific methodology for measurement at local level that can be easily scaled up in the future.

¹ *The Global Gateway stands for sustainable and trusted connections that work for people and the planet. It will help to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change, to improving health systems, and boosting competitiveness and security of global supply chains* - [Global Gateway | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/pages/press-room.aspx?pid=10247)

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The European Union places the measurement of development impact at the very core of its approach to capture evidence on the results of its external action interventions. Because the European Commission is accountable to EU Institutions and citizens, measuring our impact is essential. It also helps to learn what works, so that we can continually enhance our development impact. This learning process is particularly crucial for innovative approaches and projects, such as the initiatives funded by the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD +) included in the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

In an increasingly complex and challenging environment for international partnerships, the importance of demonstrating results and learning from experience remains a complex global challenge which calls for enhanced partnerships.

Highly specialised knowledge and technical assistance is required to deliver on the international dimension of EU priorities and policy approaches (i.e. Team Europe Initiatives) and provide partner countries and EU Delegations with expertise, knowledge and capacity development. It is important to support *knowledge generation in relation to global challenges and EU priorities*, and its dissemination and use in partner countries. It will be crucial to mobilise the best available international expertise, in combination with *local knowledge, research and innovation capacity*, to address common challenges and seize opportunities across the GC pillars (people, planet, peace, and prosperity), regions, and countries.

The EU is committed to the “policy first principle”, to make sure that the best available evidence (including scientific evidence) informs policy decisions, including via the comprehensive involvement of stakeholders from partner countries (for external action interventions).

The action intends to develop ways to enhance the understanding, timeliness, and relevance of evidence produced through internal and external monitoring and evaluation frameworks, as indicated in NDICI-Global Europe (chapter V) by diversifying toolkits and expanding coverage and pilot/innovative activities.

Enhancing local capacities to generate robust research and knowledge on various development challenges and to support evidence, country-based development remains a priority, including linking local findings to global research, in particular in fragile countries and during the COVID-19 pandemic due to a limited access to the needed data. To this end, the improvement proposed by this action of bringing in more academic research and focusing on enhancing local capacity in partners countries, with a specific focus on socio-economic impact of private sector investments (including impact on environment), will complement existing evaluation at both strategy and project levels. Furthermore, data and analytics produced by the action will be aligned to the data needs of selected Global Gateway programmes.

Local researchers will have an “on-the-job” training, under the mentorship of independent senior experts from Research Institutions to *develop a wider capacity-building process* with broader benefits and spillovers for the recipient countries.

Mobilizing academic research techniques to study the development impact of ongoing private-sector investments requires unusual coordination between researchers, the private sector and development partners. Deep dives explore causal links and answer questions that interest funders and companies as well as academic researchers. They fill a research gap between descriptive studies (which do not mobilize academic research) and scientific impact evaluations (which are demanding in terms of time and cost resources). Deep dives are not substitutes but complements to donors' existing evaluative work and results-measurement frameworks. They offer an opportunity to boost accountability and development effectiveness, through in-depth studies documenting specific impact areas.

In this way, the action will contribute *to use evaluative local capacity in support of the SDGs* in a manner that is empowering for countries themselves.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Effectively addressing global challenges such as climate change, inequality, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires specific evaluation methods that go beyond traditional evaluative approaches and embrace the idea of **transformative change**. For transformative change to take place in the country, the generation and use of evidence is critical. However, such evidence ought to be as diverse as possible. The use of innovative methods such as ‘deep dives’ would help to capture the impact of development interventions, which seems to not be applied by the local experts in the different partner countries.

Weak evaluation/research capacity linked to measurement of development impacts **in partner countries**.

The implementation of the SDGs can be accelerated globally by bolstering evaluation, a powerful tool that improves public accountability and contributes to effective transformative change in line with the needs of local populations. Strengthening national evaluation entails also improving data availability (both quantitative and qualitative) and management at the local level which should be flexible to adapt to changes.

The significant reliance of development partners on ex post evaluations of their priorities, particularly when evaluations are carried out by international consultants, widens the gap between the agenda of development partners and that of local stakeholders. This increases the information asymmetry between local stakeholders and development partners, missing an opportunity to use the process of evaluation itself as a opportunity to build ownership of development efforts.

