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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023

Action Document for EU–Kazakhstan Cooperation Facility 2022-2023

MULTI-ANNUAL

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 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Facility 2022-2023 CRIS number: 2022/043-500; 2023/043-556 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe Instrument
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Kazakhstan
4. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Kazakhstan 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	The Cooperation Facility will support the implementation of the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) ¹ , which entered fully into force on 1 March 2020. It will include support for capacity development and institution building, support for policy dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders, support to facilitate Team Europe coordination at country level, actions to support the participation of Kazakhstan in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies, where relevant, as well as financing communication activities, including strategic communication, fight against disinformation, EU visibility actions, and public and cultural diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda in Kazakhstan.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	43010 – Multi-sector
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG : SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals

¹ [Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan - European External Action Service \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/infographic-enhanced-partnership-and-cooperation-agreement-between-the-european-union-and-the-republic-of-kazakhstan-2020.pdf)

	Other significant SDGs: (5) gender equality, (7) clean energy, (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.			
8 a) DAC code(s) ²	DAC 410 - General Environment Protection – app. 35% DAC 330 – Trade policies and regulations - app. 35% DAC 150 – Government and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) - app. 30%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Other - 50000			
9. Targets ³	<input checked="" 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 ⁴ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance ⁵			
10. Markers ⁶ (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

² DAC sectors (codes and descriptions) are indicated in the first and fourth columns of the tab ‘purpose codes’ in the following document: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/dacandcrscodelists.htm>

³ Actual contribution to targets will be confirmed ex-post based on a standardised methodology.

⁴ This target is specific to INTPA. If the action is marked as contributing to the Education target, please make sure the target on “Social inclusion and Human Development” is also marked.

⁵ Thematic target for geographic programmes (at least 15%) in delegated act.

⁶ For guidance, see <https://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/> (go to “Data collection and resources for reporters”, select Addendum 2, annexes 18 (policy) and 19 (Rio) of the reporting directive).

If an action is marked in the DAC form as contributing to one of the general policy objectives or to RIO principles as a principal objective or a significant objective, then this should be reflected in the logframe matrix (in the results chain and/or indicators).

	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers⁷ and Tags⁸:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020130 NDICI Middle East and Central Asia</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 9 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 9 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 8 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing⁹	<p>Direct management through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement - Grants 			

1.2. Summary of the Action

⁷ The internal markers have been created to report on the implementation of the Commission's own policy priorities in areas where no DAC reporting tool is available. For the sake of consistency and comparability, the methodology is equivalent to the DAC markers, with three possible positions (main target, significant target, not targeted)

⁸ Methodology for additional tagging providing granularity on internal markers is under development.

⁹ Art. 27 NDICI

The proposed action will support the **implementation of the EPCA through a Team Europe approach** and will include:

- Support for policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders.
- Support for capacity development and institution building, including through technical assistance and exchange of public expertise, e.g. through twinning-like arrangements.
- Support to facilitate Team Europe coordination at country level.
- Actions to support the participation of the country in EU Programmes and cooperation with EU Agencies, where relevant.
- Address important root causes of migration by stimulating job creation and the development of a just society for both Kazakh citizens and migrant workers from other countries of the region.
- Financing communication including strategic communication, fight against disinformation, visibility actions on EU cooperation, and public and cultural diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda in Kazakhstan.

The cooperation facility will focus on **two priority areas: Sustainable Economic Growth and Rule of Law**.

The objective of the first area, **Sustainable Economic Growth**, is to promote a more diverse, green and circular economy, support a transition from coal to greener alternatives, and support electricity market integration, through investments and support to a greener, more digital and more inclusive private sector. In terms of the focus of specific interventions, the Cooperation Facility will be guided by the provisions of and EU commitments to cooperate or provide support laid down in the EPCA. Accordingly, it will focus on trade, transport, agriculture, water resources management, environment and energy. Emphasis will be on Micro-, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs), which were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women and youth-led MSMEs will benefit from particular support. The promotion of decent work and business and human rights, including labour rights, principles will also be supported.

