



Brussels, 20.7.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.7.2016

**on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries to
be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the ENI Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multinannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)³ which set the following priorities: (i) building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security; (ii) building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development; (iii) building a partnership with the people; (iv) support to regional and subregional institutional cooperation.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2016 - Part 1 to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁴ are to: support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict through civil society and citizen's positive engagement; strengthen partner countries' capacity to prevent and to respond to natural and man-made disasters; strengthen partner countries' capacity to tackle cybercrime and to cooperate effectively in compliance with the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe; intensify and accelerate exchange of information with the partner countries on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and of small arms and, to this effect, increase data collection from the Neighbourhood South; promote the engagement of young women and men in public affairs and their political participation; promote job creation and economic development and inclusiveness in the partner countries by supporting business-to-business networking, social enterprises ecosystems and regional trade integration.
- (3) The first action entitled “Middle East Peace Process – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2016” aims at supporting and promoting the conditions for a sustainable resolution of

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5242 of 30.07.2014.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

the Israeli-Arab conflict through the positive engagement of civil society and citizens. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (call for proposals and procurement).

- (4) The second action entitled "Security package 2016" will strengthen partner countries' capacities to prevent and to respond to natural and man-made disasters; to tackle cybercrime and to cooperate effectively, in compliance with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe, and to intensify and accelerate exchange of operational information in the Neighbourhood South, and with the EU, on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and of small arms, and, to this effect to increase data collection from the Neighbourhood South. Indirect management with Member States Agencies, with the Council of Europe and with Interpol is envisaged for this regional project.
- (5) The third action entitled "Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South" aims at promoting the engagement of citizens in public affairs and their political participation through a structured dialogue on regional agendas between the civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and national/local authorities; the empowerment of young women and men in their ability to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate; cooperation between local media and youth in order to increase the role and visibility of youth in pluralistic media (public and private broadcasters and on line media). Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (calls for proposals and grant directly awarded).
- (6) The fourth action entitled "Support to job creation, economic development and inclusiveness" aims at promoting job creation, economic development and inclusiveness in the Southern Mediterranean countries by supporting business-to-business networking, social enterprises ecosystems and regional trade integration through the implementation of the Agadir Agreement. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (calls for proposals and grant directly awarded).
- (7) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁵.
- (8) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by Annexe 1 (section 5.3.1), Annex 3 (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and Annex 4 (sections 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3).
- (9) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. These entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

- (10) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (11) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (12) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (13) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Middle East Peace Process – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2016;
- Annex 2: Security Package 2016;
- Annex 3: Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South;
- Annex 4: Support to job creation, economic development and inclusiveness.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 41.29 million to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2016:

- budget line 22.04.01.01 for an amount of EUR 11.29 million,
- budget line 22.04.01.02 for an amount of EUR 14 million, and
- budget line 22.04.01.03 for an amount of EUR 16 million.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annex 2, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section “Implementation” of the Annexe to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set by the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 20.7.2016

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX I

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPI) 2016

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1 “Grants – call for proposals (direct management)”

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2016 CRIS number: ENI/2016/039-476 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Middle East The action shall be carried out at the following location: Israel and Palestine ¹ and tentatively Europe and Jordan.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Building a partnership with people
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 6,125,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 5,000,000 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,125,000 Budget line: 22.04.01.03

¹ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management: – grants – call for proposals – procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	15220 - Dispositifs civils de construction de la paix, et de prévention et de règlement des conflits			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<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"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship	Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme		

SUMMARY

In alignment with the EU Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP), the overall objective of the programme is to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.

The programme will be implemented through a Call for Proposals which will finance civil society initiatives in Israel, Palestine, and tentatively Europe and Jordan aiming: 1) to promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement; 2) to build mutual understanding, confidence and trust; 3) to contribute to peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of conflict-affected communities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The Resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a fundamental interest of the EU. The Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) has been stalled for a long time now, with many peace plans and negotiation attempts since 1967 war. The latest attempt to revive peace negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians was conducted between 2013

and 2014 by the US Secretary J. Kerry. Currently France's Special Envoy for MEPP Pierre Vimont is working on the organisation of an international conference to re-launch the peace process. In the meantime the situation on the ground continues to worsen, with a wave of violence which started in October 2015 and is still continuing with inconstant intensity. As mentioned in the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) conclusions of 18 January 2016, 'only the reestablishment of a political horizon and the resumption of dialogue can stop the violence' and 'the underlying causes of the conflict need to be addressed.'

The EU seeks to contribute to addressing the underlying causes and to re-build the conditions for a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians also through this specific programme.

It is since 1998, following the recommendations of the Luxembourg European Council in 1997, that the EU actively supports civil society initiatives in the Middle East as an essential means to reinforce dialogue and restore mutual confidence. Initially, such support was provided through the European Union's People to People (P2P) Programme (1998 - 2001) and subsequently from 2002 to the present, through its successor, the EU Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP). Based on the findings of an external consultation conducted in 2014 on the PfP Programme 2007-14, and in order to clarify and enhance the programme's relevance to the current regional political context, it was been decided to rename the programme as "EU Peacebuilding Initiative" (EUPI).

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The central objective of the EU in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) is a just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-state solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition. This includes a negotiated solution to all final status issues, including borders, Jerusalem, security, water and refugees. The EU has reiterated its readiness to contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements for ensuring the sustainability of a peace agreement.

The positions of the EU on the MEPP are communicated on a regular basis through conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC). The FAC conclusions provide a policy framework for implementing EU policy on MEPP through direct support for actions on the ground by civil society and other actors.

At the regional level, the Arab Peace Initiative (API) remains the principal option for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab countries. However, though the Initiative has been welcomed anew by the international community including the EU and the United States, Israel has not yet formally responded to the API. The regional approach to the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict will have to take into account the fundamental changes across the Arab world. The EU will work, including through the action of its Special Representative, with all relevant stakeholders towards a renewed multilateral approach to the peace process².

