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**KINDGOM OF THAILAND**

**Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027**

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## 1. The overall lines of the EU international cooperation in Thailand

### 1.1. Basis for programming

The multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 – Thailand will be the basis for programming in Thailand and is a joint framework document between the European Union and its Member States built on an assessment by the EU concerning its policy towards this partner country for the period 2021-2027.

Thailand has a strong commitment to **multilateralism, a rules-based international order, sustainable development and the United Nations 2030 Agenda**. This stance is reiterated in **international and regional fora**.

Drawing on the April 2021 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) Conclusions on an **EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific** adopted on 16 April 2021<sup>1</sup> and the subsequent Joint Communication of the High Representative and the Commission of 16 September 2021, the EU will further **develop partnerships and strengthen synergies** with likeminded partners in the region, including with Thailand, in a broad range of areas, such as security and defence.

**Thailand is a key partner for the EU in Southeast Asia.**

- The Kingdom is an important and committed ally in the defence of **multilateralism and a rules-based international order**;
- **Thailand remains an influential player within ASEAN** and can therefore play a significant role in implementing the **EU-ASEAN strategic partnership**<sup>2</sup>;
- **EU-Thailand dialogue and cooperation** will be instrumental to the proactive implementation (both bilaterally and at the regional level) of the **EU Indo-Pacific Strategy priorities**, as highlighted by the FAC Conclusions of 16 April 2021 and the subsequent Joint Communication of the High Representative and the Commission of 16 September;
- **The EU has considerable economic interests in Thailand**, with Bangkok serving as a regional hub for a large number of EU companies. Deeply rooted people-to-people relations add to the EU's interests, with 5 million EU tourists visiting Thailand each year (pre-COVID-19) and a significant number residing permanently in the country;
- **Thailand shares the EU's strong political commitment to sustainable development** and has proven to be an important partner in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda.

**EU-Thailand cooperation has developed from a project-based approach to an enhanced policy dialogue between equal partners.** In line with the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 14 October 2019<sup>3</sup>, the EU and Thailand are currently updating the previously initialled Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and considering a possible resumption of negotiations for an ambitious and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), if the conditions are right. **The EU is thus pursuing a balanced and broad engagement with Thailand to improve overall relations while continuing to promote universal values.** The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe

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<sup>1</sup> EU Strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific - Council conclusions 7914/21 (16 April 2021).

<sup>2</sup> EU-ASEAN strategic partnership agreed on 23rd EU-ASEAN Ministerial meeting on 1 December 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 14 October 2019, <https://europa.eu/!Xg63yb>

(NDICI - GE) will allow for enhanced coordinated approach, in order to react better and faster to emerging crises and challenges, and will enhance the credibility of the **special relationship between the EU and Thailand**, while promoting synergies with other EU policies.

**Thailand's focus on sustainable development** is reflected in its international commitments and in national policies. Thailand is an active supporter of the 2030 Agenda and the Thai Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2019 was devoted to the theme of Sustainable development. Sustainable development is a cross-cutting theme in the country's 20-Year National Strategy (2017-2036)<sup>4</sup>, which provides for long-term direction for the country's development, as well as in the Thailand 4.0 strategy<sup>5</sup>, a knowledge-based economic model driven by innovation, creativity and technology. The 4.0 strategy is based on the principle of social and environmental sustainability, which should allow Thailand to become a country of 'security, prosperity, and sustainability'. Early in 2021, the Royal Thai Government launched the BCG strategy which stands for Bio-economy, Circular economy and Green economy. It builds upon the Thailand 4.0 strategy and it is well aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The BCG strategy is also intended to draw on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) which is one of the key principles of Thailand's social and economic development<sup>6</sup>.

As the country enters the next phase of its development, it seeks to balance progress across economic, environmental and social dimensions, notably by tackling the outstanding challenges on environment and human and labour rights. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, multilateral agreements, a possible Free Trade Agreement and other possible agreements that could establish a legally binding relationship with Thailand are part of the policy framework. Cooperation on specific issues, such as deforestation, should be pursued, including through the possible continuation of the current negotiations of a Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA) as well as through the development of a forest partnership.

