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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VI

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of China for 2024, under the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia-Pacific region

Action Document for the EU-China Policy Support 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.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU-China Policy Support Facility OPSYS number: ACT-62486 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the People's Republic of China
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific (2021-2027)
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p>This Action will support the implementation of the following Specific Objectives 1 and 2 of the China section in the Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific (RMIP, 2021-2027):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SO 1: Promote European values and interests in the bilateral relations with China, in line with the multi-faceted approach.• SO 2: Engage China to deliver on global public goods (including on international commitments such as the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change), to tackle global challenges, and to address its role as global actor and donor by promoting international norms and standards alignment with EU policies, and countering negative impact where necessary. <p>It will provide support for high-level policy dialogues and engagements across priority policy areas and contribute to several Expected Results including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ER 1.2: Increased frequency and/or more efficient preparation and follow-up of high-level dialogues and sectoral dialogues, and enhanced people-to-people ties (e.g. culture and education, and research) and facilitated coordination on reciprocal mobility, migration and people-to-people exchanges including on right-based migration management and civil society exchanges.• ER 1.4: Strengthened digital agenda in support of the EU's rules-based, multilateral, human-centric and market-driven approach to Artificial Intelligence,

	<p>5G, ICT standardization, data protection, research and innovation and the tackling of online fraud,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ER 2.1: Coordinate on the external dimension of the European Green Deal and progress towards the Paris Agreement targets, including via initiatives to address the impact of China's practices in partner countries and via initiatives that support the development and implementation of China's own climate change and environmental protection policies (e.g. the ETS trading system; biodiversity and wildlife protection; waste and water management; resource efficiency and circular economy; sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains; clean oceans; forest preservation and reforestation, including China's external footprint; EU-China Blue Partnership for the Oceans. • ER 2.2: Promote energy transition, clean energy investment and sustainable finance standards, both domestically and externally in partner countries (e.g. phasing out of investments in coal-powered energy generation), green technologies and innovation, renewable energy and energy efficiency. • ER 2.3: Coordinate on health and safety, with an emphasis on global health including pandemics and consumer protection. • ER 2.4: Promote and defend rules-based multilateralism, including the UN Development System and other multilateral institutions. • ER 2.6: Pursue reciprocity and a level playing field in the Research and Innovation domains in order to further engage with China on tackling global challenges.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners</p> <p>430 – Other multi-sector</p>
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG (1 only):</p> <p>Goal 17: "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development"</p> <p>Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets:</p> <p>Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"</p> <p>Goal 6: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"</p> <p>Goal 8: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all"</p> <p>Goal 9: "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation"</p> <p>Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"</p> <p>Goal 13: "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"</p> <p>Goal 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development"</p>
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multi-sector aid
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Channel 1: 60000 – Private sector institutions

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" 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 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"/>
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	/
Connectivity @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity energy transport health education and research		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	/

	Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 7 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 7 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The EU-China Policy Support Facility will provide support for preparing and following up on high-level policy dialogues and engagements across priority policy areas and, thus, allow the EU to achieve impact in strategic priorities and in addressing global challenges. This could involve preparation and follow-up of policy dialogues; technical assistance through studies and peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences; development of high-quality evidence, data and analysis to allow the EU to engage effectively with Chinese stakeholders in support of strategic interests in our bilateral agenda towards China. The Facility activities will also promote core EU values of respect for human rights, gender equality, democracy, security, the environment, fair competition in business and trade relations.

The Facility will allow for a flexible and coordinated approach to react appropriately to emerging policy priorities and political developments and prepare longer-term projects as relevant. It will build upon the work of previous China-specific facilities funded by the European Commission's service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) since 2007, which have provided critical ad-hoc technical support feeding into high-level policy dialogues and, in some instances, laying the groundwork for them (e.g. on critical raw materials).

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in the People's Republic of China, which is included in the list of ODA recipients.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The European Council Conclusions of June 2023 on China¹ reaffirmed, along with the Foreign Affairs Council of October 2022, the validity of the EU's multifaceted policy approach towards China ("EU-China Strategic Outlook - Joint Communication" of March 2019²), where it is simultaneously a partner, a competitor and a systemic rival. This approach has served to address the different aspects of the relationship, through a period when economic and political relations have required flexibility and agility in bilateral dealings with China. It also kept open the space for bilateral engagement on matters of common or global interest.

In recent years, there has been an intensification of the systemic rivalry and competition dimensions in the face of sanctions, economic coercion against Lithuania, heightened tensions across the Taiwan Strait and China's positioning on Russia's war against Ukraine. Continuing to consolidate unity across all aspects of the relationship remains crucial for the EU's capacity to maintain credibility and leverage. At the same time, EU unity should aim

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A52019JC0005>

at balancing realistic and robust engagement with well-managed systemic rivalry and competition with China in support of core EU interests and values.