² FAC Council Conclusions, 18 January 2016.

The EU has urged both sides to demonstrate, through policies and actions, a genuine commitment to a two-state solution in order to rebuild trust and create a path back to meaningful negotiations, and to avoid any action that could undermine peace efforts and the viability of a two-state solution. The EU is remaining engaged politically in the MEPP via policies which aim to maintain the viability of the two-state solution and encourage the parties to return to negotiations. The EU has called for significant transformative steps to be taken by the parties to the conflict, consistent with the transition envisaged by prior agreements, in order to restore confidence and rebuild trust. It has urged both sides to implement such measures, particularly in Area C, where a fundamental change of policy would significantly increase economic opportunities, empower Palestinian institutions and enhance stability and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

In 2013, the European Commission published Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards, clarifying EU policy with regard to the territorial applicability of EU legislation and bilateral EU-Israel agreements. The Guidelines make a specific exception (section 15) for activities which are carried out by Israeli entities over the Green Line which aim at promoting the Middle East Peace Process in line with EU policy.

The EU and its Member States have reiterated their commitment to ensure continued, full and effective implementation of existing EU legislation and bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products, whilst noting that this does not constitute a boycott of Israel which the EU strongly opposes. The European Commission, at the request of Member States, has issued an interpretative notice to clarify certain elements linked to the interpretation and implementation of existing EU legislation on the indication of origin of products from territories occupied by Israel since June 1967³.

In 2015, the conflict took another turn for the worse, with a cycle of violence which began in September 2015 and is still ongoing. The EU has firmly condemned the terror attacks and violence from all sides and in any circumstances. According to Israeli medical sources⁴, from 13 September 2015 until the end of January 2016, 30 people were killed on the Israeli side by Palestinian assailants (including a Palestinian and a foreign worker), and 301 people injured, including children. Palestinian victims, most of them killed by Israeli security forces in the context of attacks or attempted/alleged attacks on Israelis or in violent clashes with Israeli security forces, have overwhelmingly been under the age of 22, and as young as 13. From October 2015 until 14 Feb 2016, 178 Palestinians were killed, including 39 children.

The FAC conclusions of 18 January 2016 called on the parties to fight any incitement, to condemn attacks when they occur and to adhere strictly to the principles of necessity and proportionality in the use of force. They stated that only

³ Interpretative Notice on indication of origin of goods from the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, 11.11.2015 C(2015) 7834 final.

⁴ Magen David Adom.

the reestablishment of a political horizon and the resumption of dialogue can stop the violence, as the underlying causes of the conflict need to be addressed.

The situation in Gaza remains critical, and the EU has urged all parties to take swift steps to produce a fundamental change to the political, security and economic situation in the Gaza Strip, including the end of all rocket fire, the end of the closure and a full opening of the crossing points, while addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns.

The EU has urged all Palestinian factions to engage in good faith in the reconciliation process, based on non-violence, as an important element for reaching the two-state solution. Strong, inclusive and democratic institutions, based on respect of the rule of law and human rights, and working together to address the needs of the Palestinian population, including through the return of the PA to Gaza, are crucial in view of the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian State.

In addition, the added value and effectiveness of an increased participation of women should be highlighted. According to its Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000 the UN Security Council stated the necessity to include more women representatives in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. Since its adoption, women's position and role in peace processes has positively evolved offering them more empowerment and involvement. However, despite the approval of Resolution 1325 by both the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government, the inclusion of women in the political aspects of MEPP remains minimal.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders of the programme are civil society organisations (CSOs), including Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and not necessarily working on conflict-resolution, local authorities, leaders and opinion-formers in the region as well as their European partners and international organisations. Women and youth organisations are particularly targeted.

CSOs, through their capacity to reach down to the grass-roots level, can also be effective in ensuring that national or more macro-level initiatives reflect real needs and perspectives on the ground.

The final beneficiaries are the people of the Middle East and the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

An external evaluation and consultation of the EU Partnership for Peace programme (PfP) was conducted from December 2013 until January 2015. During the consultation phase, interviews, meetings and focus groups were held with a range of Israeli and Palestinian stakeholders, including journalists, politicians, youth, women and religious groups. European NGOs and EU officials were also consulted.

In the past year, support for the two-state solution decreased among Palestinians and Israelis, with each side continuing to view the intentions of the other as posing an existential threat.

In such a context, engagement in MEPP and peacebuilding in general, is often understood differently by Israelis and Palestinians. As the political situation has deteriorated further on the ground over recent years, despite attempts to revive peace talks, anti-normalisation movements in Palestine (and Jordan) have been increasingly

vocal in advocating for a freeze of all joint activities between Palestinians and Israelis until the final settlement of the conflict.

Despite the negative atmosphere surrounding it, the evaluation of the PFP programme found that "*results at project level were generally positive, often very much so. The **relevance** of the projects to the broader objectives of the programme was found to be high, even though this was not reflected in public perceptions of the programme. This remained true for projects with constituents generally seen as being unsympathetic to peacebuilding.*"

Similarly, despite certain disillusionment with the MEPP, the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations remains an important issue for both societies, and is reflected in the overwhelming attention paid to it in the media and political commentary. It is also noted that annual calls for proposals generally attracts over 110 applications from Israeli, Palestinian and European Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), thus indicating a consistently high level of interest in peacebuilding work despite the difficult circumstances.

1.1.3 *Priority areas for support/problem analysis*

The political environment has a direct impact on the work done by Israeli and Palestinian CSOs which are working towards an end to the conflict. During periods of direct peace talks, activities gain momentum and during the outbreak of conflict, such as the recent rounds of violence in 2014 and 2015, activities tend to be negatively affected, albeit temporarily. Whilst this long-lasting conflict itself remains intractable, it is also unpredictable at times, requiring flexibility and rapid response to events which can either deteriorate quickly into violence, or alternatively, require encouragement of positive steps.