Limited collection of data at local level

Rigorous evaluative research and the collection of data on development partner priorities by local research institutions is lagging behind, limiting development partners’ access to local evidence that could complement traditional evaluation practices.

A strong signal by development partners and a plausible precedent, along with strong incentives for local researchers and local research institutions, are needed to re-orient evaluative efforts. These should stimulate the integration of data collection and analysis on development partners’ work in local research agendas on development effectiveness. Strengthening national evaluation entails improving data availability and management.

Weak interconnectivity.

The proposed action aims to address the still too weak interconnectivity between **locally deployed evaluation researchers** and **globally active evaluators**. The present proposal offers a complementary solution to the toolkit for external action interventions deployed by the European Commission (DG INTPA). Specifically, this action proposes to mobilise a network of scholars from recipient countries, to design and carry out high-quality evaluative research to *accompany* interventions (and not only ex post), through an approach that enables the co-construction of these evaluation efforts with EU program managers, local counterparts, and global evaluation experts.

The ‘deep dives’ activities for the local researchers (Fellows), proposed via this action, can be seen as a kick-off factor for the development of **national evaluation and research capacities**.. Below are the main added values:

- Learning by doing being accompanied by globally active researchers (as opposed to a training course for instance)
- Pairing with world class experts throughout the evaluation process/evaluative research study
- Focus on socio-economic impacts of private sector investments
- Adopting systemic approaches, including cross sectoral approaches by simultaneously adapting the evaluative approaches to local context, capabilities and social norms
- Built-in research communication training, to complement the research skills and enable the Fellows to engage with the full range of stakeholders

- Performing real-time evaluations, evaluations as implementations are on-going to inform course correction to unanticipated changes in the context and unanticipated consequences, using development evaluation as the main framework model.
- Global exposure of the local Fellows, outreach and visibility through participation in various events

Limited networks of local researchers focused on impact measurement . The above mentioned activities are very important given the increasing frequency and magnitude of instability in the world today, notably in fragile partner countries. However they are often missed by national Monitoring and Evaluation institutions/organisations due to their financial constraints and lack of adaptive management in real time. Therefore this action aims at giving opportunities to local researches not only to learn about monitoring and evaluation methodologies but also to **build networks** going beyond locally affiliated researchers, facilitating international networks across our Partner countries (Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America).

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

Research Institutes/Universities in Partner countries: to improve the scientific methodology for measurement in developing countries, and enhance strategic partnerships around knowledge sharing. Local Research Institutions ensure wide circulation of the final outputs of the action in the different countries and among partner Institutions.

Local Researchers: to build capacity for evaluative research, networking, and global exposure of the academic community in the selected countries (once this type of evaluative research becomes more mainstream, for instance, they will be called upon more frequently to lead such evaluations for the EC and others).

Local governments and local civil society: will be involved in the intervention, including women and youth organisations. The action foresees meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and local governments in the evaluation /research activity of the selected interventions as key stakeholders at local level. Such engagement would range from consulting CSOs on research questions and maintaining their necessary involvement by keeping them informed all along. A Steering Group will be created for each programme to be evaluated, including different stakeholders to provide oversight and comments on the evaluative work. This continuous interaction model provides a promising way to extend the culture of evaluative research in the countries.

National Statistical Institutions. The national statistical systems should be involved as they have a central role in the measurements of progress on sustainable development in order to increase significantly the availability of high quality, timely and reliable data needed for evidence-based decision and policy making (SDG 17.18). In most countries it is a key responsibility of the NSI (or of the wider NSS) to produce (at least most of) this high quality, timely and reliable data.

Local implementers/counterparts of the European Commission (DG INTPA): by allowing them to not only add a capacity-building benefit to the work already done on evaluations, but also by using local academic research to deepen the contextual understanding of development assistance interventions, which should contribute to legitimacy, ownership, and the sustainability of development impact.

European Commission staff (DG INTPA staff): Research design will be co-created with project managers and local stakeholders to ensure buy-in, relevance, and access to data. Academic insights and interactions with operational managers and implementing partners would support and enrich collective learning to expand existing result management systems. Academic researchers would complement existing frameworks by using their customized, contextual, and methodological knowledge to help implementing partners and operational managers identify the most relevant questions on the causal impacts of the interventions.

