EN

THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the Multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme Global Challenges (Planet) for 2022-2025

Action Document for Reducing Methane Emissions through an Integrated Data Approach, Policy and Planning

MULTI 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**	Reducing methane emissions through an integrated data approach, policy and planning OPSYS/CRIS number: ACT - 61202 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 at global level
4. Programming document	NDICI – Global Europe Global Challenges multi-annual indicative programme 2021-27.
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority area 2: Planet SO 3: Supporting the green transition in key areas R1. Strengthened international cooperation for a just and inclusive transition to green energy, leaving no one behind, and including higher energy efficiency and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, in line with EU's Climate and Energy Diplomacy approach by promoting EU experience, technological leadership and industry R7. Enhanced international action to tackle pollution, ensure a healthy environment and the sound management of chemicals, plastic, and waste
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Environmental sustainability / Climate Change (DAC sector: General Environment Protection – 410)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 7: Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

	Target 7.a: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life			
8 a) DAC code(s)	231 – Energy Policy (50%) 410 – General Environment Protection (50%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN) - 41100			
9. Targets	☐ Migration ☒ Climate ☐ Social inclusion and Human Development ☐ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers **(from DAC form)**	**General policy objective** @	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☒	☐
	Aid to environment @	☐	☐	☒
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☒	☐	☐
	Trade development	☒	☐	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☒	☐	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☒	☐	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation @	☐	☐	☒
	Climate change adaptation @	☒	☐	☐
11. Internal markers and Tags:	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**

	Digitalisation @	☒	☐	☐
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	NO ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
	Connectivity @	☒	☐	☐
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐	NO ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	☒	☐	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	☒	☐	☐
	Covid-19	☒	☐	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020241-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost for 2022: EUR 10 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution for 2022: EUR 10 000 000[1]			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	**Indirect management** with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – section 4.3.1			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The objective of the action will help mobilise political will to mitigate methane emissions by supporting the work of the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme, including its International Methane Emission Observatory, ranging from science to economics and policy and providing decision makers with the confidence to take fast action. Indeed, while a wide variety of proven technologies and measures are available to reduce methane emissions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors, policy and regulation are essential, as there are limits to what can be achieved by companies' voluntary action. The health sector will also benefit from this Action because of the reduced local and global air pollution resulting from this action. Methane is an important precursor to tropospheric ozone, which causes respiratory diseases and has been linked to over one million premature deaths per year.

By supporting international engagement on anthropogenic methane emissions, the action aims to transform policies and practices and highlight practical actions that can quickly reduce methane emissions in the main

[1] This complements EU contribution under AAP 2021 equal to EUR 7 million (CRIS no 43436)

emitting sectors. In November 2021, the United States, the European Union, and partners formally launched the Global Methane Pledge (GMP), an initiative to reduce global methane emissions to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach. A total of over 100 countries representing 70% of the global economy and half of anthropogenic methane emissions have now signed onto the pledge. This action will contribute towards delivering on the GMP initiative.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

In October 2020, the European Commission published a methane strategy covering energy, agriculture and waste[2]. The strategy proposes action on improving monitoring and reporting of methane emissions by companies in all three sectors and includes a chapter on international action foreseeing increased contributions to the work of international fora such as the UNEP-hosted Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the UNEP International Methane Emission Observatory (IMEO).

So far, voluntary industry-led initiatives remain the principal action in addressing methane emissions across the oil and natural gas value chain. UNEP, the CCAC, and partners established the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) on measuring and reporting of methane emissions by companies. The dual objectives of OGMP are to improve the availability of global information on where partner companies can reduce methane emissions and driving mitigation actions to achieve methane emission reductions. The Commission tabled a legislative proposal in 2021 on compulsory measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) for all energy-related methane emissions, building on the OGMP methodology. The OGMP Framework has also attributed the verification task to an independent organization, which the Commission is currently involved in setting up and towards which it has provided some funding: the International Methane Emissions Observatory (the IMEO), which has been endorsed by the Council in its conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy of 21 February 2022.

The Commission supported the establishment of an independent international methane emissions observatory (IMEO), tasked with collecting, reconciling, verifying and publishing anthropogenic methane emissions data at a global level. The observatory is anchored in a United Nations framework. Support for setting up the IMEO was provided by the Council in its January 2021 conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy. The EU strategy to reduce methane emissions[3] foresees that the EU will seek to tackle methane emissions in the energy, agriculture and waste sectors in cooperation with partner countries and international organizations. In December 2021, the Commission adopted the first-ever EU legislative proposal on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector. The Commission will require the oil, gas and coal sectors to measure, report and verify methane emissions, and proposes strict rules to detect and repair methane leaks and to limit venting and flaring. It also puts forward global monitoring tools ensuring transparency of methane emissions from imports of oil, gas and coal into the EU, which will allow the Commission to consider further actions in the future.