Taking into account the complex social and political environment in which it operates, the EUPI will be tackling three mutually reinforcing priority areas, that aim to enhance the attempts by the EU and international actors to move Israelis and Palestinians towards an agreed settlement to the conflict:

1. Engagement of a wide range of stakeholders is necessary in order to broaden support and to build mutual confidence. Ensuring broadest levels of engagement in solving the conflict is not only important as a democratic principle, but also to encourage realistic and accepted solutions, while ensuring that all actions are coherent with and support the framework of overall EU policy on the MEPP. This encompasses civil and political engagement of people at large and of communities who are not generally active or visible in conflict resolution but fundamental to conflict transformation. This is particularly necessary regarding grass-roots level initiatives engaging with women and youth (girls and boys). Investing in women's and girls' contributions to conflict resolution is an important move towards the prevention of further violence as well as the sustainability of the attained peace agreement.

2. The values of equity, sustainable peace, non-violence and tolerance need to be supported on both sides as well as between parties in conflict in order to alter the discourse between Israelis and Palestinians. Understanding of these values, also through learning from successful settlement of conflicts in other countries, is a fundamental factor in reaching a sustainable resolution. In this regard, activities

range from combatting incitement and misinformation to encouraging understanding of 'the Other'. Such activities can occur within educational institutional frameworks, in public spaces especially by diffusing positive Israeli-Palestinian partnerships and coexistence experiences through media and social networks, and through joint learning from European experiences.

3. Whilst **cross-border co-operation** between Israelis and Palestinians is subject to anti-normalisation pressure and misinformation, experience shows that this kind of actions can strongly contribute to build confidence between the sides. With the aim of maintaining the conditions for the viability of the two-state solution, joint socio-economic development actions will be promoted by demonstrating the practical potential dividends of peace. Acknowledging the asymmetry between Israelis and Palestinians, actions shall directly empower and benefit the communities affected by the conflict. By working together, violence can be counteracted and hope can be instilled, hence contributing to building peace.

A more inclusive framework with equal involvement and representation of women is recommended along the three priority areas. Women's involvement in conflict prevention activities would contribute to a greater understanding of the common as well as different needs of the male and female populations.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Disruption of activities linked to instability of the political situation	M	Flexibility in implementation, for example using flexible procedures for crisis and emergency situations
Joint activities lack participation due to anti-normalisation pressures in Palestine, or social/political pressures in Israel.	M	Due to sensitivity, whenever confidentiality of beneficiaries has to be granted, the visibility of events/project/participants will be kept low.
Lack of permits for Israelis and Palestinians to enter each other's territories	L	Contacts with relevant authorities issuing permits
Assumptions		
Local civil society organisations continue to seek the support of the programme, as evidenced by consistently high number of applications to calls for proposals.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The external evaluation and consultation undertaken in 2013-2015 made a number of specific recommendations. Firstly, given the low participation of Jordan in the programme, consideration should be given to the involvement of the EU Delegation in Amman in the management of the programme. Whilst Jordan should remain a priority third country under the programme, the focus must nevertheless remain on Israel and Palestine.

The evaluation further assessed that whilst projects funded under the EU Partnership for Peace programme were generally positive, most projects were not found to directly impact peace negotiations. Given the disillusionment that Israelis and Palestinians have with the peace process, it was recommended that the programme reduce its direct linkage to MEPP. However, overall the EU policy on the MEPP remains a relevant factor in outlining a solution, acceptable to significant parts of both populations, and requires reinforcement to counteract influences which can pull in other directions. EU positions are also sometimes subject to misinformation when reported in the local media. To that end, the political and operational work of the EU in both Delegations is aligned.

The external evaluation and other consultations conducted by the EU, have pointed consistently to a high level of satisfaction of the complementarity of the three areas covered by the programme: 1) promoting political resolution, 2) peacebuilding education and 3) cross-border co-operation. This was seen as important in outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, rather than being limited to only certain kinds of organisations or population groups.

Given the difficult political situation, peacebuilding projects often require significant support and attention from the EU Delegations. In addition to higher level of involvement by Task Managers, specific service contracts were introduced aimed at enhancing skills of project beneficiaries (e.g. trainings on monitoring and evaluation, gender and environmental mainstreaming), as well as supporting communication and visibility activities which often require additional efforts in view of the complex context. In addition, with regular contacts between Israelis and Palestinians dwindling, these joint activities provide valuable and safe networking opportunities, adding to the coherence of the programme. All these actions have been well received by project partners and have added value to the programme, and its objectives, as a whole.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The Programme will take into account, seek complementarities with, and avoid duplication with bilateral and regional actions, in particular under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Civil Society Facility and the Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), and the East Jerusalem Programme under the EU-PA bilateral co-operation.

In general, donor co-ordination as regards peace-building initiatives has been limited, reflecting diverse strategies, sensitivities and funding mechanisms for this type of activities. Notwithstanding, informal co-ordination efforts amongst donors has

stepped up in recent years, with the aim to share information on ongoing actions and partners in a more regular basis. Until now, a number of meetings have taken place in Ramallah and in Tel Aviv with the participation of EU and other donors.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The EUPI will seek coherence with the EU Comprehensive Approach to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security by encouraging initiatives directly tackling women and the involvement of women in the actions. Engagement of women has remained a priority under the programme and is in line with the Joint Staff Working Document on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020⁵.

Cross-cutting issues such as environmental sustainability and disability rights will be given due consideration in the context of the programme by respectively encouraging applicants to adopt a mainstreamed approach and raising their awareness on environmentally friendly and inclusive operations.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

In line with the EU Council Conclusions on the MEPP, the **overall objective** of the programme is to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.

The programme will set out three **specific objectives**:

To promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement.