The objective of the second area, **Rule of Law**, is to support the strengthening of the legal framework and institutions in place to ensure the respect of human rights, including labour rights, and justice for all. Similar to the first priority area, the focus of specific interventions under the Cooperation Facility will be guided by EPCA commitments. It will support targeted efforts in fighting corruption, inequality, including gender inequality, implementation of international labour standards and the development of a more business and investment friendly legal environment, e.g. through e-governance and digitalisation. Related to the latter, due attention will be paid to IT, cyber- and data-security, as well as the right to privacy. Targeted assistance and policy dialogue to support the establishment of an independent, effective and accountable judicial system, as well as compliance with fair trial standards will be key.

CSOs will continue to play their role as partners of the Government and the EU through their monitoring of and support to the implementation of Kazakhstan's international and constitutional commitments. This will include promotion of continued engagement with the social partners.

The Cooperation Facility will apply several tools, initiatives and activities to achieve its objective. The facility will also support enhanced strategic communication and public diplomacy efforts of the EU in Kazakhstan in key areas of interests.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Kazakhstan is a key partner for the EU in Central Asia, partly due to its abundant energy resources and the trade and investment opportunities linked to Eurasian connectivity, including China's Belt and Road Initiative.

As Kazakhstan's foremost investment and trading partner, the EU is the most relevant standard setter and an important partner in the country's reform processes. In addition to its role as a key energy supplier, Kazakhstan is of interest to the EU to develop the market for European products and services in the country, while increasing cooperation on climate action / low-carbon development in the context of the Paris Agreement. At the same time, the EU has an

interest in supporting the country's continued development as a secular democratic state respecting human rights, including labour rights, gender equality and the rule of law and supporting a rules-based global order.

The EPCA, which entered fully into force on 1 March 2020, testifies to Kazakhstan's willingness to commit to comprehensive cooperation with the EU.

The government has formulated objectives that are generally aligned with those of the EU, reflecting common challenges (e.g. environment and water management, climate change, migration, countering transnational organised crime, trafficking, including in human beings, violent extremism and terrorism, promoting intra-regional trade and connectivity) to ensure stability and security in Central Asia. Having achieved a relatively high level of human capital development and poverty reduction, Kazakhstan is well-placed to be a leading force in promoting intra-regional integration and share experiences and good practices with its neighbours. Kazakhstan has also maintained a steady women's labour-force participation rate. However, the gap between male and female labour force participation and wages is not narrowing.

The development goals of the Government of Kazakhstan are set out in a number of strategies and programs. "Kazakhstan 2050" presents the overarching, long-term vision, while the "Strategic Development Plan 2025" (SDP 2025) defines the mid-term implementation strategy and guides the accompanying sectoral programs. SDP 2025 sets out the objectives of modernising the economy and strengthening institutions and competitive businesses in a sustainable way. Thus, the overarching objective is to place Kazakhstan in the top 30 most developed countries in the world by 2050. SDP 2025 explicitly refers to the SDGs as key markers for Kazakhstan's development with specific reference to human capital development, improving the well-being of citizens and limiting the negative impact on the environment. The strategies set out in the various national development documents respond well to the development challenges of Kazakhstan and Central Asia and are generally well aligned with the EPCA as well as EU's 2019 Central Asia Strategy¹⁰ and the Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia of 2018¹¹.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

Kazakhstan's economy is heavily reliant on the extractive industry and financially dependent on international commodity prices, mainly oil, minerals and agricultural products. The national development documents recognise this vulnerability, which is the main justification for prioritising economic diversification and modernisation efforts.

However, the unprecedented scale of the COVID-19 crisis, its social-economic consequences and impact on commodity prices pose challenges to Kazakhstan's plans and may delay and/or require revisions of some specific development targets. Key challenges and opportunities identified in the SDP 2025 remain relevant in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, for which the government has developed several response plans. The most prominent of these is the Comprehensive Plan for Economic Recovery, which is worth about 9% of the GDP. This Plan comprises measures and instruments to stimulate economic activity, support employment and increase public income.