On 2 November 2021 during COP26, the European Union, the United States and partners formally launched the Global Methane Pledge, an initiative to reduce global methane emissions to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach. A total of 111 countries representing 70% of the global economy and nearly half of anthropogenic methane emissions have now signed up to the pledge. IMEO works to improve the accuracy and availability of data, which will allow greater accountability by both governments and companies, including GMP countries.

All Global Methane Pledge participants are encouraged to develop or update a methane reduction action plan. These plans can help countries leverage emerging data and techniques to enhance their Paris Agreement methane emissions inventories; identify compelling abatement strategies; and define methane-related policies, programs, and project proposals. These plans can also help to match governments with technical assistance from GMP partners.

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/eu_methane_strategy.pdf
[3] COM(2020) 663 final

The 2021 CCAC-UNEP Global Methane Assessment sets out an opportunity to change the climate trajectory within the next 20 years—a critical timeframe for slowing warming and self-reinforcing feedbacks enough to avoid passing dangerous tipping points. Available targeted methane measures, together with additional measures that contribute to priority development goals can rapidly reduce methane emissions from energy, agriculture, and waste achieving near-term gains in our efforts in this decade for decisive action and is regarded as the single most effective strategy to keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5˚C within reach while yielding co-benefits including improving public health and agricultural productivity. The 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that methane mitigation is a standout option for achieving near- and long-term climate and air quality benefits.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:
Human-caused methane emissions are growing at an alarming rate. Over the last decade methane emissions have reached five-year growth rates not seen since the 1980s, and are still on an upward trend. This increase is driven by three anthropogenic sources: fossil fuels, agriculture, and waste. Current concentrations are well above the 2˚C scenario used in the IPCC's 2013 Assessment. Reduction of methane emissions is critical to reduce atmospheric concentrations of methane this decade and avoid dangerous tipping points.

The Global Methane Assessment identified available and proven low-or-no cost targeted measures in all major anthropogenic sectors which could reduce methane emissions by 30% of projected 2030 levels. Nearly half of these technologies are available in the fossil fuel sector where it is relatively easy to reduce methane at the point of emission and along production/transmission lines. There are also available targeted solutions in the waste and agricultural sectors. While there is enough information to act now, addressing emissions at the scale and in the timeframe necessary to meet the 1.5° C target will require an improved understanding of methane emissions levels and sources.

Currently, there exists no independent, international body, which collects and verifies methane emissions data that could accelerate reductions of methane emissions. While a number of key exporting countries of fossil energy to the EU have committed to submitting national GHG inventories data to the UNFCCC as signing parties to the Paris agreement, 5 of the 11 largest exporters to the EU who are signatory parties have submitted such inventories. But even for those countries, the quality of the data is only as good as the levels of tier of reporting employed, with no obligation to report asset-level measurements of emissions in the GHG inventories delivered to the UNFCCC. Although governments have an important role in overcoming obstacles, lack of information and adequate mitigating measures, existing regulatory instruments remain either ineffective, incomplete or non-existent among a number of countries.

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

- Partners will include the UNEP-hosted methane actions, including IMEO, initiatives being developed in partnership with a wide and global range of stakeholders including duty bearers represented by EU's strategic partners like the US, Japan, Canada (and possibly other countries that have joined Global Methane Pledge), state and non-state partners like international organisations, relevant Ministries, private sector representatives and rights holders represented by CSOs in the targeted countries and regional organisations dealing with the matter.
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), established in 2012, has catalysed simultaneous action on climate change and air pollution by addressing short-lived climate pollutants, including methane. The CCAC has advanced this mission by generating new, policy-relevant scientific analysis, leveraging its Trust Fund to drive fast action on the ground through its national planning and sectoral initiatives, providing immediate support to countries seeking to enhance action on climate change and clean air, and drawing on the deep relationships with its Partners (over 70 country partners, 20 IGO partners, and 70 NGO partners). The CCAC also has a history of mobilizing political support through effectively engaging Ministers in driving action. The CCAC has a globally recognized Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP).
- Final set-up of engaged actors and their roles and mandates will depend on the developments of the IMEO. IMEO is funded only by governments to ensure its independence. However, various stakeholders such as:

industry, NGO's and foundations, IGOs (e.g. IEA) and scientific community will be engaged in the form of advisory council providing and advise to IMEO on various aspects of it work.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to accelerate reductions of methane emissions from anthropogenic sources.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to increase adoption of science-based methane emissions mitigation strategies and targets as well as policies.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome) are:
Output 1: Technical guidelines and annual report aggregating data from various data streams to provide greater transparency and a more comprehensive picture of methane emissions is produced and made available to relevant stakeholders, including development of Methane Supply Index (MSI) framework.
Output 2: Scientific studies and information on methane emissions around the world produced and made available to relevant stakeholders
Output 3: Increased awareness of countries and companies on the issue of methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector and of the feasibility of mitigation options *[not funded by this Action but under AAP 2021]*
Output 4: Increased capacity of countries to develop policies and regulations to reduce methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector *[not funded by this Action but under AAP2021]*
Output 5: Support for the implementation and management of the Global Methane Pledge
Output 6: Strengthened institutional capacity for coordination of national methane mitigation agenda
Output 7: Targeted capacity-building support for methane/SLCP planning, policy and implementation