Considering the significant potential of **research and innovation** to contribute to economic growth and tackling of societal challenges, synergies will be sought with the EU Research Programme Horizon Europe, with a specific focus on those priorities identified in the regional ASEAN-EU Dialogue on Science and Technology for the uptake of research results and increase of joint-activities.

All actions taken under this programming exercise shall comply with EU legislation, in particular EU restrictive measures (sanctions) adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

## 1.2. Status of joint programming

There is no joint programming process in Thailand.

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<sup>4</sup>20-Year National Strategy (2017 - 2036) "Security, Prosperity, Sustainability, <https://www.sme.go.th/en/page.php?modulekey=378>

<sup>5</sup> National Strategy Thailand 4.0 <https://thaiembdc.org/thailand-4-0-2/>

<sup>6</sup> Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP): Thailand's Home-Grown Approach to Sustainable Development.

## 2. Cooperation Facility

The priorities of this multi-annual indicative programme will focus namely on Connectivity, Human Development and the Green Deal, with the objectives to focus on strengthening EU interests and political priorities in the country, while tackling areas of common interest.

As for the expected results, the Cooperation Facility for Thailand will support policy dialogues, dialogue on policy commitments to deliver the SDGs such as connectivity, trade, dialogue with CSO, youth and women organisations, public diplomacy and communication awareness among others. The specific indicators will be developed in subsequent action programmes.

The Cooperation Facility will consist of a wide range of tools, initiatives and activities to **reinforce the EU strategic interests and priorities in Thailand**. The action will put in place a policy facility to support ongoing policy dialogues and negotiations with the public authorities, the economic actors and the civil society. The facility will also **support enhanced public diplomacy and strategic communication efforts and awareness** of the EU in Thailand in key areas of interests.

The **2030 Agenda is an integrated part of the facility**, and while its overall objective is closely linked to **SDG 17 (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development)**, a number of other SDG will be covered by specific dialogues. Key EU strategies and policies, including those aiming at decent jobs, sustainable and inclusive growth and investments, clean energy transition and the phasing out of coal in particular, the communication on stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests and the EU circular economy action plan are all building blocks for the planned cooperation.

The **Cooperation Facility will focus on European political priorities and interests, and on addressing policy-level objectives**, hence contributing to maximise the national impact of EU funding and general cooperation, covering the key areas of mutual interests outlined in the above policy.

The Cooperation facility will have an overall aim to **enhance the EU-Thailand partnership**, through **strengthened synergies between mutual interests, principles, policies and values**, complemented by **increased understanding and visibility of the EU and its role on the world scene**.

### **The Cooperation facility will support:**

- **Policy Dialogues** under the Partnership and Cooperation agreement (PCA), including but not limited to security (trafficking in human beings, cybercrime, drugs trafficking, organised crime, terrorism), human rights, decent work, good governance, rule of law, climate, energy as well as digital transition, science and research.
- Dialogue on policy **commitments to deliver the SDGs**. The activities implemented under the Cooperation Facility will be **aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs** the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the EU Global Strategy, the EU Indo-Pacific strategy, EU's connectivity strategy for Asia "Connecting Europe & Asia", and the new European Consensus on development.

- Dialogue on trade issues (including in support of FTA negotiations in case they are resumed); economic governance, market liberalisation, trade and sustainable development, structural reforms and regulatory convergence.
- **Cooperation between European and Thai businesses.** Cooperation will promote decent jobs, facilitate market access, improve the business environment and mobilise sustainable investments.
- Promote **regulatory cooperation, including on international standards, tax good governance standards, and other regulatory measures of relevance for market access**, as well as on other relevant policies in the trade, climate, energy, digital and economic diplomacy area.
- Cooperation on building mutually beneficial resilient and sustainable **global value chains**; and cooperation on creating the conditions for more circular-production models, and more responsible value chains between the EU and Thailand.
- **Structured dialogue with civil society organisations, youth organisations and women’s organisations** to ensure the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues
- **Support to the Gender Action Plan’s implementation and objectives** in the country.
- **Public diplomacy and strategic communication** activities to promote understanding and awareness of the Union's values, interests and specific policies, including foreign and security policy, science and research, gender, fight against disinformation, as well its multilateral agenda.