Global Networks: Networks that are active in research-based development and evaluation will be targeted and they will be activated to help promote and broadcast the competitive call for researchers/research teams and will also be involved in the dissemination of the final outputs of the action. Examples include the African Research and Impact Network (ARIN) and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC).

International Experts: An Expert Advisory group, comprised of expert evaluators who agree to take part in the program and serve as mentors to the selected researchers, will oversee the program.

The Global Development Network: GDN is at the origin - thanks to the EIB-GDN program - of a **range of innovations** embodied in the “Deep Dive” approach, which amount to ways of combining academic insights and rigor with timely impact assessments, while building developing country researchers’ capacity and contributing to the emergence of an evidence-based policy culture in developing countries. Deep Dives are not substitutes but complements to donors' existing evaluative work and results-measurement frameworks. It offers an opportunity to boost accountability and development effectiveness, through in-depth studies documenting specific impact areas.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support **EU-led investment in research for development in the field of evaluation applied primarily to local context.**

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:

1. To support the development of national evaluation and research capacities through “*deep dives*” (powerful tool to improve public accountability and contribute to the countries’ abilities to capture and demonstrate SDG results).
2. Create network of local researchers affiliated to Research Institutions/Universities in selected Partner countries, particularly in relation to evaluative research capacity and scientific work linked to measurement of the impact of external action interventions on the ground.
3. Expand the data collection and the production of information at the national level.
4. To stimulate an evidence-informed policy culture in partner countries for better ownership of EU cooperation interventions.

Strengthening national evaluation entails improving data availability and management.

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

1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1): a global competitive call targeting local researchers in selected partner countries, identifies a diverse pool of local researcher/research teams, a majority of which are affiliated with local institutions. These researchers and teams are offered opportunities to develop evaluative research projects, and individually paired with international-level Expert Advisors.

2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2) A global community of local researchers/research teams from selected partner countries is created through a joint world-class training in evaluative research, with opportunities for peer learning, sharing of information, and the development of best practices in evaluative research across partner countries

3.1 contributing to Outcome 3 (or Specific Objective 3) GDN hosts one Research – Co-creation Lab per partner country, facilitating the co-creation of multiple high-quality evaluative research projects (‘Deep Dives’) on development partners’ private sector support in their respective countries. Part of these will translate into publishable quality academic papers, helping to build a credible model for future scale-up of locally driven evaluative research work on development partners’ priorities.

4.1. contributing to Outcome 4 (or Specific Objective 4) A diverse group of stakeholders, including non-EU development partners, is engaged in different phases of the action from early on, including Co-creation Labs, the ‘Deep Dives’, and dissemination events, including from countries not originally included in the

action, supporting broad local ownership of evidence-based debates on development partners/priorities and impact.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1

During a 6-month Inception Phase, GDN will

A. identify, in close coordination with DG INTPA and EU delegations, 4 target partner countries (at least one per region: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean) and the policy priorities (including climate agenda) on which to target the action. This will allow building buy-in of EU delegation in the action and increase the opportunities for cumulative learning across countries.

B. identify up to 10 Expert Advisors among evaluation experts, at the international level, with 20+ years of experience. These will constitute the actions' Expert Advisory Group. The Expert Advisory Group will play a role in validating the Call for Expressions of Interest targeted at researchers (see below), and evaluating the applications in the final stage of selection. They will then be paired individually with one or more selected researchers as Expert Advisors and will follow the researchers during the entire program.

C. During the same semester, GDN will develop and launch a multi-country call targeting researchers and/or research teams interested in building up evaluative research of development partners' private sector support as part of the work of their local institutions. Individual applicants will be eligible, but preference will be given to researchers with a stable institutional affiliation who have received their respective employer's written support to apply.

Activity relating to Output 2.1

A. At the end of the Inception Phase, 15 selected researchers/research groups will be invited to a 3-day training event on evaluative research, where they will have a chance to receive formal training in evaluative research concepts and methodologies, learn about the structure of the action, discuss the state of evaluative research in their institutions and countries, and network with peers, Expert Advisors, and GDN and INTPA staff managing the action.

B. "Co-creation Labs" will be organized to connect researchers with governments and/or civil society which will link researchers and policy makers (and other stakeholders, civil society and/or private sectors among others depending on the programme) in the very design of the research programs/evaluations. These Labs have a twofold impact: i) interest policy makers in the research programs and create ownership on their part of the objectives of the work to be done by researchers; and ii) drawing researchers' attention to what actually matters if they want their work to be policy-relevant.