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1

- Develop technical guidelines to facilitate data collection from oil and gas and coal companies
- Facilitate companies' access to tools and guidance to transparently report on methane emissions
- Draft and issue annual reports
- Facilitate stakeholders' access to detailed data and information about mineral methane emissions around the world

Activities related to Output 2:

- Initiate scientific studies
- Publish scientific studies
- Engage stakeholders in meetings/technical workshops organized by IMEO

Activities related to Output 3 *[not funded by this Action but under AAP 2021]*

- Engage government officials in awareness raising meetings and increase their awareness on the issue of methane emissions
- Engage company representatives in awareness raising meetings and increase their awareness on the issue of methane emissions

Activities related to Output 4 *[not funded by this Action but under AAP 2021]*

- Provide technical support to countries to develop methane regulations and policies

Activities related to Output 5

- Extending Secretariat-type Services to the GMP and Agenda-Setting, including:
  - Engagement of countries to join the GMP and with signatories to pursue mitigation actions in line with the GMP objectives
  - Tracking of progress towards GMP targets
  - Communications/outreach at high level to engage decision makers and raise ambition
  - Development and publication of an annual report detailing the progress achieved by signatories towards the GMP targets

- Development and deployment of a system to identify ultra-emitter events and alert relevant stakeholders
- Management and promotion of the GMP website
- Organization of leader/ministerial level events

Activities related to Output 6

- Hire and engage national methane coordinators to mobilize political will for methane action and advance national efforts in methane planning, policy and implementation

Activities related to Output 7

- Develop Methane Reduction Plans, considering datasets from the Global Methane assessment and other datasets and relevant climate and sectoral plans and strategies
- Provide capacity building and targeted technical assistance to countries to implement methane reduction plans and SLCP mitigation priorities, including for ensuring gender equality objectives within such plans

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)
The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

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

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G0. This implies that the project will not directly focus on addressing gender equality, though it may have a beneficial indirect effect. In addition, the project team has worked to mainstream gender equality throughout the project document, including identifying key indicators and milestones on IMEO's gender approach, and identifying a portion of the budget to hire a gender consultant to help form a gender strategy and review process, and has analysed issues related to gender equality in the oil and gas industry and the distribution of natural resources. The action will seek to contribute to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III, 2021-2025), more specifically objective 1 "Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues".

UNEP recognises that impacts of climate change and air pollution disproportionally affect women, girls and children exacerbated by persisting gender inequalities, gender discrimination and social exclusion. It acknowledges that climate and air pollution mitigation measures are more sustainable, equitable and likely to achieve better results if gender equality is considered, recognising that environmental policy decision-making could often benefit significantly if perspectives, insights and experience of women are included. It also emphasises the critical role of women and girls as positive agents of change in forming better solutions to climate change and air pollution, in sectors specifically relevant to climate and air pollution mitigation..

Human Rights
Human rights-based approach and its key principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency) will be integrated throughout the action. The action will have an indirect impact on the citizens and their fundamental rights to live in a safe environment and to have access to a transparent and accessible environmental information.

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 specifically target disability.

Democracy
Not targeted. The project has not directly engaged on issues around democracy and no negative effects are expected.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience
Not targeted. The project has not directly engaged on issues around conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience, and no negative effects are expected.

Disaster Risk Reduction
According to the latest IPCC report, rapidly reducing global methane emissions is one of the best ways to reduce the rate of warming in the next few decades while simultaneously delivering multiple benefits for human and ecosystem health. Reducing the near-term rate of warming can avoid or reduce the risk of passing thresholds for climate tipping points. Similarly, reducing the burden of disease of populations due to exposure to tropospheric ozone increases resiliency to extreme weather events.

Other considerations if relevant
None

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	**Risks**	**Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)**	**Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)**	**Mitigating measures**
Communication and information	Reputational risks: by engaging with the fossil fuel industry, IMEO could be criticized by external stakeholders (especially governments and NGOs) for lending its credibility to an industry that is a major contributor to climate change.	Low	High	Adhering to the new OGMP Framework is by itself a strong indication of companies' commitment to address methane emissions. By signing up to OGMP 2.0, companies commit to report methane emissions confidentially to UNEP, at an unprecedented level of accuracy and granularity. The participation of governments and NGOs in the IMEO sets the necessary controlling safeguards. If companies do not adhere to the commitments taken under the agreement, they will face reputational risks vis-à-vis governments, other external stakeholder, and competitors. IMEO will verify company reporting and track progress towards states emissions reductions targets. IMEO will publish a public dataset of methane emissions that enables other stakeholders to hold