Readjusting and recalibrating are necessary in light of the evolving circumstances, including China's own actions and posture. In her 2023 State of the Union speech, European Commission President von der Leyen underlined the importance for the EU to keep open lines of communication and dialogue with China on topics where cooperation is needed. At the same time, it is critical to de-risk (not de-couple) our relations with China through diplomatic and economic means to reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience.

In this light, the present Action aims at promoting European values and interests in the bilateral relations with China in line with the multi-faceted approach and engaging China to tackle global challenges, focusing on ensuring progress on international commitments such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals. The Policy Support Facility will support the preparation and follow-up of high-level dialogues and engagements on strategic priorities.

2.2 Problem Analysis

As EU-China relations have become increasingly complex, there is a continued need for a Policy Support Facility which allows for a flexible and coordinated approach to support and respond to emerging EU policy priorities towards China in a changing geopolitical context and to prepare longer-term projects as relevant.

The Action will promote strategic EU interests and values across all aspects of the multi-faceted policy approach. China's domestic policies conflict with the priorities of the EU in several areas. At the same time, the EU and China continue to be important trade and economic partners and share global responsibilities in tackling global challenges.

The proposed Action builds on the experience of previous China-specific policy facilities, notably the EU-China Partnership Facility, funded by the Commission service Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) and which will come to an end in 2025. The present Facility is the continuity of the latter and takes over the related activities with China. Previous projects have shown the importance of maintaining a high degree of flexibility to respond to changing priorities and ensure timely follow-up of commitments reached at high-level policy dialogues, while ensuring continuity of activities. The proposed facility will maximize complementarities with other relevant EU actions and support the priorities and objectives of strategic EU policy dialogues with China.

Main stakeholders

Main stakeholders of the proposed action include EU Institutions (incl. the EEAS, European Commission services), EU sectoral Agencies, where appropriate the EU Member States and their relevant institutions.

The Facility will engage EU and Chinese stakeholders such as national, regional and local governments, academia / universities and think-tanks, the science and technology community, businesses organisations and trade unions, etc. Local authorities and civil society organisations, as well as international organisations will be engaged in activities, whenever relevant, depending on the nature and type of assignment requested by Commission DGs.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to increase the resilience and balance of the EU bilateral relations with China in strategic sectors of interest ³.

³ It includes Environment / Climate change / Digital / Economy and Trade / Ocean Affairs / Water / Circular economy / Energy / Human rights / International development / Fisheries / Polar affairs and law of the sea / Cosmetics / Innovation / Competition / Agriculture

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the effectiveness of the high-level exchanges and bilateral dialogues between EU and China⁴ with flexible, ad-hoc technical support in view of emerging priorities and relevant policy developments.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective are:

- 1.1 Increased effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, preparation and follow-up of high-level and sectoral dialogues;
- 1.2 Improved coordination, development, monitoring, sharing and implementation of best practices, standards and international conventions.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities for both Outputs would include (but not be limited to):

- Specialised technical assistance and provision of ad-hoc technical expertise;
- Thematic and sector studies, notably on topics relevant for bilateral policy dialogues (benchmarks, comparative, sector, technical or thematic studies, etc. on particularly sensitive issues or of a high technical complexity);
- Peer-to-peer exchanges of experiences;
- Organisation, logistical support and management of policy dialogue meetings;
- Capacity building (e.g. through training, speakers' events, webinars, workshops, high level visibility events as well as study tours);
- Events such as conferences, seminars, meetings, missions and technical visits, etc.;
- Visibility activities to enhance the image of the EU as a values-based Union;
- Civil society consultations;
- Pilot approaches in specific policy areas to further EU interests;
- Communication and visibility activities to raise awareness and promote the rule of law, gender equality and women empowerment, human and labour rights, fundamental freedoms, as well as international norms and standards.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening

This is not applicable for this action.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender considerations will be taken into account throughout implementation in all activities undertaken under the policy support facility. At the same time the Facility will be the main tool used to implement the GAP III in China through specific activities proposed by DG INTPA or other DGS during the implementation. This could include some specific gender-related events, the revision of the Gender Country Analysis as well as Gender Sector analysis where relevant. Key areas of priority have been identified in the Country-Level Implementation Plan for China.

⁴ Ongoing dialogues (4 at High Level and around 10 at strategic level) and possible future priorities where such dialogue does not exist yet (GEWE, biodiversity, ...)

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

Human Rights

Respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the European Union. The design and implementation of the Facility will give attention to those who are most marginalised, excluded or discriminated against and living in vulnerable situations.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action does not propose any activity concerning any disability, nor contribute to this DAC.