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

A. GDN will host four "Co-creation Labs", one per country. Ahead of each, GDN will issue country-specific Call for Participation in the Lab targeting stakeholders, in close consultation with selected researchers and local EU delegations. Each Co-creation Lab is a 2-day event during which researchers co-construct their evaluative research projects in conjunction with development partners and local stakeholders. Each researcher will aim to use the Lab to build buy-in and commitment to the project objectives and questions, and to discuss data access issues. Specific support will be given to the development of data sharing agreements specific to individual projects. Co-Creation labs in different countries will be hosted at few weeks' distance from each other, over a 4-6 month period.

B. After the Co-creation Lab, researchers will fully develop their evaluative research project during 1 month, in interaction with their paired Expert Advisor. Once the project is cleared by the Advisor, GDN will issue a 12-month grant to each selected researcher to produce a 'Deep Dive' report. Grants will include a deliverable of drafting a publishable quality paper based on the Deep Dive report. Expert Advisors might co-author the paper if interested.

Activities relating to Output 4.1:

A. GDN will co-host ‘Deep Dives’ dissemination events with local EU delegations and Team EU in partner countries, including countries not originally targeted by the action, if possible, with the goal to mobilise the stakeholders identified with the Call for Participation under Output 3.1 and non-EU development partners. Events will serve as an opportunity to create local evidence-based discussions on the impact of development partners’ private sector support in partner countries, showcasing local researchers’ skills and their network in view of further scale-up of the action in further countries and with further development partners.

B. A Satisfaction Survey of both researchers, Expert Advisors, and local EU delegations staff will capture the view of key stakeholders involved in the action.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change**Outcomes of the SEA screening** (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

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

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

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category B not requiring an EIA, but for which environment aspects will be addressed during design when research topics concern sectors linked to green deal. In the inception phase of this action, the specific sector and the types of ‘interventions’ or ‘programs’ to be assessed through the deep dives will be defined and the environmental aspect will be taken into consideration at that time.

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project) The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls²

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender is a significant objective and is mainstreamed throughout. Research programme themes include women’s empowerment, and gender issues will be mainstreamed through the different sectors. Local civil society will be the involved of the intervention, including women and youth organisations. Such engagement would range from consulting them on research questions and maintaining their necessary involvement by keeping them informed throughout, including their participation in the technical committee of the different programmes.

GDN will ensure that the competitive selection process aims to identify 30% female-led research teams, though the capacity to reach this target depends on the structure of the researcher population in the target countries, which is currently unknown. The selection processes for researchers will be gender-sensitive and adequate means will be ensured to attract applications from women. The guidelines of the open Calls will include the requirements for gender equality. The composition of stakeholders in the Co-Creation Labs, through the Call for Participation, will also aim to include a significant representation of women and women’s organisations. This will ensure an active inclusion of women/girls and women’s organizations in the co-creation of evaluative research projects.

Human Rights

A human rights based approach will be mainstreamed throughout the implementation of the action in line with the different sectors of the research programmes chosen.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the action will strive to have the participation of researchers with special needs, but also fellows coming from

² The Action is in line with GAP III: [join-2020-17-final_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/easip/en/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf)

disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. The composition of stakeholders in the Co-Creation Labs, through the Call for Participation, will aim to include a representation of disabled/disabled people's organisations. This will ensure an active inclusion of different perspectives in the co-creation of evaluative research projects.

Democracy

The challenge of promoting evidence-informed policies involves a culture of collecting and critically looking at evidence involving local stakeholders, rather than the promotion of narrow technical expertise in given areas. The value given to evidence in public debate and decision making is quintessential to a healthy democracy and transparent policy processes. In this sense, the space and value given to evaluative research and development effectiveness is an important indicator.

Supporting a well-trained, locally anchored but globally connected team of evaluative research specialists is particularly critical in fragile countries, where volatile contexts and threats to democracy pose challenges to strong research systems and embedded research cultures. This action will strengthen the autonomy of Research Institutions in fragile countries by linking them to an international network of researchers.