Particular emphasis is placed on the post-COVID inclusive green recovery, including decent job creation, through attracting investments and providing support to SMEs, and for digitalisation, together with social protection measures, additional reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a progressive shift to renewable energy sources. This is fully in line with the EU Green Deal¹² and EU Recovery Plan priorities¹³, as well as with the principle of 'Building Back Better'.

While Kazakhstan has made significant progress in terms of economic development, the human rights situation is, in general, not improving. Legal initiatives by the Parliament and targeted inspections of CSOs promoting human rights, trade unions, media and religious organisations have limited the freedoms of expression, association and assembly.

¹⁰ JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL The EU and Central Asia: New Opportunities for a Stronger Partnership - JOIN/2019/9 final of 15.5.2019

¹¹ JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK Connecting Europe and Asia - Building blocks for an EU Strategy - JOIN/2018/31 final of 19.9.2018.

¹² [European Green Deal - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-operations/infographic-116366.jpg)

¹³ [Recovery plan for Europe | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/press_corner/detail/2020/05/20200514_recovery_plan_for_europe)

The arrests and detention of peaceful demonstrators during the 2019 presidential elections and the 2021 parliamentary elections provide examples of actions by the authorities to prevent citizens from taking active part in the political life, and in particular from expressing dissent. At the same time, there is a growing recognition in Kazakhstan that economic development and political stability cannot be achieved to the detriment of progress in political reforms, democracy and rule of law, if it is to remain a stable, independent country.

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

The Cooperation Facility will be able to respond to requests for support from a variety of stakeholders including the Government of Kazakhstan, International Financial Institutions, in particular European Development Financing Institutions (DFIs). Other key stakeholders include CSOs, including social partners, especially those involved in work on policies of EU interests, global challenges or fundamental values of the EU, as well as Kazakhstani and European 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 meaningful dialogue and engagement will be sought through different components of the action. The Kazakhstani 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 the youth and women through the meaningful participation of women's and youth organisations.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support the implementation of the EPCA.

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

1. Support economic growth and decent job creation through the promotion of international trade and a greener, more digital and more inclusive private sector.
2. Support the strengthening of the legal framework, institutions and systems in place to ensure justice for all and the respect of human rights.
3. Build increased awareness and solid understanding of the EU and its role in the country and world scene, through strategic communication and public diplomacy activities.

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

1.1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1):

- EU-Kazakhstan cooperation in sectors such as trade, transport, agriculture, water resources management, environment and energy transition is enhanced;
- Investments and support to a greener, more digital and more inclusive private sector (including women and youth-led MSMEs) are provided.

2.1 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2): The Kazakh legal framework and institutions in place are empowered and strengthened to ensure the respect of human rights, including labour rights, and justice for all.

A strategic communication and public diplomacy facility will be put in place in support of both Outcome 1 and 2. This will contribute to building increased awareness, understanding and approval of the EU and its role in the country and world scene, through the implementation of strategic communication activities targeting general citizens, particularly in the 18-35 years-old age group, and public diplomacy activities.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1: EU-Kazakhstan cooperation in sectors such as trade, transport, agriculture, water resources management, environment, and energy transition is enhanced.

1. Policy dialogue:

- a) monitoring of the effective implementation of the EPCA (regular meetings with the government, EPCA committees, Business Platform, etc.);
- b) identification of areas/needs for financial and technical assistance, focusing on what areas are not yet covered by other (including regional) programmes and initiatives (e.g. agriculture, rural development, consumer protection, subsidies, environment);

2. Scientific and technical capacity building activities (in such areas as e.g. green economy transition, trade, environment, energy, agriculture);

3. Twinning-like interventions with EU Member States Institutions related to e-commerce, Best Available Techniques (BAT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulation, Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions in the selected areas of intervention.

Activities related to Output 2.1: Kazakhstan's legal framework and institutions are empowered and strengthened to ensure the respect of human rights, including labour rights, and justice for all.