				companies and countries accountable to their targets.
External environment	Governments do not consider methane emissions reductions from the oil and gas sector a political priority and do not participate in IMEO or use its data.	Low	High	UNEP will continue supporting countries with capacity-building and technical assistance activities to build political will and priority to address methane emissions.
External environment	Companies do not consider methane emissions reductions from the oil and gas sector a priority and therefore do not contribute data to IMEO.	Low	High	Over 70 companies already joined the OGMP. More expressed interest and are in the process of joining. Outreach activities will contribute to be conducted and the European Commission is encouraging companies to join OGMP.
Planning, processes, and systems	Implementation of projects is delayed due to long procurement and recruitment processes.	High	Low	UNEP will issue calls for proposals to source the best expertise to perform scientific measurement studies and look into streamlining procedures to ensure speed and flexibility.
Planning, processes, and systems	Lack of adequate financial resources prevents full implementation of projects.	Low	High	UNEP will secure effective and adequate donor funding and will use a phased approach to the implementation and achievement of key milestones that can be delivered with minimum resources. To date, the European Commission has pledged 10 million Euro as seed funding for the establishment of the IMEO, and the Government of Spain has declared its interest in contributing 1.5 million Euro to the project. The Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of the European Commission's DG Energy have agreed to jointly organize a donor conference in early 2022 to engage additional funders and partners. Should a lower amount of funding be received, the governance structure of IMEO will reprioritize activities.

People and the organization	Limited representation of women in IMEO governance bodies affects public perception of IMEO.	Medium	Low	In its initiation phase, IMEO will hire a consultant to assist the development of a gender strategy that ensures the Observatory maintains a gender-responsive approach in its objectives and hiring. The consultant will also help develop systems and processes to periodically review IMEO's performance on gender-relevant topics.
Communication and information	IMEO is not viewed as independent, or its data is not viewed as credible, limiting the use of its data and analyses.	Low	High	IMEO is hosted within the United Nations Environment Programme. An Executive Board, comprised of representatives from donor countries, guides the strategic direction of IMEO. A Scientific Oversight Committee monitors its scientific activities and ensures the scientific integrity and independence of its approach. Industry will only be engaged through membership of OGMP companies in a non-voting capacity in an Advisory Council, along with NGOs and CSOs. IMEO will aggregate and analyse multiple methane emissions data streams (company reporting, national inventories, direct measurement studies, satellite observations) and reconcile inconsistencies between reported and observed emissions levels.
Lessons Learnt: Experience of previous methane initiatives supported by the Commission has shown that a lack of data is a major limiting factor for more ambitious action on methane emissions. Many governments are reluctant to commit to reduction targets without first knowing what their current emissions levels are, and without understanding what are the major sources of methane emissions to act upon. Engaging with countries around the world, data has been repeatedly cited as a barrier for further action.				
Category	**Risks**	**Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)**	**Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)**	**Mitigating measures**
External environment	Political uptake and follow-through;	**Low**	**High**	UNEP will convene high level meetings including the Climate and Clean Air Ministerial, and support to the GMP Ministerial to raise political awareness on the importance of methane mitigation.

External environment	Low engagement of countries	**Low**	**High**	UNEP will build on its strong engagement at ministerial, policy maker and scientific level. Ministers from 46 countries approved at COP26 the Coalition's 2030 Strategy[4], which supports scaled-up efforts to significantly reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) — methane[5], hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs)[6], black carbon[7], and tropospheric (ground level) ozone[8]—by 2030. Under its national planning initiative the CCAC supported 37 countries in their integrated national planning efforts. CCAC has supported 17 countries to incorporate actionable SLCP/methane solutions into their NDCs. Regular meeting are held with country focal points to maintain engagement and to identify needs and priorities on methane.
Planning, processes, and systems	Implementation of projects is delayed	High	Low	UNEP will actively manage contracting processes and implementation, including: monitoring project performance and ensuring on-time delivery of outputs; tracking outputs, outcomes and impacts
Lessons Learnt: Experience of Phase I of the CCAC has shown the importance and effectiveness of integrated policy and planning, quantifying and actively pursuing multiple benefits of methane reduction measures. Furthermore, institutional anchoring is a barrier, which needs to be addressed by both, provision of targeted expert support as well as high-level political support for coordinating methane action at national level.				

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is the following:

The **intended outcome** of this project is that companies and governments use the data on methane emissions and the increased capacity in methane emissions mitigation made available by the IMEO to adopt methane emissions mitigation strategies and targets. Reducing emissions of a potent greenhouse gas will reduce the effects of climate change and will help the international community achieve the temperature targets agreed to at the Paris Agreement.

This outcome will be achieved through the following **outputs**:

1. Increased availability of tools and guidance to enable oil, gas and coal companies to report on methane emissions, which in turns leads to the immediate outcome of increased reporting by companies on methane emissions (Work stream 1 on Transparency)

[4] https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/content/our-2030-strategy
[5] https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/slcps/methane
[6] https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/slcps/hydrofluorocarbons-hfcs
[7] https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/slcps/black-carbon
[8] https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/slcps/tropospheric-ozone

2. Scientific studies are implemented and generate more accurate information on methane emissions and data and information are accessible to experts and CSOs (Work stream 2 on Science)
3. Increased awareness among companies and governments of the issue of methane emissions and of methane mitigation options, and
4. Increased capacity of governments to develop policies and regulations to reduce methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector (Work stream 3 on implementation).