This will provide GDN, INTPA and EU delegations first-hand independent information on the local context, and on the window of opportunity to strengthen democratic processes through investments in knowledge for development.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

N/A

Disaster Risk Reduction

N/A

Other considerations if relevant

EU initiatives or programs to be evaluated would be selected within a specific sector in line with EU priorities, which include cross-cutting issues that could generate maximum learning opportunities.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
2	Selection of researchers that participate in the action is biased and does not follow merit-based selection	M	H	Researchers are competitively selected through the open calls based on their CV, interest, past experience. Shortlisted candidates invited to Evaluation Co-Creation Labs to refine the choice
2	Use international academics for scientific measurement at local level that deprive academic institutions in partner countries.	M	M	Embed involvement of local researches in institutional partnership that will contribute to provide resources to local institutions (research centres and universities).

2	Unclear understanding of stakeholders expectations	M	H	Achieve clarity during the preparation of the research activity by involving different stakeholders in the design of research questions
1	Volatile political context	M	L	Closely monitor the events that may affect the context in each countries and introduce some flexibility in timing of data collection
3	Sustainability of the development actions at local level.	M	H	Whenever possible go through the institutions researchers affiliated that will be empowered and create networks
3	Restricted travel of international tutors/experts in the partner countries due to Covid-19 restrictions	H	M	Use of digital technologies for remote meetings and involvement of experts from partner countries Universities and Institutions

Lessons Learnt:

The current proposal draws on GDN’s experience running a large pilot program with the European Investment Bank between 2017 and 2021, through which it found cost-effective ways to mobilise local evaluative research in order to assess the development impacts of private sector investments in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries through “**deep dives**”.

The ‘deep dives’ conducted in the context of the GDN-EIB program provided a much-needed proof of concept regarding the fact that it is possible to carry out research-based impact assessments that meet multiple stakeholders’ needs and provide useful information about the nature of development impacts. The GDN-EIB program also showed that this effort met two further objectives: to *leverage evaluation work at reasonable costs* and to *build local evaluative research capacity* in the process.

The EIB-GDN programme worked with local researchers and helped them develop their skills, while drawing on the technical knowledge of top international experts. The programme produced 16 impact studies for investments funded under the Impact Financing Envelope, in sectors ranging from healthcare to microfinance in eight African and Caribbean countries.

The publications resulting from the program, authored by some of the most prominent evaluation experts globally, argue that the “*deep dive approach has great scaling-up potential.*” It provides an innovative way to promote the connection between research and action.

European Investment Bank: EIB staff were heavily involved in supporting the GDN-EIB program. EIB will be informed of the action and possibility for participation as advisor or partner.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that

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- Local researchers in partner countries are competitively selected, paying particular attention to their interest in developing their methodological skills and research agendas on evaluative research of development partner priorities, notably the EU;

- Selected researchers are provided world-class training and professional networking opportunities (South-South and North-South) on evaluative research and measurement, including close interactions with international-level evaluation Expert Advisors;
- The trained researchers are financially, scientifically, and logistically supported to co-create evaluative research projects on development partner priorities with a wide range of stakeholders (including civil society and local government), and use them to develop reports (Deep Dives) and academic papers
- If GDN and EU stakeholders join hands in disseminating the data and findings relating to the Deep Dives as opportunities for learning and debate, including among local stakeholders and non-EU development partners;

and ASSUMING that:

- A local debate on evaluation and measurement exist in partner countries, and evaluation is not politicised;
- Development partner support is perceived as an important issue among stakeholders in partner countries;
- Travel restrictions do not hamper in-person meetings and opportunities for co-creation and networking;

THEN

- Capacity of local research groups and institutions to conduct evaluative research on EU support to the private sector in partner countries will be enhanced
- A network of local researchers specialised in evaluative research and measurement of development partners will be grown and expanded
- Data collection and rigorous analysis of EU support to private sector in partner countries will be expanded and strengthened, and
- Local ownership of EU cooperation interventions will be enhanced though expanded evidence-informed policy culture in partner countries

IF these are achieved it is also because

- A minimum level of capacity and interest in private sector support by development partners exists among local research institutions of partner countries
- Evaluative research comes to be recognised as an enticing area of work by local researchers in partner countries
- Data access issues are manageable in partner countries
- A career in evaluation is not perceived as an alternative to academic research by local researchers and institutions

If these hold true, THEN

- The action will support **EU-led investment in research for development in the field of evaluation applied primarily to local context**