Expected results:

- Citizens' support and advocacy for political efforts to the resolution of the conflict is reinforced;
- Constituencies have an improved sense of ownership over the political processes which can lead to an agreed settlement.

To build mutual understanding, confidence and trust.

Expected results:

- Commitment to the values of peace, tolerance and non-violence and understanding of how they have contributed to resolution of conflicts in Europe is strengthened within diverse communities.
- Better understanding of barriers to conflict resolution caused by misinformation, incitement and biased narratives amongst Israelis and Palestinians is achieved.

⁵ See Objective 17: Equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels.

To contribute to peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of conflict-affected communities.

Expected results:

- Confidence between both sides and better understanding of the benefits of the two-state solution is increased.
- Reduction of fear and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians working together is achieved.

4.2 Main activities

The activities under the programme include:

(1) measures to promote conditions for a negotiated resolution of the conflict via participatory civil engagement such as advocacy and awareness-raising of political processes and peace initiatives, including at grass-roots level, research for ending the conflict, dissemination of peace-related information, capacity-building and support to peace activists and mediators.

(2) initiatives to build mutual understanding, confidence and trust such as counteracting incitement and misinformation; non-violent culture and peace programmes within national curricula; joint learning processes on European experiences; dissemination of information and promotion of knowledge on barriers to conflict resolution and peace.

(3) Peacebuilding actions through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development and empowerment of conflict-affected communities such as joint activities promoting education and training, trade and business, technology, environmental protection, protection, reconstruction and rehabilitation of cultural heritage, cultural cooperation, access to services, etc.

4.3 Intervention logic

As a strategic programme, the EUPI aims to support actions which can lead to an improved atmosphere in which peace negotiations can operate and progress, or at the other end, to prevent escalation of violence. This means to address short-term needs such as immediate engagement of the Israeli/Palestinian societies for peace negotiations, as well as longer-term needs to prepare local populations for a sustainable peace agreement and the practicalities of 'the day after'.

The three specific objectives of the programme contribute towards the overall objective by promoting peacebuilding amongst both societies in three different dimensions: political, cultural and relationship-building.

Diverse and mutual reinforcing objectives allow the programme to reach to a wider range of stakeholders and beneficiaries, including women and women's organisations, rather than being limited to only certain kinds of organisations or population groups.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

Each action grant has its own objectives and expected results deriving from the specific situation the action intends to address, within the scope of the objectives and results described in section 4.1: (1) promoting conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement; (2) building mutual understanding, confidence and trust; (3) peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of conflict-affected communities.

As per the type of actions eligible for financing, they must be in line with the activities described in section 4.2. Actions will cover a range of civil society initiatives and, where relevant, may involve governmental, international organisations and private sector stakeholders. Priority will be given to: actions expanding the peace camp outreach by reaching widespread and diverse audiences in a substantial manner through the use of media and social networks; actions involving marginalised groups and/or targeting sceptical groups that are not committed to conflict resolution or to the values and policies which the EUPI supports; actions fostering local leadership and grass-roots initiatives able to produce multilevel and long-term relationship-building impact.

Proposals should build on a clear local dimension, take into account past experiences and consider sub-granting mechanism for actions when relevant. The role of international organisations and partners within the partnerships should focus on the transfer of knowledge, mediation and/or innovation, helping the local organisations to strengthen relationships with their constituency.

All actions shall be assessed whether they may directly or indirectly lead to violence, even if they have been established for non-violent purposes. All actions must be consistent with EU foreign policies, specifically with regard to a negotiated two-state solution.

All actions, regardless of the objective, must be implemented in Palestine and/or Israel, or in Jordan and/or Europe if directly involving Israelis and Palestinians. Specific activities, within the scope of the action and if duly justified, can be implemented in the region and/or abroad.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be a legal person and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, public sector operator, local authority, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 43 of the Rules of application of the EU Financial Regulation⁶ and
- be established⁷ in a Member State of the European Union or one of the ENI South countries⁸ or a country that is beneficiary of Pre-Accession Assistance⁹ or a Member State of the European Economic Area (EEA)¹⁰ (this obligation does not apply to international organisations) and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 300,000–500,000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). Where the lead applicant is not established in Israel or Palestine, then partnership with a local organisation is required.

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 24-48 months.

⁶ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also recognised as international organisations.

⁷ To be determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a “Memorandum of Understanding” has been concluded.

⁸ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia..The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013) shall apply to this call for proposals. This notice, entitled "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards", can be consulted at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

⁹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

¹⁰ Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call: design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

4th quarter 2016.

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Support measures (including communication and visibility)	Services	4	3 rd 2016

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative	4,500,000	1,125,000

5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management) – support measures	150,000	N.A.
5.10 – Procurement (direct management) – communication and visibility	350,000	N.A.
Totals	5,000,000	1,125,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The programme will be co-managed by EU offices in Palestine (EUREP) and Israel (DELTA). The call for proposals will be administered by EUREP as the Contracting Authority.

EUREP and DELTA services will work jointly in managing the call for proposals as well for the organisation of joint events, if any. They will also attend events, meetings and monitoring visits together when relevant and keep each other regularly informed on the projects' progress. Where applications include actions implemented in Jordan or Jordanian applicants, the EU Delegation in Amman will be consulted.

As a general principle, the distribution between the different delegations in terms of contract/project management is made on the grounds of the nationality of the applicant: Palestinian and European applicants are processed by EUREP whereas Israeli ones are processed by DELTA. In case of a grants contract with a Jordanian beneficiary, the management of the action may be delegated to the EU Delegation to Jordan.

The management of the procurement contracts will be divided between EUREP and DELTA on the basis of the location of the activities and nationality of beneficiaries.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from the call for proposals will be a continuous process and part of the beneficiaries' responsibilities. To this aim, the beneficiaries 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) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

An external evaluation of the programme is carried out at regular intervals. The latest one was conducted from December 2013 until January 2015.