1. Policy dialogue to monitor the effective implementation of the EPCA in the field of rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

2. Technical expertise via training courses, workshops addressing multiple actors including government, the private sector, CSOs.

3. Call for proposals with civil society and local authorities (as per the MIP) focusing on increased literacy for higher employability of most vulnerable groups; social and economic empowerment of women and vulnerable people; health security.

Activities related to outputs 1.1 and 2.1: Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy Facility will be put in place in support of both outcomes 1 and 2.

1. Develop a comprehensive modern strategic communication and public diplomacy strategy
2. Implement strategic communication activities targeting general citizens, particularly in the 18-35 year age cohort, with the objective of measurably increasing the profile, awareness, brand recognition and approval of the EU's partnership with Kazakhstan.
3. Design and implementation of targeted public diplomacy actions and materials aimed at specific stakeholders. These might include cultural and other outreach events, civil society and private sector networks and studies.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

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

N/A

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

N/A

The impacts of climate change and environmental protection are at the core of the proposed intervention and will be specifically addressed during the implementation of relevant components of the Cooperation Facility.

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 a gender responsive approach will be applied throughout implementation in all activities undertaken under the Cooperation Facility.

In line with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)¹⁴, the action will contribute in particular to the thematic area of promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women and, to some extent, to the thematic area of addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by green transition and digital transformation.

Human Rights

Respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the European Union. Strengthening the human rights dialogue with Kazakhstan and aligning the legal frameworks (ratification of international human rights treaties) are key activities under the EPCA cooperation facility.

The Action adopts a human rights based approach (HRBA) and promotes the fulfilment of the human rights (adequate standard of living, the right to work, access to justice, etc.) of all, with a focus on women, youth and individuals living in vulnerable situations. All activities will be designed taking into account the *do-no-harm* principle. The HRBA's five working principles (a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data) will be promoted throughout.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that 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.

Democracy

All activities, including policy dialogues with the Government of Kazakhstan will aim at strengthening the democratic system of Kazakhstan to ensure that the country stays on the path of democratisation. This is also supported by strengthening the inclusiveness of the dialogue as well as focusing 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 primarily relevant in Kazakhstan for conflicts linked to environmental considerations. Protecting the environment, adapting to climate change and building resilience are key issues of thematic funding in Kazakhstan as well in the foreseen increased policy dialogue.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Building resilience and preventing disaster are primarily relevant in Kazakhstan for conflicts linked to environmental resources. Protecting the environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change and building resilience of communities at risk are key issues of thematic funding in Kazakhstan 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.

¹⁴ [IMMC.JOIN%282020%2917%20final.ENG.xhtml.1_EN_ACT_part1_v8.docx \(europa.eu\)](#)

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political stability	The political environment 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.
Involvement	Stakeholders disengage in the dialogue	Medium	High	A pipeline of mutual priorities and strategic initiatives will be developed to ensure the authorities' involvement and engagement.
Credibility	Public diplomacy efforts lack credibility	Low	Medium	Public diplomacy and policy outreach are more effective and credible if designed and implemented in partnership with Kazakh stakeholders and platforms that share EU values and interests.
Coordination	Multi-country programmes duplicate activities and/or do not effectively supplement country specific projects	Low	Medium	The effective coordination with other, including regional projects, programmes and initiatives, will be facilitated through the disciplined implementation of the regional coordination mechanism for Central Asia organised in Planet, People & Prosperity and Peace programme clusters.

Lessons Learnt:

Kazakh authorities highly value the EPCA. In 2021, Kazakhstan established a working group to specifically monitor the implementation of the agreement. However, experience shows that frequent rotation of public servants can impact on the implementation of engagements taken on by Kazakh interlocutors. Although civil society representatives are regularly invited to various policy discussions, oftentimes their point of view is not taken into account by the decision makers.