BECAUSE

- ‘Deep Dives’ have proven to be an effective way to mobilise local researchers on evaluative research, and generate high-quality insights on the impact of development partner support to private sector initiatives, as GDN’s collaboration with EIB has recently showcased.
- Networking and scientific opportunities, both South-South and North-South, increase the legitimacy and credibility of research-based evidence on development partner priorities, both domestically and among the community of development partners, incentivising local accountability mechanism centred around the locally-generated research-based evidence, as showcased in GDN’s recent work on research systems of partner countries among others.
- Enhanced analytical capacity in specific methods, tools, and topics can be expected to create a demand for institutionalising research agendas, namely on evaluative research and measurement, in local research institutions, as GDN’s two-decade long experience shows.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

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

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

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

Results	Results chain (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support EU-led investment in research for development in the field of evaluation applied primarily to local context.	1 Local research institutions in partner countries include in their research agendas data collection and evaluative analysis on EU priorities	1 none (2022)	1 4 per partner country involved in action (2025)	1 end-line survey in each country; local institutions research agendas	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1 capacity of local research groups and institutions enhanced to conduct evaluative research on EU support to private sector in partner countries	1.1 Number of local researchers or research teams in partner countries selected in the action (Disaggregated by sex) 1.2 Number of local research groups or institutions who mention evaluative research of development partners' private sector support in their research agendas	1.1 0 (2022) 1.2 0 (2022)	1.1 45 (2025) 1.2 5 (2025)	1.1 GDN project management documents 1.2 End-line survey of sub-grantees and Scientific Advisors; ocal Institutions research agenda	A minimum level of capacity and interest in international private sector support exists among local research institutions of partner countries
Outcome 2	Global network of local researchers affiliated to Research Institutions/Universities in selected Partner countries strengthened, particularly in relation to evaluative research capacity and scientific work linked to measurement	2.1 Number of researchers/evaluators participating in the action as representatives of research institutions based in partner countries (Principal Investigators) 2.2 Ratio between countries engaged directly in action and countries engaged in dissemination events 2.3 Number of new institutional partnerships between researchers and Expert Advisors generated within the life of the action, in relation to evaluative research capacity and	2.1 0 (2022) 2.2 0 (2022) 2.3 0 (2022)	2.1 30 (2025) 2.2 1.2 (2025) 2.3 5 (2025)	2.1 GDN project management documents and reports 2.2 GDN project management documents and reports 2.3 End-line survey of sub-grantees	Evaluative research is recognised as an appealing area of work by local researchers and Institutions in partner countries

		scientific work linked to measurement				
Outcome 3	3 Expanded data collection and rigorous analysis of EU support to private sector in partner countries	3.1 Number of 'Deep Dives' independently carried out on EC private sector support in partner countries 3.2 Number of papers produced by selected researchers, including those co-authored by multiple researchers, deemed of publishable quality by Expert Advisors	3.1 0 (2022) 3.2 0 (2022)	3.1 12 (2025) 3.2 9 (2025)	3.1 GDN project management documents and reports 3.2 Minutes of Global Expert Group meetings	Data access issues are manageable in partner countries
Outcome 4	4 Enhanced ownership of EU cooperation intervention and expanded evidence-informed policy culture in partner countries	4.1 Number of local research groups or institutions who integrate evaluative research of development partners' private sector support in their research agendas on development effectiveness and impact 4.2 Number of dissemination events co-convened with development partners or local stakeholders	4.1 0% (2022) 4.2 0 (2022)	4.1 16 (2025) 4.2 10 (2025)	4.1 GDN project management documents and reports 4.2 GDN project management documents and reports	A career in evaluation is not perceived as an alternative to academic research by local researchers and institutions
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 A diverse pool of local researchers and research teams are competitively selected in partner countries to develop evaluative research projects on private sector supported interventions by development partners	1.1.1 Number of applicants to Call for Expression of Interest 1.1.2 Number of shortlisted applicants 1.1.3 Ratio between % of women applicants or women-led teams in applicant pool to % of women or women-led teams in selected pool 1.1.4 % of researchers below the	1.1.1 0 (2022) 1.1.2 0 (2022) 1.1.3 0 (2022) 1.1.4 0% (2022) 1.1.5 0 (2022)	1.1.1 100 (2023) 1.1.2 45 (2023) 1.1.3 1.2 (2023) 1.1.4 50% (2023) 1.1.5 12 (2023)	1.1.1 GDN project management documents and reports 1.1.2 GDN project management documents and reports	A local debate on evaluation and measurement exist in partner countries