An important **driver** is the adoption and enforcement of regulations and policies to reduce methane emissions from fossil fuels, also as a way to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The project will provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to help governments develop comprehensive methane regulations. While the outputs will identify key sources of methane emissions and may help with enforcement action, the adoption and enforcement of these regulations will not directly be controlled by UNEP.

An important **assumption** of this change is the availability of satellite data. Several satellite-based methane instruments are or will soon be available (including the EU-funded TROPOMI) that will provide global, high-resolution data complementary to that which has been gathered through the Methane Science Studies. IMEO will access and analyse methane data from satellite measurements and combine these findings with data from previous field studies and information on oil and gas infrastructure around the world. Furthermore, IMEO will develop the in-house data integration and processing capabilities to analyse these various data streams to deliver meaningful insights that can drive methane mitigation actions globally.

With regards to other **assumptions**, it is assumed that governments demonstrate the political will to tackle methane emissions from the oil, gas and coal sector, especially by adopting methane reduction targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

A second **intended outcome** of this project is that countries have enhanced capacities, political engagement and policy-relevant research and analysis to develop and implement policies to significantly reduce emissions of methane and other short-lived climate pollutants in the near term.

This outcome will be achieved through the following **outputs**:

5. Increased support for GMP implementation and agenda setting
6. Strengthened institutional capacity for coordination of national methane mitigation agenda
7. Targeted capacity-building support for methane/SLCP planning, policy and implementation

Drivers include the connection of an ambitious agenda setting with targeted actions, underpinning them both with robust science and analysis. UNEP has a proven track record of generating new, policy-relevant scientific analysis, leveraging the CCAC Trust Fund to drive fast action on the ground through its national planning and sectoral initiatives, providing immediate support to countries seeking to enhance action on climate change and clean air, and drawing on the deep relationships with its Partners.

UNEP has a history of mobilizing political support by effectively engaging Ministers. For example, driving support for the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbons helped secure global commitment to take action that will avoid 0.5ºC of warming by 2100. **Assumptions** include the use of improved emission and mitigation assessments and plans for prioritization and decision making and for the enforcement of regulations and policies to reduce emissions. High level political engagement, close engagement with relevant national institutions throughout the planning process, provision of resources and tools for policy relevant analysis and for implementation have proven successful in the enforcement process.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.
The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

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

Results	Results chain (@): 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	To accelerate reduction of methane emissions from anthropogenic sources.	• % change in methane concentrations (or emissions) Optional co-benefit indicators: • Change in number of work hours lost to extreme heat or other climate events • Change in production of staple crop yield/potential • Number of asthma-related hospital visits • Number of premature deaths (respiratory and cardiovascular) per year	380 (359 – 407) Tg/yr (GMA 2021; Jackson et al. 2020)	Global reductions of methane emissions of at least 30% by 2030. This includes emissions from the top 3 sectors: Fossil fuels: 45% by 2025 AND 60%-75% by 2030 Ag: 20-25% by 2030 Waste: 30-35% by 2030	For methane emissions/concentrations and co-benefits: NIRs, Global methane project, NOAA, EPA, Biennial reports For co-benefits: CCAC SAP, global methane assessment tool For the fossil fuel sector: 1 OGMP member company reporting 2 Direct measurement studies 3 Satellites 4 National inventories	*Not applicable*
Outcomes	Governments and companies increasingly adopt science-based methane mitigation	**1.1** Number of companies that access and use transparent and science-based data on methane emissions	Baseline: 0 (2020)	25: December 2023; 50: December 2025	Downloads of reports/access to site	IMEO data is viewed as credible Countries and companies are willing to tackle methane mitigation

	strategies and policies					
		1.2 Number of governments that access and use transparent and science-based data on methane emissions made available by the IMEO.	Baseline: 0	30: December 2023; 60: December 2025	Downloads of reports/access to sites	IMEO data is viewed as credible Countries and companies are willing to tackle methane mitigation
		1.3 Number of companies that that adopt mitigation strategies and targets	Baseline: 10	75: December 2023; 100: December 2025	OGMP reporting	IMEO data is viewed as credible Countries and companies are willing to tackle methane mitigation
		1.4 Number of governments that adopt science-based mitigation strategies and targets	Baseline: 2	10: December 2023; 20: December 2025	NDCs, policy documents, etc.	
		1.5 Number of governments supported in contributing to GMP	Baseline: 0	At least 111 (2027)	GMP reporting	
		1.6 Number of governments/institutions with increased capacity to reduce methane emissions	Baseline: 0	15 (2027)	UNEP progress reporting by countries and implementing partners	Institutional knowledge/capacity is maintained and used to drive action
		1.7 Number of adopted laws and regulations to reduce methane emissions **1.8** Number of women in positions influencing	Baseline: 0 Baseline: 0	10 (2027) 7 (2027)	UNEP progress reporting by countries and implementing partners	Continued political will, capacity to implement laws and regulations