Reduction of inequalities

The attainment of human rights, the rule of law, liberal democracy, peace, conflict prevention, resilience and stability in our partner countries, and even more in China are key objectives. Project' designs are aiming to implementing policies and programmes that meet people's needs, reduce inequalities, and fulfil the central commitment of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

Democracy

All activities, including policy dialogue with the Chinese Government, will aim to strengthen the inclusiveness of policy dialogues as well as to emphasize the importance of the rule of law, good governance, transparency and anti-corruption.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Monitoring the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, peace and security both in China and in partner countries will be considered as appropriate.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Building resilience and preventing disaster are primarily relevant in China when it comes to natural disasters. Adapting to climate change including Disaster Risk Reduction and building resilience of communities living within or in close proximity to biodiversity and ecosystem fragile will be key issues under the action.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Low engagement of Chinese authorities	L	L	Strong alignment between technical work and agreements/outcomes from relevant high-level political dialogues.
External environment	Irritants coming from political developments, trade-related disputes or human rights issues negatively affect bilateral relations.	M	H	Careful monitoring of the bilateral agenda and continuous engagement with Chinese counterparts. Project will monitor political developments so as to adapt to evolving circumstances.

Organisation and coordination	The activities are isolated events and do not contribute to deepening relevant policy dialogues.	M	M	Activities supported by the Facility will be linked to an existing policy dialogue or an agenda that explores the possibility of future dialogue in support of EU interests.
Organisation and coordination	The activity overlaps with or duplicates activities carried out by other Commission services.	L	M	As part of the approval process, all relevant European Commission services are consulted on new proposed activities under the Facility.
Internal coordination	Overlaps with activities from other DGs or EU Member States.	L	M	Internal monitoring and informal coordination with Member States through the EU Delegation in Beijing.

Lessons Learnt:

The action builds on the experience of previous China policy facilities. This experience demonstrates the importance of identifying priority areas on a yearly basis and to ensure that these closely reflect outcomes of EU-China Summits, high-level policy dialogues and the evolving context of EU-China relations, as well as synergies with other relevant projects already under implementation.

Active participation of relevant Commission DGs and the EEAS in advisory group meetings is critical for an effective deployment of support under the Facility.

As EU-China relations become increasingly complex, ensuring a high degree of flexibility is paramount to effectively respond to evolving priorities and geopolitical context, while also planning and ensuring continuity of relevant activities.

Activities have proven more valuable when underpinning high-level political dialogues' priorities. It is also critical to seek early engagement and agreement with Chinese counterparts at political level to ensure progress on the implementation of the activities and achievement of objectives.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to strengthen the effectiveness of the high-level exchanges and bilateral dialogues between EU and China in support of strategic EU interests and values, at a time when EU-China relations have become increasingly complex. The facility will enable the EU to improve its understanding of Chinese policy matters and pursue coherent policy outreach and engagement with Chinese stakeholders in support of EU interests. It will allow for a flexible and coordinated approach to respond to emerging policy priorities and political developments and prepare longer-term projects as relevant.

This will be achieved through a range of activities supported under the Facility which will include (but not be limited to): preparation and follow-up of policy dialogues; technical assistance through studies and peer-to-peer exchanges; development of high-quality evidence, data and analysis to allow the EU to engage effectively with Chinese stakeholders in support of strategic interests in our bilateral agenda towards China.

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 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 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 (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To increase the resilience and balance of the EU bilateral relations with China in strategic sectors of interest.	1. Number of leaders' summits and high-level dialogues held per year	1. Five (One Summit and four high-level dialogues) (2023)	1. Five (One Summit and all 4 high-level dialogues per year ie twenty in total) (2029)	1. Facility progress reports	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1. Strengthen the effectiveness of the high-level exchanges and bilateral dialogues between EU and China with flexible, ad-hoc technical support in view of emerging priorities and relevant policy developments.	1.1 Number of Facility projects supporting annual EU-China high-policy and strategic dialogues including the EU-China Summit 1.2 Number of projects supporting new/emerging priorities including gender equality and women economic empowerment	1.1 28 projects (under the ongoing facility from 2018 to May 2023) 1.2 Zero (2024)	1.1 30 actions by the end of the Facility (2029) 1.2 Strategic EU-China dialogue on at least two emerging priorities takes place by the end of the facility (2029)	1.1 Facility progress reports (incl. EU official documents/ Text of strategies and policy document) 1.2 Facility progress reports	Both parties remain committed to maintain a dialogue on priority issues and engage on emerging priorities as needed. Political and diplomatic tensions do not prevent to hold regular dialogues on priority topics.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, preparation and follow-up of high-level and sectoral Dialogues	1.1.1 Number of policy dialogues organised with the support of the Facility 1.1.2 Number of knowledge products developed (presentations, reports, sector mappings, policy papers, etc.)	1.1.1 About 10 dialogues per year, including high-level dialogues (2023) 1.1.2 344 (under the ongoing facility from	1.1.1 10 dialogues per year including 4 high-level dialogues (2029) 1.1.2 370 (2029)	1.1.1 Progress reports of the EU-funded intervention 1.1.2 Survey conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention	Relevant and quality expertise is available and accessible to conduct the activities.