The Commission may however, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the beneficiaries.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The beneficiaries and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, 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 shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9 Audit

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

EU staff will continue to communicate widely on the programme as a whole and on the various individual projects. With regard to the latter, EU press and communication services remain involved in the delivery of training on EU communication and visibility requirements and assistance on any communication related activities. Finally, EU staff will ensure dissemination of projects' outputs among all E grant beneficiaries.

An estimated number of 2 procurement contracts for the above-mentioned communication and visibility purposes shall be concluded in the form of procurement of services under direct management with an indicative total budget of EUR 350,000.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (Reference year 2014-if data available)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.	Enhanced public support and enlarged positive attitudes both in Palestine and Israel to peace negotiation and conflict resolution.	Highly negative environment and attitudes to peace negotiations. No ongoing peace negotiations	Enlarged public support and openness to peace initiatives both in Palestine and Israel.	Media, social and political pro-peace campaigns.	

<p>Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)</p>	<p>1. To promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement.</p> <p>2. To build mutual understanding, confidence and trust.</p> <p>3. To contribute to peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of conflict-affected communities.</p>	<p>SO1: -Citizens support and advocacy for political efforts to the resolution of the conflict is reinforced. - Constituencies have an improved sense of ownership over the political processes which can lead to an agreed settlement.</p> <p>SO2: - Commitment to the values of peace, tolerance and non-violence and understanding of how they have contributed to resolution of conflicts in Europe is strengthened within diverse communities - Better understanding of barriers to conflict resolution caused by misinformation, incitement and biased narratives amongst Palestinians and Israelis.</p> <p>SO3: - Confidence between both sides and better understanding on the benefits of two-state solution is increased. - Reduction of fear and mistrust between Israeli and Palestinians working together.</p>	<p>Number of groups (women, youth, grass-roots organisations) informing and involved in the political sphere, and in support of the negotiations, informed and involved in political processes;</p> <p>Number of people adhering to non – violent/peace education;</p> <p>Number of strategic/long-term partnerships between Palestinian and Israeli, both at community and CSOs.</p>	<p>New communities who are not generally active or visible in conflict resolution, but fundamental for conflict transformation are engaged;</p> <p>Higher numbers of groups (women, youth, grass-roots organisations) informing and involved in the political sphere, and in support of the negotiations, informed and involved in political processes;</p> <p>Higher number of people adhering to non – violent/peace education;</p> <p>Increased number of strategic/long-term partnerships between Palestinian and Israeli, both at community and CSOs.</p>	<p>Beneficiary reports, project evaluation reports, media reports and public pools. Information, and data provided by beneficiaries</p>	<p>Instability of the political situation as well as escalation of violence will not prevent activities from being carried out and reverse positive effects of projects.</p> <p>Anti-normalisation (affecting willingness to participate in joint activities) will be contained and mitigated by low visibility of selected events.</p> <p>Permits for Israelis and Palestinians to enter each other's territories are issued.</p>
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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Outputs</p>	<p>Expected outputs from projects: lobbying and political advocacy, research reports, social/media campaigns, training workshops, conferences, joint socio-economic activities.</p>	<p>Number of events; number of participants in conferences; number of reports, quantifiable media exposure and reach; number of joint socio-economic partnerships and activities.</p>	<p>Information, and data provided by beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Projects outputs reach wide range of potential stakeholders (including communities who are not generally active or visible in conflict resolution, but fundamental for conflict transformation are engaged).</p>	<p>Beneficiary reports, project evaluation reports, media reports and public pools.</p>	<p>Instability of the political situation as well as escalation of violence will not prevent activities from being carried out and reverse positive effects of projects.</p> <p>Anti-normalisation (affecting willingness to participate in joint activities) will be contained and mitigated by low visibility of selected events.</p> <p>Permits for Israelis and Palestinians to enter each other's territories are issued .</p>
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 2

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of ENI South countries

Action Document for 2016 Security Package

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	2016 Security Package CRIS number: ENI/2016/039-362 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument			
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	The action shall be carried out at the following location: Neighbourhood South countries			
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)			
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security	DEV. Aid: YES		
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 11 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 11 million Budget line: 22 04 01 03			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Indirect management with a Member State agency for the component 1 on Civil Protection. Indirect management with the Council of Europe for the component 2 on Cybercrime and with Interpol for the component 3 on Information Exchange.			
7 a) DAC code(s)	74010 - Disaster prevention and preparedness for component 1 15210 - Security system management and reform for components 2 & 3			
b) Main Delivery Channel	52000 - Other for components 1 & 3 47138 - Council of Europe for component 2			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	Aid to environment	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Not applicable			

SUMMARY

All components of this action are priorities set out in the security chapter of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Review.

(i) PPRD South III (Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters, Region South, Phase III): Complementarity with the new regulation of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), the objective is to strengthen partner countries' capacity to develop and implement strategies that build societal resilience against all hazards, natural and man-made, and threats through capacity building activities, legislative and institutional advice, support to cross-border co-operation frameworks, aligned to the UCPM and in cooperation with DG ECHO. The programme will be implemented by an EU Member State agency or consortia thereof.

(ii) Cybercrime@South: The objective is to strengthen the partner countries' capacity to tackle cybercrime and cooperate effectively, in compliance with the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe (Budapest Convention) which is the only binding international instrument on this issue. The project will provide judicial and law enforcement training and contribute to the drafting of policies, harmonised and effective legislation and increase the awareness of decision-makers. It will also stimulate the co-operation between law enforcement agencies and private internet service providers and contribute to financial investigations.