		decision making related to GMP				
		1.9 Number of plans, strategies and policy statements informed by methane science and data (e.g., NDCs, national plans, leader statements, voluntary commitments, roadmaps, gender strategies, etc.)	Baseline: 8	20 (2027)	UNEP progress reporting by countries and implementing partners	Continued political will to act on/follow methane science and data
Output 1	1.1 Technical guidelines and annual report aggregates data from various data streams to provide greater transparency and a more comprehensive picture of methane emissions was produced and made available to relevant stakeholders, including development Methane Supply Index (MSI) framework.	1.1.1 Number of technical guidelines to facilitate data collection from oil and gas companies: - OGMP 2.0 reporting template - Uncertainty and reconciliation key concepts and guidelines - Technical Guidance Documents on how to address OGMP 2.0 reporting requirements across the five reporting levels 1.1.2 Number of companies with access to tools and guidance to transparently report on methane emissions	1.1.1 Baseline: 10 1.1.2 Baseline: 10 1.1.3 Baseline: 0 1.1.4 Baseline: 0	1.1.1 Target: 15 (12 TGDs, one uncertainty and reconciliation guidance, two reporting templates) 1.1.2 Target: 100 1.1.3 Target: 5 1.1.4 Target: 150	1.1.1 OGMP 1.1.2 OGMP member companies; report downloads 1.1.3 IMEO 1.1.4 Site access to IMEO data	OGMP is continually viewed as a credible reporting framework Satellite data becomes increasingly available and reliable

		1.1.3 Number of annual reports issued 1.1.4 Number of stakeholders who have access to detailed data and information about mineral methane emissions around the world.				
Output 2	1.2 Scientific studies and information on methane emissions around the world produced and made available to relevant stakeholders	1.2.1 Number of scientific studies initiated 1.2.2 Number of scientific studies published 1.2.3 Number of stakeholders participating in meetings/technical workshops organized by IMEO, disaggregated by type of organisation and sex	1.2.1 Baseline: 4 1.2.2 Baseline: 2 1.2.3 Baseline: 0	1.2.1 Target: 10 1.2.2 Target: 10 1.2.3 Target: 100	1.2.1 IMEO progress tracker 1.2.2 Scientific journals 1.2.3 IMEO progress tracker	Governments/companies agree to give researchers access to sites and facilities to undertake measurements
Output 3	1.3 Increased awareness of countries and companies on the issue of methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector and of the feasibility of	1.3.1 Number of government officials that accessed knowledge-sharing meetings, disaggregated by sex 1.3.2 Number of company representatives that accessed	1.3.1 Baseline: 20 1.3.2 Baseline: 10	1.3.1 Target: 100 1.3.2 Target: 50	1.3.1 IMEO progress tracker 1.3.2 IMEO progress tracker	Companies and countries are willing to engage with IMEO

	mitigation options	awareness raising meetings, disaggregated by sex				
Output 4	1.4 Increased capacity of countries to develop policies and regulations to reduce methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector	1.4.1 Number of countries receiving technical support to develop methane regulations and policies	1.4.1 Baseline: 0	1.4.1 Target: 10	1.4.1 IMEO progress tracker	There is sufficient political will to tackle methane emissions from the oil, gas and coal sector
Output 5	1.5 Increased support for GMP implementation and agenda setting	1.5.1 Number of new countries engaged under GMP and signatories supported in their engagement under the GMP 1.5.2 Number of annual reports detailing progress achieved by signatories towards GMP targets 1.5.3 GMP website operational and providing up to date information	1.5.1 Baseline: 0 1.5.2 Baseline: 0 1.5.3 Baseline: 0	1.5.1 Target: at least 111 1.5.2 Target: 5 1.5.3 Target: 1	GMP annual reports GMP website	
Output 6	1.6 Increased institutional capacity for coordination of national methane	1.6.1 Number of national methane coordinators hired, disaggregated by sex	1.6.1 Baseline: 0	15 (2027)	TORs and proofs of contracts Progress reports by coordinators	Candidates that meet requirements are found and retained for required duration

	mitigation agenda					
Output 7	1.7 Increased capacity building for methane/SLCP planning, policy and implementation	1.7.1 Number of methane reduction plans produced 1.7.2 Number of requests for methane policy, planning, and implementation support fulfilled	1.7.1 Baseline: 0 1.7.2 Baseline: 0	1.7.1: 5 (2027) 1.7.2: 40 (2027)	UNEP policy, planning and country needs tracker UNEP progress reporting by countries and implementing partners	Methane reduction plans and capacity building solidify support for policy action

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

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 measures[9].

4.3.1 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity: UNEP

This action may be implemented in indirect management with UNEP, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: relevant organisational mandate; technical competence in the respective policy field; organisational competence; projects track record.