The **external dimension of the European Green Deal**, including forests and eco-systems, combating wildlife trafficking, deforestation free supply chains, achieving meaningful pollution reduction as well as climate, energy transition and circular economy.

In case a Team Europe Initiative (TEI) is conceived for Thailand, the EU’s indicative contribution to this TEI is subject to the confirmation of the Team Europe partners’ indicative meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the absence thereof, the EU’s indicative contribution may be redirected in accordance with the priority areas of the MIP and their allocations. The obligation of the Union and the Member States to coordinate their development policies following initiatives by the Commission to this effect, as per article 210 TFEU, always applies.

### **3. Financial overview**

<i>Cooperation Facility</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>EUR 20 million</i>
TOTAL for (2021-2027)	<i>100%</i>	<i>EUR 20 million</i>

## **ATTACHMENT 1. DONOR MATRIX**

### Development Partners coordination in Thailand

The Delegation is in regular exchange with important development partners such as the UN and its agencies as well as other bilateral donors (Australia, Japan and the US). Complementarity and synergies with relevant programmes will be sought.

Usually coordination meetings are held with a thematic focus as there is not a fully-fledged donor coordination mechanism (environment, regional refugees crisis; migration and trafficking, gender, etc.).

## Refugees

- 1) **Committee for Coordination of Services to Displaced Persons in Thailand meeting:** This meeting is organised on a **bi-annual basis** gathering key stakeholders of the camps (i.e. implementing partners, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), donor agencies) to discuss politically sensitive issues of implementation in the refugee camps. The Royal Thai government is not part of this committee but coordination with authorities is ensured.
- 2) **Covid-19 Outbreak Response Coordination Group meeting** for the Nine Temporary refugee Shelters: A specific key stakeholders coordination group was formed in April 2020 to ensure better coordination among implementing partners and donors during COVID-19 outbreak. This Coordination Group consists of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organisation (WHO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), relevant Thai authorities at national level, and NGOs serving in the refugee camps, as well as the EU Delegation in Thailand and the Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (US PRM). The meeting is organised **monthly** to share information on the response, capacities, and resources available, and to share concerns regarding the implementation of the implementing partners on COVID-19 issue in the camps.

## Trafficking in persons (TIP) and migration

The TIP donor coordination group consists of embassy representatives and development agencies from the EU, US, AUS, CAN, UK, SE, JP. It meets on a quarterly basis to discuss TIP and migration issues with a national and regional perspective.

Thailand is a pilot country for the UN group on migration to promote coordination on the implementation on the global compact on migration.

## Gender:

**Gender Equality Partners Coordination Group (GEPCG) meeting:** This is a gender coordination group between UN agencies and Bangkok-based Ambassadors or representatives to exchange and discuss respective commitments and priorities with regard to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.

<b>Receipts for Thailand</b>			
	2017	2018	2019
Total net receipts (USD million)	696	5613.8	7856.8
Gross ODA (USD million)	556	416.9	435.8
Bilateral share (gross ODA) %	90	91	89.5
NET ODA/GNI (%)	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Net ODA (USD million)	250	-419.3	338.2
Population (million)	69	69	70
GNI per capita (ATLAS USD)	5960	6600	7260

## **Top Ten Donors of Gross ODA for Thailand, 2018-2019 average, USD million**

JAPAN	265.1
US	43.9
GERMANY	27.3
UK	14.8
FRANCE	14.6
GLOBAL FUND	11.9
EU INSTITUTIONS	9.9
UNICEF	5.6
UNHCR	5.5
KOREA	5.0

<b>Bilateral ODA by Sector for Thailand 2018-2019 average %</b>	
Education	23%
Health and population	14%
Other social infrastructures and services	19%
Economic infrastructure and services	9%
Production	5%
Multisector	11%
Humanitarian aid	16%
Other and unspecified	3%