(iii) Interpol South: Interpol, through its EU Member States, is the largest data provider for Europol, Eurojust and Frontex. The objective is to intensify and accelerate exchange of operational information in the Neighbourhood South, and with EU, on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and trafficking of small arms, and, to this effect, to increase data collection (Foreign Fighters database, Stolen and Lost Documents, iArms and iTrace, notices, Stolen Art Works, etc) from the Neighbourhood South.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

1.1.1 EU Policy Framework

Component 1 – Civil Protection: "The EU should build up partners' early warning, prevention and preparedness capacity offering close partnerships in civil protection and co-operation with the EU's civil protection mechanism."¹

Succeeding the Community Civil Protection Mechanism established in 2001, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), created by Decision No 1313/2013/EU, aims to strengthen co-operation between the Union and Member States and facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters².

Candidate countries and potential candidates which do not participate in the Union Mechanism, as well as countries which are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) may also receive a limited financial support for a sub-set of UCPM actions identified in the UCPM Decision.

Component 2 - Cybercrime: "The EU will continue to promote the ratification and implementation of the Budapest Convention on cybercrime with its partners in the Neighbourhood."³

The proposed action is in line with the EU policies on cybersecurity and cybercrime, most notably the EU Cybersecurity Strategy⁴, cybersecurity being the first line of defence against cybercrime. The communication urges all EU Member States to ratify the Budapest Convention, to implement its provisions as early as possible and to invite third countries to adhere. Cybercrime is one the three priorities of the EU Agenda on Security⁵.

We can make a distinction between advanced cybercrime (such as sophisticated attacks against computer hardware and software) and cyber-enabled crime. Many 'traditional' crimes have taken a new turn with the advent of the Internet, such as crimes against children, financial crimes and even terrorism. This is becoming particularly worrying in the Neighbourhood South.

Component 3 – Interpol: As called for the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Communication⁶, "with Interpol, the need should be examined to build further law enforcement capacity in neighbouring countries and work on facilitating information exchanges with EU Member States and Europol."

The proposed action will contribute to strengthening a structured dialogue and co-operation between Interpol, the Commission services and the European External Action Service (EEAS). It is justified by the importance of joining forces – within

¹ Communication JOIN(2015)500 final "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy".

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 924.

³ Communication JOIN(2015)500 final "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy".

⁴ http://eeas.europa.eu/policies/eu-cyber-security/cybsec_comm_en.pdf.

⁵ COM(2015) 185 final.

⁶ Communication JOIN(2015)500 final "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy".

the framework of their respective mandates – against serious and organised cross-border crime including trafficking of human beings, cybercrime, terrorism, all priorities of the EU Agenda on Security⁷. It also recognizes the need to enhance synergies between the internal and external dimensions of security.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

Direct beneficiaries are the civil protection agencies and national crisis or disaster risk management agencies in the beneficiary countries. The final beneficiaries are the citizens in general.

The request for civil protection co-operation with the EU was reiterated at the High-Level Round Table discussion with civil protection representatives of the Member States and Neighbourhood countries (May 2015) and reconfirmed during the Steering Committee of the PPRD South II programme (February 2016).

Several Neighbourhood South countries have expressed their interest to enter into an associated partnership with the UCPM, bringing these countries closer to the Mechanism will lead to a better co-operation in the response to disasters and a more structured exchange of knowledge and good practices on prevention and preparedness. While the associated partnerships will in principle be open to all EU Neighbourhood countries, it will be restricted in practice to bilateral activities and to countries that are ready to make a political commitment to pursuing the agreed objectives and that have the capacity to do so. Complementing this, the PPRD project would allow all neighbourhood countries to receive EU support for activities that are fully complementary with principles of the UCPM, even though this support would not be strictly speaking embedded in the UCPM. As was the case in the previous phases, PPRD South will also be the regional platform on disaster preparedness, prevention and response.

Support for the regional civil protection programme is needed since it is the only regional platform available for exchange between countries wishing to enter in an Associated Partnership, countries not ready to do so, and the EU.

Differentiation, greater focus and flexibility have, in fact, been requested by many Neighbourhood countries and are in line with the Review of the ENP.

The 2013 UCPM Decision makes it possible to extend well-defined UCPM co-operation activities (e.g. training, exercises, projects, etc. ...) to interested Neighbourhood countries, whilst not being allowed to fully join the UCPM.

Some neighbourhood countries could have a status of "Associated Partner" to the UCPM, which will allow them to join in specific UCPM activities on the basis of an agreed set of principles and objectives.

Since not all countries will have the status of associated partner, this will result in co-operation for the EU Neighbourhood with different degrees of association and therefore the PPRD programme is vital to include the non-associated countries and keep the regional dimension and approach.

⁷ COM(2015) 185 final.

Component 2 - Cybercrime:

Direct beneficiaries are law enforcement bodies, prosecutors, judiciary and legislative bodies in beneficiary countries. The final beneficiaries are the citizens in general.

The Budapest Convention is open for accession by any country ready to implement its provisions and to engage in co-operation. Among Southern Neighbourhood countries, Israel and Morocco have been invited to accede and are completing the process of accession. Morocco is a priority country of the joint project⁸ of the EU and the Council of Europe "GLACY: Global Action on Cybercrime". The Council of Europe has furthermore been cooperating with Egypt and Jordan on domestic cybercrime legislation on the basis of the Budapest Convention. Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia have also expressed an interest in the Budapest Convention. Morocco and Tunisia have furthermore been invited to accede to the data protection Convention 108 of the Council of Europe.

Component 3 – Interpol:

Direct beneficiaries are law enforcement bodies of the beneficiary countries. The final beneficiaries are the citizens in general.

Many countries of the Neighbourhood South under-use Interpol tools and services. For instance, despite all North Africa and Middle East countries are connected to I-24/7 (Interpol global secure police communication system), and extension to specialized units being the case in several of these countries, the use of the system by these countries is very modest. When comparing the figures of records in the nominal database (used to issue international alerts) for the year 2015, Neighbourhood South countries reach less than 4,000 compared to 40,000 for the Americas, or 90,000 for Europe. On the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD), these same countries have fed the database with only 300,000 records compared to 30 million records for Europe, or 10 million for the Americas. These figures highlight that the capacity and awareness of these countries on a national level need to be enhanced to be able to efficiently share data in their possession with the international community. Expansion to specialized units and to border points (including airports and sea ports) should furthermore be enhanced, promoting an increasingly integrated system between national networks and I-24/7.

