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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX III

to the Commission implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, New Caledonia and the Technical Cooperation Facility for Overseas Countries and Territories for 2022

Action Document for the OCT Technical Cooperation Facility

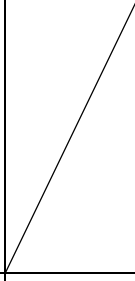
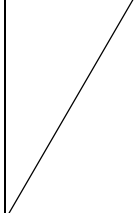
ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation and as referred to in Article 82 of DOAG.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Action Document for the OCT Technical Cooperation Facility OPSYS reference: ACT- 61462 Financed under the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland with the EU (DOAG)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	13 EU OCTs will benefit from the Action. The Action shall be carried out at the following location: Overseas Countries and Territories
4. Programming document	OCT Technical Cooperation Facility
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	No link with MIP - horizontal support measure The overall objective of the Action is to strengthen the OCTs' capacities to engage in the EU-OCT policy dialogue and to formulate/implement strategic policies, regulatory frameworks and cooperation programmes
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Public sector policy and administrative management
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.
8 a) DAC code(s)	15110 - Public sector policy and administrative management - 100%
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Recipient Government - 12000

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity energy transport health		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	education and research			
	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	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.050100.02 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 1 million			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Cooperation Facility Measures in favour of Civil Society Direct management through: - Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

Since February 2020, there are 13 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) which have special relations with Denmark, France and the Netherlands. The OCTs' association with the European Union (EU) is based on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and further defined in successive Overseas Association Decisions. The Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG) adopted on 5 October 2021¹ sets the current framework for the financial cooperation with the EU, including the funds for the technical assistance as per its article 82.

Being islands with very small populations, the OCTs have limited administrative capacities and resources what may result, amongst others, in difficulties in policy work and implementing cooperation programmes.

The objective of the proposed Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) is therefore to support capacity building of the OCTs, which will mainly take form of studies, technical assistance, seminars, training and evaluations. The TCF will also allow to reinforce strategic communication about the important EU-OCT partnership (as relevant), support new initiatives such as the OCT youth network and logistically facilitate major EU-OCT gatherings such as the annual Forum.

Under the DOAG, the OCT TCF will be a flexible and demand driven facility to rapidly mobilise technical expertise and support to underpin the EU-OCT partnership. It builds on similar support measures in place in previous periods.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

General context:

There are 13 OCTs, spread from the Poles to the Tropics, associated with the Union. Despite the big diversity

¹ [Council Decision \(EU\) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other](#) (OJ of 7.10.2021; L355,6).

among them, OCTs share similar characteristics, which represent particular challenges to ensure sustainable development and economic growth: geographical isolation resulting in high transportation costs, small size of their economy (in particular small size of the local market), high dependency on imports (including of energy sources) and sometimes on financial transfers, poor diversification of exports of goods and services, low competitiveness of the local industries and, limited national institutional capacity.

In the context of globalization, efforts to enhance OCTs' competitiveness and unlock the potential in the OCTs are necessary, in order to ensure that OCTs' assets are capitalized upon for achieving sustainable growth, while taking into account the regional contexts and difficulties. Furthermore, strengthening the resilience of OCTs is essential in order to address the vulnerabilities of OCTs related to economic, environmental and natural shocks.

Ensuring the EU's partnership with the OCTs is known, understood and well perceived by both specialised and general public audiences will help to position the EU as a trusted and reliable partner for the individual OCTs.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Having limited populations and resources, the OCTs suffer from limited administrative capacity. This may result in difficulties in policy work and implementing cooperation programmes. As per article 74 of the DOAG, the Union shall contribute to the achievement of the association's overall objectives through the provision of adequate financial resources and appropriate technical assistance aimed at strengthening the OCTs' capacities to formulate and implement strategic and regulatory frameworks.

In parallel, each OCT has the primary responsibility for the formulation of strategies, priorities and arrangements in order to ensure to the best extent possible the ownership principle embedded in the DOAG.

In this spirit, the OCT Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) aims to support the local administrations by providing financial resources for capacity building by means of studies, technical assistance or evaluations, in order to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the programmes funded by the EU.

The activities will focus mainly on the areas of mutual interest, such as the economic diversification of OCTs' economies; the promotion of green growth; the sustainable management of natural resources; the adaptation to and mitigation of impacts of climate change; the promotion of disaster risk reduction; the promotion of gender equality and inclusion; the promotion of research, innovation and scientific cooperation activities and the promotion of social, cultural and economic exchanges between the OCTs, their neighbours and other partners, enhanced public finance management frameworks, etc. As relevant, the TCF may also support strategic communication about the important EU-OCT partnership, support new initiatives such as the OCT youth network and logistically facilitate major EU-OCT gatherings such as the annual Forum.

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

In addition to the Commission services (and notably the services acting as Contracting Authority in the present proposal), the key stakeholders are the OCTs' governments, administrations and their EU-based representatives.

