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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX IV**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan of the thematic program Civil Society Organisations for years 2021 - 2024

**Action Document for Support measures**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN 2021-2024**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1. SYNOPSIS**

**1.1. Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	<b>Support measures</b> CRIS number: <u>NDICI CSO/2021/43-481</u> and for NEAR decision 2021/43-624 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out worldwide.
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme for Civil Society Organisations 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	All MIP Priority areas/Specific Objectives and Expected Results
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	151 – Government & Civil Society – general
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	SDG 10, 11, 16 and 17.
<b>8 a) DAC code(s) <sup>1</sup></b>	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society 99820 - Promotion of development awareness
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	90000 – Other

<sup>1</sup> DAC sectors (codes and descriptions) are indicated in the first and fourth columns of the tab 'purpose codes' in the following document: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-financestandards/dacandercodelist.htm>

<b>9. Targets<sup>2</sup></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <sup>3</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance <sup>4</sup>			
<b>10. Markers<sup>5</sup> (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	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"/>
<b>11. Internal markers<sup>6</sup> and Tags<sup>7</sup>:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### BUDGET INFORMATION

<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Budget line: <u>14.020220 Civil Society Organisations</u></p> <p>The EU contribution is for an amount of <b>EUR 13.285.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union<sup>8</sup></p> <p><b>2021</b><sup>9</sup> for an amount of <b>EUR 1.160.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p><b>2022</b> for an amount of <b>EUR 2.330.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p><b>2023</b> for an amount of <b>EUR 8.305.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p><b>2024</b> for an amount of <b>EUR 1.490.000</b> from the general budget of the European Union</p> <p>subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths</p>
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#### MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

<b>13. Type of financing<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>Direct management</b> through Procurement
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### 1.2. Summary of the Action

Support measures under this Action will reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of the thematic programme implementation. These measures will allow for preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities, as well as other relevant activities directly linked to the achievement of the thematic programme's specific objectives, such as studies, meetings and consultations, exchanges of best practices, networking, training, information sessions, communication and public diplomacy.

This Action will entail support for programme implementation in both HQ and EU Delegations, including preparation, implementation and monitoring of the CSO Roadmaps.

<sup>8</sup> Out of it EUR 400.000 from C5 credits

<sup>9</sup> Out of it EUR 150.000 for NEAR Audits

<sup>10</sup> Art. 27 NDICI

This action document frames the use of support measures, as envisaged in Article 24 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and in the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Civil Society Organisations 2021-2027.

The objectives of this action will mainly be achieved through services contracts directly managed by the competent European Commission services. This is justified by the nature of the activities (trainings, studies, events, evaluations or audits).

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

The ability for civil society to fulfil its vital role and act as partners for development and governance is diminishing through a continuous deterioration of the environment in which they operate. The COVID-19 crisis has intensified this negative trend, bringing increased restrictions and authoritarian measures affecting civil society's ability to operate in its wake. Through a clear focus on strengthening the participation, capacity and the enabling environment for civil society at all levels, Actions under this MAAP will contribute to the overarching priorities of the CSO Thematic Programme.

This Action's main objectives is to provide support measures as identified in Article 24 of the NDICI Regulation. In particular, the Action intends to prepare, support, monitor, evaluate and audit the activities financed by the CSO Thematic Programme in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the funding. It will also add value, complementarity and consistency with geographical programmes, while enhancing EU's policy priorities.

### 2.2. Problem Analysis

Improving the quality and efficiency of implementation of the CSO Thematic Programme MAAP 2021-2024 and ensuring the achievement of its objectives requires an adequate follow-up of interventions through audits, evaluations, expenditures verification, studies, technical assistance and field visits. Moreover, thematic interventions require continuous engagement with civil society organisations as main targeted beneficiaries. Support for such measures will be made available under the Action at hand.

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

The main stakeholders for this action are the EU staff implementing the CSO thematic programme, who will receive adequate support to implement the programme in the most effective manner, be it at headquarters or EU delegations. An important role is also played by those involved in the implementation of this support measures, such as external experts, projects' stakeholders, participants to trainings and workshops, etc. Support measures will be key to bring these actors together and ensure that knowledge-sharing can take place.

The end beneficiaries of the action are civil society organisations and/or their associations and, more generally citizens and communities of the partner countries in which the CSO thematic programme will be implemented. Support measures can mitigate some of the risks where national authorities are not empowering an active civil society in their respective countries.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is to facilitate the sound management of the CSO thematic programme, the achievement of its expected objectives and results, its political relevance, outreach and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact. The proposed Action intends to contribute to all Objectives under the CSO Thematic Programme MAAP 2021-2024, as described under the entailed Action Documents 1, 2 and 3.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is

1. To enable and improve the preparation, support, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for the implementation of the programme

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

- 1.1 Support for the Civil Society programme at partner country and at global level (AD1 and AD2)
- 1.2 Support for the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme (AD3)

#### 3.2. Indicative Activities

##### **Activities related to Output 1.1:** Support the Civil Society programme

- Technical assistance to support the elaboration of country roadmaps and calls for proposals among others.
- Studies
- Mid-terms review evaluations: Mid-terms review evaluation of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) and the Monitoring and Engagement System for an Enabling Environment may be done (both are funded under Action Document 1), as well as others if considered necessary.
- Organisation and financing of meetings, seminars and conferences, (remote or live) including all related seminar costs and travel, accommodation relating to the CSO thematic programme.
- Audits: This programme component shall cover the direct fees, costs and reimbursable expenses incurred by experts contracted by the Commission to undertake audits on CSOs projects.
- Communication and public diplomacy.