Several critical border posts of Neighbourhood South countries are not equipped with a Fixed or Mobile Interpol Network Database (FIND - MIND). For example, in 2013 in Jordan, only the Queen Alia international airport was equipped with a MIND pilot station. None of the other border posts with Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea was equipped. An ongoing bilateral programme⁹ is now providing access to more than 10 additional border posts.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Component 1 – Civil protection:

⁸ Funded by IcSP Art 5, managed by DEVCO B5: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/glacy> .
⁹ Project ESTIJAB (CRIS 336192).

Europe and its Neighbourhood have experienced in the past similar types and magnitude of disasters. The total average economic cost of disasters in Europe is estimated at around EUR 10 billion per year (average 2002 to 2012).

The underlying drivers of these disasters – a mix of climate change, industrialisation and urbanisation – are not disappearing. On the contrary, evidence suggests that the kinds of disasters we witnessed in recent years will be more frequent, with cascading effects, and more intense in the future. In 2015, the adoption of the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) allows the international community to shift from managing disasters to addressing disaster risks, with a focus on prevention and preparedness.

Disasters can easily overwhelm the local or national capacity to respond. This is the reality for all countries. In the past few years we saw such instances happening within the EU, and in our Southern and in our Eastern Neighbourhood.

Three conclusions can be drawn from this. First, a country alone, no matter how big or rich, cannot by itself be fully prepared for all kinds of disasters. Second, coordination, joint efforts and a common response will always be more effective than any country acting on its own. And third, a holistic approach to disaster management, considering all phases of the disaster cycle, and all risks and hazards, is crucial.

In this spirit, and in line with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and with the Sendai Framework, priority areas have been identified for the PPRD South project:

- More focus on disaster prevention, in particular the identification and assessment of disaster risks and the assessment of the partner countries' capability to manage these risks;
- Improving disaster preparedness, with further work on host nation support, training, exercises, exchanges of experts, peer reviews, advisory missions and projects.

Component 2 - Cybercrime:

Societies all over the world increasingly rely on information and communication technologies (ICT) becoming increasingly vulnerable to threats such as cybercrime. Cybercrime – that is offences against computer systems and by means of computers – affects individuals and in particular vulnerable groups, institutions and organisations as well as States.

This observation is also valid for Southern neighbourhood countries. Security, confidence and trust in ICT are needed to allow these societies exploit the human development potential of ICT.

Governments increasingly consider cybercrime and cybersecurity as matters of national security in particular in the light of terrorist use of the Internet, transnational organised crime in cyberspace and reports on attacks and computer intrusions by States or by non-state cyber actors. In some countries, such threats may trigger repressive measures that in turn may threaten rule of law and human rights principles. It is necessary, therefore, to reconcile the positive obligation of governments to protect society and individuals against crime with rule of law, human rights and data protection requirements.

The approach of the Council of Europe on cybercrime addresses this challenge. It is built on the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and related instruments, such as

Data Protection Convention 108 and others. Joining the Budapest Convention entails membership in the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and thus co-operation with currently 66 States. Furthermore, the Budapest Convention and the work of the T-CY are supported by the implementation of capacity building programmes.

While the overall context of democratic governance, rule of law and human rights is difficult in this region, it should be feasible to cooperate with some priority countries more intensively and associate others to the extent possible. This is explained in the intervention logic.

Component 3 – Interpol:

The success of international police investigations is dependent upon the availability of up-to-date, global data. Interpol facilitates global information sharing by managing a range of criminal information databases which enable the global law enforcement community to connect seemingly unrelated pieces of data, thereby facilitating investigations and enhancing international police co-operation.

Promoting a more intensive use also implies promoting a more active feeding of the available databases. The more data are fed into the systems, the more opportunities are created for detection and interdiction of criminals. More intensive use also assumes more access to the databases through appropriate ICT equipment and connections.

Nowadays, crime has an increasing transnational nature. Criminal actions originate in one country and terminate in another with spill over effects on a regional and sometimes global level. Criminal groups and terrorists work in networks and take advantage of the lack of information sharing by countries to carry out their illegal actions in different jurisdictions. The objective of the international law enforcement community is to neutralize these networks by increasing the capacity to collect, analyse and share information across countries and regions.

As criminal networks increase their capacity to move and communicate transnationally, the international community should counter this phenomenon by using an international law enforcement network ready to share real-time information such as: biometrics, names, stolen passports, DNA, fingerprints and information about firearms. Interpol has the capacity to act as a central multilateral platform to help member countries to populate and make an efficient use of its databases and its secure communication system I-24/7. The possibility given to Interpol member states to share information in a timely manner could help prevent criminal actions and the movement of wanted individuals.