As regards potential strategic communication and public diplomacy activities, the main audiences may include:

- Wider audiences, comprising ordinary citizens, especially in the 18-35 age bracket, who are not involved in policy, advocacy or international relations, and who may hardly be aware of the EU.
- Political and opinion leaders and the wider diplomatic community which can be targeted through political communication, especially in the context of high level events and visits.
- Key specialised audiences, made up of political and diplomatic counterparts, opinion leaders, activists and other multipliers who already have a stake in the sphere of policy, advocacy and international relations. These may also include civil society, youth and women's groups, students, and academia, media, cultural operators, businesses and other such fora and networks.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The overall objective of the Action is to strengthen the OCTs' capacities, to engage in the EU-OCT policy dialogue as well as to formulate and implement strategic policies, regulatory frameworks and cooperation programmes.

The specific objectives of the Action are:

1. demand driven support for the implementation of the DOAG, the design and implementation of OCT policies, strategies and programmes and their monitoring and evaluations as well as better awareness of EU horizontal programmes for which OCTs are eligible;
2. fostering of a more coherent and informed approach on themes of common interest such as the Green Deal², just transition, trade, resilience, gender, youth and inclusion, within the OCTs as well as inter- and intra-regionally, including with Outermost Regions, ACP countries and other countries by means of studies, training and capacity building;
3. support to the EU-OCT policy dialogue including for the organisation of the annual EU-OCT Forum; support to youth initiatives in the EU-OCT partnership;
4. support strategic communication and public diplomacy activities designed to raise awareness, understanding and perception of the EU (as relevant and appropriate)

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

- 1.1 Technical Assistance for implementation of EU Programmes
- 1.2 Studies in the areas of common interest.
- 2.1 Training on EU procedures attended by the OCTs
- 3.1 Seminars and Conferences with participation of the OCTs
- 4.1 Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities designed and implemented (as relevant)

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

Carrying out studies or technical assistance including in support of programming/implementation of the DOAG. Audits and evaluations of projects when they cannot be financed from other sources.

Activities related to Output 1.2:

Studies in the areas of common interest. Provision of expertise that would facilitate and increase the understanding of issues concerning development, trade, environment, etc. by key OCTs' actors (policy-makers and/or other relevant stakeholders).

Activities related to Output 2.1:

Supporting the OCT bodies and institutions, as well as administrations and agencies, in maintaining or improving their levels of implementation and monitoring of new and ongoing projects; when this support cannot be provided within the projects or programmes themselves.

Activities related to Output 3.1:

Organising conferences, seminars and trainings considered relevant by the Commission. This may also include the funding of the annual OCT-EU Forums and inter and intra-regional seminars including with Outermost Regions, ACP countries and other third countries and territories;

Supporting the participation of OCTs representatives in events related to international cooperation initiatives and in regional integration processes and participation of non-OCTs representatives in OCTs' events.

Activities related to Output 4.1:

² [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, The European Green Deal, COM\(2019\)640 final.](#)

Design and implementation of strategic communication and public diplomacy activities as relevant and appropriate to the EU-OCT partnership and priorities. This may include political communication around high-level events, as well as brand awareness campaigns targeting wider public audiences.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

No screenings applicable. As this Action supports all OCTs horizontally in all aspects of the EU-OCT partnership, it has the potential *indirectly* to contribute to a number of cross cutting objectives in support of climate change, environmental protection, gender equality, education, and resilience (including disaster risk reduction).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as G1. This implies that, as this Action enables to support all OCTs horizontally in all aspects of the EU-OCT partnership, it has the potential indirectly to contribute to a number of cross cutting objectives in support of climate change, environmental protection, gender equality, education, and resilience (including disaster risk reduction).

Human Rights

Not applicable. Even though they are not bound by the *acquis communautaire*, OCTs are considered to have in place the same human rights protections as the Member States to which they are linked and which territory they are part of.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this Action is labelled as D0. This implies that disability mainstreaming is not applicable to this Action.

Democracy

Not applicable. Even though they are not bound by the *acquis communautaire*, OCTs are considered to have in place the same democratic standards and practices as the Member States to which they are linked and which territory they are part of.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Not applicable.

Disaster Risk Reduction

As this Action enables supports all OCTs horizontally in all aspects of the EU-OCT partnership, it has the potential indirectly to contribute to a number of cross cutting objectives in support of climate change, environmental protection, gender equality, education, and resilience (including disaster risk reduction).