The EU regional programme coordination mechanism started in 2020 has proven to be a useful tool to ensure a more strategic use of the many multi-country programmes that the five Central Asian countries benefit from. It has not only helped ensure better coordination between the different programmes within the programme clusters, Planet, People & Prosperity and Peace, but also better EU visibility and closer coordination with country specific programmes.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that this Cooperation Facility intends to enhance the EU-Kazakhstan partnership. The Cooperation Facility will enable the EU to pursue strategic interests and coherent policy outreach and dialogue with the Government of Kazakhstan 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 Kazakhstan.

This action is meant to react with flexibility to evolving circumstances and unforeseen situations. Therefore, the amounts allocated and the number of contracts are provisional and indicative. The Action will be implemented in direct management (service and grant contracts).

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

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

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators: (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Enhanced Prosperity and Resilience through implementation of the EPCA	Effective implementation of all EPCA chapters, including those in force since 2020	EPCA provisions for which EU commitments to cooperate and provide support has already been met or partially met at the end of 2021	All EU commitments in EPCA to cooperate and provide support have been fully met by 2027	EU analysis and reporting	<i>Continued and sustained Kazakh commitment to implement EPCA</i>
Outcome 1	Economic growth and job creation through the promotion of international trade and a more green, more digital and more inclusive private sector supported.	1.1. GDP growth 1.2. Number of jobs supported/sustained by the EU disaggregated for green/digital/female jobs (disaggregated by sex, age, disability) 1.3. National emissions of CO2 and contribution of EU projects to its reduction	1.1. 2% (est.) in 2021 1.2 200 in 2021 1.3. 313.8 Mt (2019)	1.1. 4 % in 2027 1.2 approximately +1% per year 1.3. 265 Mt (15% reduction) by 2027 – EU contribute to 25% of reduction	Official Statistics of Kazakhstan, World Bank https://ourworldindata.org/	
Outcome 2	Legal framework, institutions and systems in place to ensure justice for all and the respect of human rights strengthened	2.1. Kazakhstan laws and regulations revised in accordance with EU and international standards 2.2. Effectively implemented revised laws and regulations	2.1. & 2.2.: 0 in 2021	2.1. & 2.2. + 10 by 2027	EU/independent reporting, including ILO reporting	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	1.1 EU-Kazakhstan cooperation in sectors such as trade, transport, agriculture, water resources management, environment, and energy transition is enhanced	1.1.1. Ongoing annual action programmes 1.1.2. Number of legal initiatives in the relevant areas effectively implemented in accordance with EU standards 1.1.3. Number of environmental, incl. climate change and energy efficiency, awareness campaigns	1.1.1. 0 in 2021 1.1.2. 0 in 2021 – broken down per relevant sector 1.1.3. 0 in 2021	1.1.1. one starting from 2022 1.1.2. 6 by 2027 1.1.3. 10 by 2027	Reports of EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation committees	
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	1.2 Investments and support to a greener, more digital and more inclusive private sector	1.2.1. Number of EU supported green investment projects	1.2.1. 0 (Est.2015-20)	1.2.1. 10 - between 2022-27	EU reporting, including reports	

	(including women and youth-led MSMEs) provided	<p>1.2.2. Number of MSMEs supported by EU through:</p> <p>a. Advisory services:</p> <p>i. in all</p> <p>ii. on Greener production</p> <p>iii. on Digitalisation</p> <p>b. Loan guarantees to women led MSMEs</p> <p>1.2.3. Number of jobs created with EU support:</p> <p>a. in total</p> <p>b. for women</p> <p>c. for people with disabilities, migrant workers, rural communities...</p>	<p>1.2.2.a.i. 20</p> <p>1.2.2.a.ii. 0</p> <p>1.2.2.a.iii. 5</p> <p>1.2.2.b. 5</p> <p>1.2.3.a. 200</p> <p>1.2.3.b. 100</p> <p>1.2.3.c. 100</p>	<p>1.2.2.a.i. 500</p> <p>1.2.2.a.ii. 200</p> <p>1.2.2.a.iii. 200</p> <p>1.2.2.b. 100</p> <p>1.2.3.a. 2,000</p> <p>1.2.3.b. 1,200</p> <p>1.2.3.c. 2,000</p>	from Blending projects	
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	2.1 Kazakh legal framework and institutions in place are empowered and strengthened to ensure the respect of human rights, including labour rights, and justice for all	2.1.1. Number of revised and effectively implemented legal acts in accordance with EU and international standards	2.1.1 0 in 2021	2.1.1. 6 in 2027	EU/independent reporting, including ILO reporting	
Output related to both Outcome 1 and 2	3.1. A strategic communication and public diplomacy facility will be put in place	3.1.1. Contract (s) signed	3.1.1. 0 in 2021	3.1.1. Contract signed by 2022	EU reporting	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of Kazakhstan