		<p>age of 40 in the selected pool</p> <p>1.1.5 Number of senior international evaluation specialists (20+ years of experience) in the Expert Advisory Group</p>				
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Selected teams participated in a single/global training program on evaluative research	<p>2.1.1 % of researchers formally trained in a variety of evaluative research approaches within the selected pool</p> <p>2.1.2 Level of satisfaction with peer-to-peer global networking opportunities on topic of evaluative research</p>	<p>2.1.1 0-10% (2022)</p> <p>2.1.2 Low/Medium (2022)</p>	<p>2.1.1 100% (2023)</p> <p>2.1.2 2 High (2023)</p>	<p>2.1.1 GDN project management documents and reports</p> <p>2.1.2 Post-event survey to trainees</p>	Travel restrictions do not hamper in-person meetings
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	<p>3.1 Selected researcher and stakeholders participated in Co-creation - Labs which link researchers and policy makers. They focused on the co-creation of research project with stakeholders (development partners, civil society, private sector, government Institutions in partner countries)</p> <p>3.2 Results from Deep Dives are published in international peer reviewed journals</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of Co-Creation Labs hosted by GDN</p> <p>3.1.2 Ratio of projects defined during the Co-creation Lab that include data access agreements signed by research teams and stakeholders</p> <p>3.2.1 Ratio of researchers who submitted academic papers to international peer-reviewed journals</p>	<p>3.1.1 0 (2022)</p> <p>3.1.2 0 (2022)</p> <p>3.2.1 0 (2022)</p>	<p>3.1.1 4 (one per region: Asia, LAC 2 for Africa,) (2023)</p> <p>3.1.2 100% (2023)</p> <p>3.2.1 50% (2025)</p>	<p>3.1.1 GDN project management documents and reports</p> <p>3.1.2 GDN project management documents and reports</p> <p>3.2.1 End-line survey of GDN grantees; minutes of Global Advisory Group meetings</p>	Governments in partner countries value independently evaluation as a source of evidence and support to action.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 4	4.1 Development partners and stakeholders, including youth, women and the differently abled, are identified through a Call for Participation to	4.1.1 Ratio of researchers to stakeholders participating in Co Creation labs organised by GDN to	<p>4.1.1 0% (2022)</p> <p>4.2.1 0 (2022)</p> <p>4.2.2 0 (2022)</p>	<p>4.1.1 50% (2023)</p> <p>4.2.1 10 (2025)</p>	4.1.1 GDN project management documents and reports	International support to development is perceived as an important issue among

	<p>join the Co-Creation Labs and participate in the co-creation of research projects, in consultation of local EU delegations and Team EU</p> <p>4.2 Results of Deep Dives are discussed with a broad audience of stakeholders, namely development partners.</p>	<p>co-create evaluative research projects</p> <p>4.2.1 Number of debates organized with development partners, namely EU delegations and Team EU, to present and discuss Deep Dives</p> <p>4.2.2 Number of non-EU development partners attending dissemination events organized by GDN and Team EU delegations at country level</p>		<p>4.2.2 4 per event (2025)</p>	<p>4.2.1 GDN project management documents and reports</p> <p>4.2.2 GDN project management documents and reports</p>	<p>stakeholders in partner countries.</p>
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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 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation Modalities

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

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the intended grants is to contribute to the expected outputs under the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: Develop national evaluation and research capacities (powerful tool to improve public accountability and contributes to the countries abilities to capture and demonstrate SDG results)

Specific Objective 2: Create network of local researchers affiliated to Research Institutions/Universities in selected Partner countries, particularly in relation to evaluative research capacity and scientific work linked to measurement

Specific Objective 3: Expand the data collection and the production of information at national level

Specific Objective 4: Stimulate an evidence-informed policy culture in partner countries for better ownership of EU cooperation intervention

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The applicant will be a Public International Organization – GDN Global Development Network.

[(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its administrative power with regard to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union. More specifically concerning:

- Para (f) of Art.195 specifically mentions "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”.