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
2 (Planning, processes and systems)	Funds are not properly planned to allow contracting in timely and equity manner	Medium	Medium	Establishment of pipeline of activities by the contracting authority with the close cooperation of the OCTs, the respective EU Delegations and OCTA
1 (External Environment)	COVID-19 still hampers the implementation of	Medium	Medium	Enhanced use of digital virtual means of cooperation.

	the TCF.			
<p>Lessons Learnt:</p> <p>Since the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) a TCF demand driven supported the EU-OCT partnership including the formulation of new programmes and the organisation of the annual Forum.</p> <p>It will be necessary to have a new TCF each year at the disposal for the EU- OCTs cooperation to support the implementation of the DOAG including through background studies of future cooperation and consultation seminars as well as the annual EU-OCT Forum.</p>				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is to support the EU-OCTs partnership. This programme will be divided into several contracts to engage consultants and policy advice in form of technical assistance to conduct relevant assessments and support policy development in the context of the cooperation programmes.

In addition, specific contracts will be awarded for studies on the topics requested by the OCTs or the European Commission. Specific training, seminars, workshops, conferences, etc. will be financed in order to strengthen OCTs capacities including for their inter- and intra-regional engagement with Outermost Regions, ACP countries and other third countries and territories.

By targeting specified audiences through strategic communication and public diplomacy activities (as relevant), the Action may also contribute to increasing awareness, understanding and perception of the EU's partnership with the OCTs.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Given the nature of this Action a Logical Framework Matrix is not required at Action level.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this Action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with a partner territory.

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 authorising officer responsible by amending this 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 measures³.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The overall objective of the Action is to strengthen the OCTs' capacities to engage in the EU-OCT policy dialogue, and to formulate/implement strategic policies, regulatory frameworks and cooperation programmes. The OCT TCF will be a flexible and demand driven facility to rapidly mobilise technical expertise and support to underpin the EU-OCT partnership. It builds on similar support measures in place in the previous period.

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.

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, which applies to OCTs according to the DOAG).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components⁴	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Procurement (direct management)– total envelope under section 4.4.1	1 000 000
Totals	1 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

On the initiative of the Commission services responsible for the implementation of the DOAG, seminars, studies or technical assistance measures will be financed in relation to the identification, programming and implementation of activities contained in the DOAG.

Requests for funding referring to individual OCTs will be channelled and/or initiated through the corresponding EU Delegation or through Headquarters and will have to be duly motivated regarding objectives to be achieved, relevance and impact. Requests for funding referring to multi-OCTs studies or technical assistance can in particular be initiated in consultation with OCTA. Requests for funding can also be made by OCTs/OCTA in accordance with modalities set out above.

The demands for funding will be prearranged by the respective services in the Commission in an annual pipeline of actions to be financed. The final funding decisions will be made by the relevant Commission services. This will reduce the identified risk of the use of the funds not being properly planned.

Where relevant, use will be made of possible framework contracts where the European Commission is identified as beneficiary. Alternatively, use will be made of the relevant framework contracts when the OCTs are identified as beneficiaries.

⁴ 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.

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.

A strategic communication and public diplomacy steering group may be established at HQ level to oversee and validate any strategic communication and public diplomacy activities undertaken as part of the Action. The EEAS-INTPA-FPI-NEAR strategic communication and public diplomacy Coordination Mechanism will provide any necessary strategic guidance and support at HQ level.

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.

The indicators are gender-sensitive as much as possible, and efforts will be made to get sex-disaggregated data from the various users or beneficiaries from this project. Gender expertise in the establishment of indicators, data collection, monitoring and evaluation as well as gender considerations for the monitoring set-up would be sought.

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: this will be done by the implementing partners and the specific budget and activities (such as surveys/studies) will be identified for this purpose in each contract as appropriate.

Examples of key indicators for measuring any strategic communication and public diplomacy activities undertaken may include:

- positive perception of the EU as a partner
- social media reach and engagement
- media items published in top tier media
- website visits, bounce rate and conversation rate
- video views and view through rate
- message recall and follow-up

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the Action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this Action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified

reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁵. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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

Strategic communication and public diplomacy activities may be implemented under the OCT TCF and be in line with the 2022 document ‘Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions’⁶ to ensure awareness, understanding and perception of the EU and its partnership with the OCTs is commensurate with the scale, scope and ambition of our sustained engagement.

With varying emphasis, activities may focus on the following complementary types of audience:

- Wider audiences, comprising citizens, especially in the 18-35 age bracket, who are not involved in policy, advocacy or international relations, and who may hardly be aware of the EU.
- Key political and opinion leaders and the wider diplomatic community which will be targeted through political communication, especially in the context of Summits, high level events and visits.
- Specialised audiences, made up of opinion leaders, activists and other multipliers who already have a stake in the sphere of policy, advocacy and international relations. These may include civil society, youth and women’s groups, academia, business organisations, trade unions, and other such fora and networks.

Any strategic communication and public diplomacy activities undertaken will reflect the EU’s political priorities and objectives and will be implemented via procurement. As such, it is envisaged that a contract for strategic communication and public diplomacy may be contracted under a framework contract or via tender.

⁵ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

⁶ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/knowledge-hub/communicating-and-raising-eu-visibility-guidance-external-actions_en