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁵.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants may be awarded to support the achievement of outputs 1.1 and 2.1 indicated in section 3.1.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The potential applicants could be legal entities, local authorities, public bodies, international organisations, CSOs, and economic operators such as SMEs. In the case of twinning grants, applicants must be EU Member State administrations or their mandated bodies.

The size of the grants will be decided based on the type of sector identified, needs of the beneficiary, administration and duration of the project in the specific field of the project.

4.3.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

In order to achieve the objectives under section 3.1 indicatively two Service Contracts (one of which will be a Framework Contract (FWC)) will be signed to support the achievement of both Outcome 1 and Outcome 2.

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.

¹⁵ 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.

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

Indicative Budget components¹⁶	Modalities	EU contribution EUR 2022	EU contribution EUR 2023	Total EU Contribution EUR
Objective 1: Sustainable Economic Growth	All	475 000	4 250 000	4 725 000
	<i>FWC*</i>	475 000	<i>N/A</i>	475 000
	<i>Service Contract**</i>	<i>N/A</i>	3 000 000	3 000 000
	<i>Grants – CfP</i>	<i>N/A</i>	1 250 000	1 250 000
Objective 2: Rule of Law	All	475 000	3 300 000	3 775 000
	<i>FWC*</i>	475 000	<i>N/A</i>	475 000
	<i>Service Contract**</i>	<i>N/A</i>	1 000 000	1 000 000
	<i>Grants – CfP</i>	<i>N/A</i>	2 300 000	2 300 000
Evaluation – Audit		N/A	150 000	150 000
Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy – cf. section 6	<i>FWC*</i>	50 000	300 000	350 000
Contingencies¹⁷		N/A	N/A	N/A
Totals		1 000 000	8 000 000	9 000 000

*/**Same contract.

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 public diplomacy and/or twinning activities.

The Cooperation section in the EU Delegation will facilitate the meetings, under the chairmanship of the Head of Delegation.

For possible Twinning activities, the organisation set-up and responsibilities will be defined in accordance with the applicable Twinning Manual.

¹⁶ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

¹⁷ Consider that contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies have to be covered by individual and legal commitments by 31 December of N+1.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

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

Indicators shall be disaggregated by sex, age and disability at a minimum and other relevant categories (when pertinent). All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach working principles (i.e. 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).

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

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular with respect to the intention to launch a second phase of the action.

The final evaluation will 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 wide variety of issues.

Evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach working principles (i.e. 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) as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

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 dissemination¹⁸. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and

¹⁸ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

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.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

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

At country level, resources required for strategic communication and public diplomacy will be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents. This will allow Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

To that end, Delegations will develop short strategic communication and public diplomacy plans that reflect the objectives of the Delegation as a whole in this domain, initially covering the period up to the Mid-Term Review (MTR). The strategic plan will include key administrative information (timeline, budget and the programme manager responsible for implementation) and cover the following main elements:

1. Audiences targeted
2. The principal communication objective(s)
3. The core narrative
4. Preliminary suggestions for content, partnerships and channels

It is envisaged that a contract for communication and visibility may be contracted under a framework contract.

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention¹⁹ (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.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

¹⁹ [ARES \(2021\)4204912](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'action' and 'Intervention' where an 'action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of ‘Group of actions’ level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of ‘Contract level’, add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 4.6, Indicative Budget.

Option 1: Action level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action>
Option 3: Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>