GDN is the only organisation that developed and experienced the methodology which characterise the activities of the action which is based on a large pilot program with the European Investment Bank between 2017 and 2021 through which mobilized local evaluative research in order to assess the development impacts of private sector investments in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through the so-called “**deep dives**”. The original Deep Dive approach, developed by GDN, allows a simultaneous generation of high-quality knowledge on the impact of private sector initiatives, and provision of capacity building opportunities.

GDN has also a proven track record in its capacity to convene high-level groups of world class global experts, and linking it to local academics to generate evaluative research.

The GDN-EIB program showed that this effort meet two further objectives: to *leverage evaluation work at reasonable costs* and to *build local evaluative research capacity* in the process. GDN is unique in having developed the institutional experience and methodological innovation that enable these objectives. The publications resulting from the program, authored by some of the most prominent evaluation experts globally, argue that the “deep dive approach has great scaling-up potential.” It provides an innovative way to promote the connection between research and action.

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

In case the preferred implementation modality identified in section 4.3.1 (direct management) cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside the Commission control, the action maybe implemented through indirect management with pillar assessed entities (Member States agencies or International Organisations) that will be selected following these criteria:

- Technical expertise in the field of result based evaluation
- Network of local Research Institutions in partner countries

4.4 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified [(If not relevant please delete this column)]
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3		
Grants – total envelope under section 4.3.1	2 000 000	N.A.
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	Amount may be covered by another Decision ³	N.A.
Contingencies ⁴	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	2 000 000	N.A

⁴ Support measures for Global Challenges in 2023

4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

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.

To ensure the successful delivery of the project across a range of countries and partners, the action will be overseen by a **steering committee** (SC), supported by **Programme technical committees** (TC) for each programme to be evaluated in the different countries. Through a combination of a regular monitoring at technical level and effective coordination and steering at decision-making level, this governance structure will ensure buy-in and ownership from all relevant stakeholders, thereby maximising coordination in the targeted sectors as well as impact.

The SC will be responsible for the overall strategic guidance of the project. The SC resolves strategic and policy issues, review and endorse annual work-plans and progress reports, identify achievements and constraints and propose adjustments, if needed. The SC will meet twice a year and will consist of representatives of the Commissions (DG INTPA leading unit D4) and representative of the beneficiary partners GDN as well as selected research institutions and lead international experts.

The main purpose of the TC is to follow the implementation of the research work, improve information sharing and coordination, and monitor implementation. It assists and advises members of the SC on all activities related to the project. The TC will have representatives of GDN, senior evaluation, representatives of the EUD in the countries and of EU projects implementer as well as selected CSO representatives and local government who represent the different areas of work at least one representative for organisation for gender equality, youth and people with disabilities.

Selected local reserchers will carry out the deep dives with ongoing monitoring from the GDN team and under the guidance of the expert advisors. Specifically, to ensure the quality of the work, local researchers will be advised by the senior evaluation experts serving as expert advisors in shaping the questions for the evaluations/deep dives; analytical methodologies; dealing with data limitations and challenges; computational techniques; as well as communicating findings to diverse non-academic audiences.

4.5. 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).

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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).

In addition, the implementing partner will be required to contribute to the regular and structured monitoring of the results achieved by EU-funded actions through OPSYS. This responsibility will include encoding of the log-frame and regularly update indicator values in OPSYS.

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partner will be responsible for data collection, analysis and monitoring. Whenever possible the project will harmonise its data collection with national partners systems in the different countries. The implementing partner will set up a comprehensive results-based monitoring system which assigns clear responsibilities for data collection and reporting and ensures that all relevant data to report on the indicators in the log frame is collected on a regular basis. The project will consider both quantitative and qualitative data to measure achievement or to reflect the changes connected to stated outcomes.

The project will adopt gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system and processes, ensuring that in all data collection and analysis processes assess at how things impact people differently because of their gender (i.e. through gender disaggregated data, gender analysis, etc.).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants or through a joint mission via the implementing partner financed through other funding.⁵

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that this is an innovative approach that need to be tested also for broader replicability.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 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 may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision. The evaluation will be gender and human rights sensitive, assess gender equality and human rights results and implementation of rights-based approach working principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency).

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.

⁵ Support measure in 2023

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.

Appendix REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	