		<p>1.1.3 Number of events/exchanges organised with policy makers and key stakeholders</p> <p>1.1.4 Number of activities related to the implementation of the GAP III and CLIP in China</p> <p>1.1.5. % of stakeholders aware of the knowledge products developed with the support of the EU who rate the contents as innovative/strategic/relevant</p> <p>1.1.6 % participants' who are satisfied with the events organized (out of those who chose 4 or 5 from a scale from 1=lowest to 5 highest), disaggregated by sex and type of organisation</p>	<p>2018 to May 2023)</p> <p>1.1.3 30 (under the ongoing facility from 2018 to May 2023)</p> <p>1.1.4 Zero (2024)</p> <p>1.1.5 0% (2024)</p> <p>1.1.6. 0% (2024)</p>	<p>1.1.3 28 (2029)</p> <p>1.1.4 10 (2029)</p> <p>1.1.5 TBD at the inception phase</p> <p>1.1.6 TBD at the inception phase</p>	<p>1.1.3 Survey conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p> <p>1.1.4 Survey conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded</p>	
<p>Output 2</p> <p>relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.2 Improve the coordination, development, monitoring, sharing and implementation of best practices, standards and international conventions</p>	<p>1.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed (presentations, reports, sector mappings, policy papers, etc.)</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of events/exchanges organised with policy makers and key stakeholders</p>	<p>1.2.1 145 (under the ongoing facility from 2018 to 2023)</p> <p>1.2.2 15 (under the ongoing facility from 2018 to 2023)</p>	<p>1.2.1 16 (2029)</p> <p>1.2.2 16 (2029)</p>	<p>1.2.1 Facility progress reports</p> <p>1.2.2 Facility progress reports</p>	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the People's Republic of China.

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 applicable to Project modality

The Commission will ensure that the EU 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 (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving Specific Objectives under Section 3.1 The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is indicated in section 4.5.

This call has been launched on XX (date to be specified at later stage) under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this Decision. This is justified in order to close the expected gap to cover needs from DGs of the EC to support the strategic dialogues.

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

In case procurement envisaged under section 4.3.1 cannot be implemented as planned due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity. In such circumstances, the following selection criteria would apply:

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

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
“EU-China Policy Support Facility” composed of	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1	7 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
Contingency	N.A.
Totals	7 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The EU-China Policy Support Facility will be subjected to an advisory mechanism composed of European Commission and the European External Action Servicestaff members. This group will meet twice a year and will provide 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 provide advice on how to address obstacles and challenges identified during implementation. The group will include all Head of Sections and representative of line DGs of the EU Delegation in Beijing as well as relevant colleagues in Brussels (relevant DGs, EEAS, SG).

Ad-hoc meetings of sub-groups of the advisory mechanism group may be set-up for specific areas of the Facility when necessary.

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 and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

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).

The implementing partners are responsible for day-to-day monitoring and reporting based on the agreed indicators in the logframe. It includes entering the logframe in OPSYS at the beginning of the project as well as the current values on an annual basis. For baseline and/or endline targets that need to be defined for specific indicators, the implementing partners shall take the responsibility to collect data using appropriate tools including surveys and present the results in the progress report for approval by the contracting authority. The establishment of baseline

and targets will be done based during the inception period / first 2 months from the start of the contract and on the basis of the work carried out and outputs of the FPI's Partnership Facility. Funding for the baseline and endline data collection will be incorporated into the overall budget within the implementing partners. Adjustments to the agreed indicators will be subject to a discussion and approval of the contracting authority. The contracting authority will also be responsible for the approval of interim progress reports including the updated current values of the logframe indicators in OPSYS.

Stakeholder engagement will be ensured by appropriate governance mechanism and communication and engagement strategy, monitored closely by the contracting authority during contract implementation.

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).

The data collected will take into consideration the gender perspective.

5.2 Evaluation

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

- A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to possible challenges in the implementation of the Facility as well as the scope of activities.
- A 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 Action covers a wide and complex range of issues in a unpredictable environment.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two 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.

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.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing

Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.