The implementation by this entity entails to accelerating reductions of methane emissions by integrating and reconciling emissions data sources, linking findings to ambitious action, and supporting the science-policy interface.

The United Nations Environment Programme is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system. UNEP, including hosted by UNEP IMEO is best placed to fulfil the above mentioned objectives due to its international recognition and global character. Methane emissions are an international challenge, therefore this issue needs to be addressed on to global, multilateral level, and this approach fully corresponds with the EU Methane Strategy of October 2020.

At the time of the drafting of this action document, UNEP is undertaking a pillar-assessment procedure. In case it is not yet successful at the contracting phase, supervisory measures should apply until completion of the separate pillar assessment of the entity covering all pillars. No contribution agreements are to be signed without such supervisory measures.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified [10].

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

If the foreseen implementation modality under indirect management above cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, part of the action may be implemented through a direct grant awarded without a call for proposal, according to the conditions set out in article 195 of the Financial Regulation. The selection criteria are spelled out under section 4.3.1.

[9] 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.

[10] It is reminded that, during the implementation of the action, in case it is decided to select another entity, the same criteria may be used for justifying such selection, without going through a substantial modification of the Financing Decision. Consequently, beyond the justifications provided for selecting a given entity, it is important to define clear selection criteria.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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).

4.4 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components[11]	**EU contribution (amount in EUR)**
Implementation modalities – cfr. Section 4.3.1	
Indirect management with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	**10 000 000**
Output 1: Technical guidelines and annual report aggregates data from various data streams to provide greater transparency and a more comprehensive picture of methane emissions is produced and made available to relevant stakeholders	1 000 000
Output 2: Scientific studies and information on methane emissions around the world produced and made available to relevant stakeholders	3 000 000
Output 3: Increased awareness of countries and companies on the issue of methane emissions from the fossil fuel sector and of the feasibility of mitigation options	*funded under previous adopted Decision in 2021*
Output 4: Increased capacity of countries to develop policies and regulations to reduce methane emission from the fossil fuel sector	*funded under previous adopted Decision in 2021*
Output 5: Support the implementation and management of the Global Methane Pledge	2 000 000
Output 6: Strengthened institutional capacity for coordination of national methane mitigation agenda	3 000 000
Output 7: Targeted capacity-building support for methane planning, policy and implementation	1 000 000
Evaluation and Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision[12]
Contingencies[13]	0
Totals	10 000 000

[11] 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.

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

[13] Consider that for contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies must be covered by individual and legal commitments by 31 December of N+1.

4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

UNEP hosts two bodies that are engaged in the methane related activities – IMEO and CCAC.

IMEO

The governance of IMEO is as follows:

1. Executive Board

An Executive Board will guide the strategic direction of the Observatory, ensure its policy relevance, endorse the annual work plan, and oversee the budget.

The Board will consist of up to seven members. The European Commission and UNEP will – as founding members of the Observatory – maintain permanent sits on the Executive Board. Representatives of governments contributing to the activities of the Observatory will fill the other seats. Should more than five countries be eligible to sit in the Executive Board, a separate government advisory board will be created. All state actors will be represented in the government advisory board and will select the five representatives of the Executive Board, with a minimum of two seats reserved to partner countries. The founding members of the Observatory will select a Board Chair that will act as a facilitator for the Executive Board meetings and as the senior representative for the Observatory.

The Executive Board will be taking decisions by consensus defined as absence of any stated objections.

The Executive Board will define its own rules (consistent with UN rules and regulations), and might create subsidiary bodies, including the establishment of a Board comprising of external stakeholders in a personal capacity to advise on the Observatory's activities and priorities.

The head of IMEO will serve as Secretary of the Executive Board. The Head shall present an annual work programme to the Executive Board for endorsement before the beginning of each calendar year (starting with a second year of operation).

2. The Advisory Council

The Advisory Council of IMEO is composed of three sub advisory groups:

- International organizations
- Civil Society
- Industry members of the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership

The Executive Board will receive input from an Advisory Council comprising of international organisations, civil society and industry representatives. The Advisory Council will provide the Executive Board with relevant information, data, and considerations.

Organisations and companies working in the methane ecosystem on issues related to transparency, science, and implementation will be invited to join the Advisory Council to ensure synergies with relevant activities being carried out independently of IMEO.

International organisations, including the IEA, development banks, and other UN agencies such as World Meteorological Organization and UN Economic Commission for Europe, will provide the Observatory with expertise and assistance to work in a targeted and adaptable manner that reflects the requirements and particularities of each area.

The engagement of civil society organisations is key to strengthening the credibility of IMEO and the integrity of its actions as well as raise social awareness on methane emissions.

Similarly, industry perspectives will be represented to ensure the Observatory maintains close contact and collaboration with leading oil and gas producers that participate in OGMP, without being unduly influenced by industry objectives. Industry representatives will consist of both private and state-owned companies.