##### **Activities related to Output 1.2:** Support the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme

- Activities aiming to support the implementation of DEAR Programme through technical assistance, including the evaluation of call for proposals, Evaluations of actions under DEAR programme.
- Audits

#### 3.3. Mainstreaming

Cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and women's empowerment, disability, human rights and democracy and digitalisation as well as respect for the environment are crucial to the Civil Society Organisations programme and its implementation at global and country level. Support measures made available through this action may help analyse, address and integrate crosscutting issues from the identification to the evaluation of actions funded under this programme

### 3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

**Risks:** Due to the nature of the action, no risks have been identified.

**Lessons Learnt:** Under the previous programme for CSOs and LAs, the support measures allowed programme and project preparation to proceed in an effective manner. Furthermore, they made it possible to reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of all activities related to the implementation of the programme. In particular, funding for small-scale support measures has facilitated the partnership and consultation processes with CSOs, LAs and Associations of Local Authorities.

The same approach will be kept in the budget period 2021-2027. Support measures will accompany and reinforce all the actions carried out in the framework of the CSO thematic programme, optimising their implementation, increasing their impact and ensuring capitalisation on activities. Support measures will be key to follow up on commitments enshrined in the EU Roadmaps.

### 3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that by helping prepare, monitor, evaluate and audit the activities financed by the Civil Society Organisations programme, we assume the results will provide the added value, complementarity and consistency with geographical programmes expected, while enhancing EU capacity to react promptly and substantially when required and to reflect the EU's policy priorities with regard to its internal policies, international obligations and commitments.

### 3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

The Action is intended to support the other Actions (1, 2 and 3) under the CSO MAAP 2021-2024 and no individual result framework has been developed.

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1. Financing Agreement

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

### 4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 108 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<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

All specific objectives mentioned in section 3 will be reached mainly through services contracts directly managed by the competent European Commission services. <sup>12</sup>

### 4.3. 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:

As applicant: the eligibility of organisations participating in procurement and grant award procedures under the action is restricted to organisations originating from (art. 28 NDICI-Global Europe Regulation):

- I. Member States, beneficiaries listed in the relevant Annex to the IPA III Regulation and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;
- II. Neighbourhood partner countries and the Russian Federation when the relevant procedure takes place in the context of the programmes referred to in Annex I of the NDICI-Global Europe regulation in which it participates;
- III. developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which are not members of the G-20 group, and overseas countries and territories;
- IV. developing countries, as included in the list of ODA recipients, which are members of the G-20 group, and other countries and territories, when the relevant procedure takes place in the context of an action financed by the Union under the Instrument in which they participate;
- V. Countries for which reciprocal access to external funding is established by the Commission; that access may be granted, for a limited period of at least one year, whenever a country grants eligibility on equal terms to entities from the Union and from countries eligible under the Instrument; the Commission shall decide on the reciprocal access and on its duration after consultation of the recipient country or countries concerned;
- VI. Member countries of the OECD, in the case of contracts implemented in a LDC or a highly indebted poor country, as included in the list of ODA recipients.

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 <sup>13</sup>	EU contribution 2021 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution 2022 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution 2023 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution 2024 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution 2021-2024 (amount in EUR)
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section					
<b>Objective 1</b>					

<sup>12</sup> For INTPA/NEAR, prior approval 11a) of the list in annex h2c of the Companion/section H.1.2 NEAR MAP.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

Procurement (direct management)					
<b>Output 1</b>					
CSO Component	-	1.250.000	7.325.000	160.000	8.735.000
INTPA CSO Audits	800.000	800.000	800.000	800.000	3.200.000
NEAR CSO Audits	150.000	150.000	150.000	150.000	600.000
<b>Output 2</b>					
DEAR (including audits & evaluations)	210.000	130.000	30.000	380.000	750.000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1.160.000</b>	<b>2.330.000</b>	<b>8.305.000</b>	<b>1.490.000</b>	<b>13.285.000</b>

## 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).

### 5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components. The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

### 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 strategic communication and public diplomacy activities.

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 no longer required to include a provision for communication actions promoting the programmes concerned. Instead, all strategic communication and public diplomacy activities carried out at country level will be resourced through 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.

Regional and global strategic communication funds and activities will be managed from headquarters.

## APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

NOT TO BE COMPLETED AS THERE IS NO PRIMARY INTERVENTION (PINTV)

An Intervention<sup>14</sup> (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOT TO BE COMPLETED AS THERE IS NO PRIMARY INTERVENTION (PINTV)

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

<sup>14</sup> ARES (2021)4204912 - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including 'action' and 'Intervention' where an 'action' is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and 'Intervention' is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the concept of intervention.