The Advisory Council will be inclusive and transparent. The number of places will not be limited. The role of the Advisory Council should not prejudge the independence of the functioning of the IMEO.

The Executive Board might consider creating a separate work streams in the Advisory Council to differentiate between the various members groups/types, if needed.

3. Scientific Oversight Committee

The IMEO Scientific Oversight Committee comprises leading methane scientists globally. It guides and oversees the scientific activities of IMEO, including, but not limited to, overseeing estimation methodologies, recommending which studies are necessary and ensuring there are no key data gaps across the studies. Furthermore, it oversees efforts to develop new analytical methods that produce data products that are more effective, more easily deployed, or more accurate than existing products.

Two co-chairs lead the Scientific Oversight Body and guide the evaluation, initiation and coordination of proposals for direct measurement studies of methane emissions around the world, with the goal of obtaining policy relevant science.

4. Secretariat

IMEO's Secretariat is comprised by its Head and three programme managers representing each programme area: transparency, science and implementation. The programme managers convene interested parties for their programmes to inform and guide strategy and decision-making for their respective programme goals.

IMEO's Secretariat staff are supported by technical experts that contribute to the scientific expertise of IMEO. These experts will provide detailed scientific support to science studies, including suggesting methodological frameworks, ensuring effective co-ordination among projects, assisting on the development of measurement strategies and protocols, and ensuring synergies between field measurements and satellite measurements.

CCAC

GOVERNANCE

The **Climate & Clean Air Ministerial** serves as the Coalition's highest level, political body to advance the Coalition towards its vision and mission. The Coalition's Annual Meeting will bring together all Partners as the principal platform for engagement and sharing of information on climate and clean air. A segment of the Annual Meeting will be closed to Partners only, for oversight of Coalition decisions.

The **Board**, with representatives that reflect the multi-stakeholder nature of the Coalition, takes decisions on behalf of the Coalition, reporting back to each Annual Meeting. It is the principal decision-making body concerning the use of the Trust Fund – endeavouring to make fast, informed, transparent decisions while ensuring the highest standards of public administration, with strong conflict of interest provisions and open, transparent and competitive contracting.

Partners, the driving force – State and non-state Partners are crucial to the CCAC's vision and mission, starting with the commitment each makes when joining the Coalition by endorsing meaningful action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants at home and internationally. Ongoing networking and dialogue through the Coalition activities reinforces those commitments and turns them into practical actions. Working together in a spirit of mutual support accelerates collective action.

Hubs, where CCAC joins forces – Hubs are where the CCAC groups together to focus on best practices and readily achievable actions in a specific sector or topic area to deliver on its three Key Directions (1. Driving an Ambitious Agenda; 2. Supporting National & Transformative Actions; 3. Advancing Policy-Relevant Research & Analysis). Hubs play a key role in "Supporting National & Transformative Actions," building on the wealth of expertise and knowledge on planning and mitigation strategies that the Coalition has developed since 2012.

Hubs bring together State and Non-State Partners and focus on national planning and key short-lived climate pollutant emitting sectors:

• The **Strategic SLCP Planning Hub** focuses on supporting countries to integrate short-lived climate pollutants into climate, clean air and development plans and policies. The Hub supports the development and implementation of these plans and further options for finance, economic and socio-economic analysis; vertical and horizontal linkages; and normative dimensions. The Hub also fosters peer-to-peer-engagement and exchange between Partners.

• **Sectoral Hubs** advise governments on ways to define and implement mitigation measures based on sector-specific requests identified through the 'Strategic SLCP Planning Hub.' They identify and share key mitigation measures and strategies for implementation at scale, and opportunities for transformative change in their sectors.

• **Scientific Advisory Panel**, providing confidence and cutting-edge knowledge – The Scientific Advisory Panel keeps Partners abreast of the latest policy-relevant scientific findings and new abatement opportunities, both of which will contribute to shaping the global debate.

• **Secretariat**, facilitator of action – In line with specific requests and decisions by the Board, the Secretariat supports activities, acts as first contact for country requests, maps out opportunities to advance the Coalition's mission, manages strategic alliances, provides analyses and tracks new developments, facilitates the operation of Hubs and other functions described in the Coalition's Framework Document.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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 project will be continuously evaluated by the established project reporting system within UNEP that is undertaken every 6 months, which includes all the outcome and outputs measured by corresponding indicators in the logistical framework matrix.

The Project Manager will hold overall responsibility for project monitoring and reporting, including on tracking progress against logistical framework indicators, management risks and safeguard risks. The progress data for the various outputs will be collected from OGMP member companies, scientific research teams, and other partners as relevant. In addition, a HRBA and gender considerations will be taken into consideration for the monitoring set-up.

Yearly progress updates will be shared with the European Commission, and any measures to correct any deviations in the project implementation will be taken if needed.

5.2 Evaluation

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

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes.
The final evaluation will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing at various levels (including for policy revision) through results and lessons learned across implementing partner staff be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at. All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is considering the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partner country 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, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation 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.

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.