Interpol systems for promoting international exchange of police information do not only consist of the databases and the encrypted network, but also of available specialised task forces such as FUSION for counterterrorism or ISON for the smuggling of migrants.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level	Mitigating measures
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	(H/M/L)	
Risk of political tensions between partner countries.	M	Partner countries can choose between different schemes of co-operation and actions do not necessarily concern all countries.
Political instability within some of the partner countries.	H	Non-inclusion of countries in crisis will not hamper project implementation, as this is a regional project that can be flexible in the countries it targets.
Lack of commitment to project implementation.	M	Partner countries can choose between different levels of partnerships.
Law enforcement authorities benefiting from training on investigative techniques in cybercrime without the necessary rule of law and human rights safeguards.	H	Applying a differentiated and phased approach. Priority countries Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan will benefit of the full support provided the human rights and rule of law safeguards are present. Co-operation with other countries would focus on the strengthening of legislation human rights and rule of law conditions for cybercrime and electronic evidence followed by gradual involvement – if feasible – in the other project activities.
No guaranteed commitment of the partner country to cover the maintenance and operating costs of I24/7	L	If equipment will be provided, this will be a pre-condition.
Assumptions		
Partner countries are willing to reach a higher degree of co-operation within the region and with EU. Partner countries will ensure sustainability and durability to the respective projects by making available the necessary human, financial and material resources.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

The preparatory phases and PPRD South I and II were a project-based approach based on service contracts with almost no transition from one phase to the other and no proper handover between contractors. As an example, each contractor had a dedicated website with secured access to information, which at the end of the contract was simply closed. Thus continuity and sustainability were not guaranteed.

The only way to reach continuity and sustainability is to hook up the programme more firmly to a permanent framework, i.e. the UCPM, moving to a more policy-driven approach and institutional relationship, which is more conducive for sustainability.

Not all partner countries are facing the same level of difficulties and the same needs. And not all countries want to reach the same level of co-operation with EU.

In line with the principle of differentiated and demand-driven approach, the outcomes will vary from a simple alignment of countries to best practices, international standards, or EU legislation, to an associated partnership with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Component 2 – Cybercrime:

The EU and the Council of Europe have implemented joint projects against cybercrime within Europe, focusing mainly on the Budapest Convention. These joint projects against cybercrime have been positive, leading to their replication outside the EU.

Within the EU, much experience has been gained during the past decade in particular with respect to the development of standardised and scalable training, co-operation and information sharing between specialised cybercrime units and other fields. The creation of the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), including the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG) and the EU Cybercrime Task Force, have been pivotal steps for enhancing the EU's capacity in this area and shall allow to share this experience with third countries.

As mentioned below, projects such as GLACY have demonstrated the relevance and feasibility of capacity building activities on cybercrime.

Component 3 – Interpol:

There is a tendency to divide the fight against organised crime and terrorism into vertical specialties such as drug trafficking, trafficking of human beings, cybercrime, terrorism, trafficking of small and light weapons, etc...

Information is collected by different services in different databases, first at national level.

In-depth analysis is only possible if access to the different Interpol databases is available and compatible, allowing for cross-checking.

Information exchange at regional and international level is only possible if these data are uploaded in the Interpol systems. It is of course a question of national sovereignty to decide which information is uploaded. Some countries need to be more convinced about the advantages they can get in return by sharing more information and data via Interpol.

The data must also be compatible with Interpol systems and the processing and sharing of data must also comply with prevailing international standards for human rights, rule of law and data protection, which can require particular training and ex-ante checks. Training is also required on the different possibilities offered by these tools especially through cross-checks for analysis.

Once information is uploaded, access must be available online via secure systems but this is not always the case. Several critical border posts do simply not have this access.

If the action foresees the delivery of equipment, there must be a commitment of the recipient country to provide the necessary resources for operations and maintenance.

During inception, enough time must be foreseen to reach agreement between Interpol, the National Central Bureaus and the Central Authorities in charge of internal security issues of the recipient country since in some countries police services are not the only ones to decide on information exchange. This was exemplified in the project ESTIJAB in Jordan.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

ENI funding will be complementary to ECHO's support to priority ENP country on selected UCPM activities.

In line with the international agreements such as the 2015-2030 Sendai framework, the Sustainable Development Goal and the Paris Climate Agreement, the programme will seek to create synergies with projects engaged more specifically in crisis response and preparedness to natural and man-made disasters at strategic, operational and tactical levels.

Additionally, coordination and complementarities with similar regional or bilateral initiatives in the Western Balkans and in the Eastern Neighbourhood, with ENI and IPA funding, will also be ensured through regular exchanges and the common anchoring to the UCPM.

At bilateral level, a twinning on civil protection was launched in Algeria and different countries have used the TAIEX programme. Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Tunisia, Israel, Jordan and Morocco have benefited from the call for proposals for prevention and preparedness in Civil Protection projects under the UCPM (2014 and 2015).

The Neighbourhood South Countries (except Egypt, Israel and Syria) are also beneficiaries of the CBRN¹⁰ Centres of Excellence initiative funded by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

Component 2 - Cybercrime:

Morocco is a priority country under the GLACY project financed by EU through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace. Under GLACY, the feasibility of capacity building activities on cybercrime legislation, training of judges on cybercrime and electronic evidence, law enforcement training, and public/private and international co-operation has already been demonstrated. The tools and materials developed and applied in that context could be adapted for use in other countries of this region.

GLACY will be followed by GLACY+ (Global Action on Cybercrime Extended) from 2016 to 2020. It is proposed that Morocco participates in the Cybercrime@South project with a focus on country-specific capacity building activities and regional activities involving the Neighbourhood South region, while at the same time it will continue to participate in GLACY+ as a regional hub for West Africa. This delineation will ensure non-duplication between the two EU-funded

¹⁰ Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear risks: <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/>

projects. Morocco would thus serve as a link between the two projects and help share new tools and practices developed under GLACY+ with the countries participating in Cybercrime@South.

Furthermore, the project would benefit from the experience of joint EU/Council of Europe projects in the Eastern Partnership region (Cybercrime@EAP) and in South-Eastern Europe (iPROCEEDS under the Instrument of Pre-Accession) which cover public/private co-operation and the confiscation of proceeds from online crime. An annual meeting will gather the 3 projects in the same event, and joint communication activities will be developed. This cross-fertilisation will help draw the Southern Neighbourhood region into mainstream policies and strategies on cybercrime pursued by the EU and the Council of Europe.

There will be close co-operation with Interpol Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore. Partnerships will be established with the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) and other partners, including EU Member States entities, mainly through GLACY+.

Coordination with the EU Member States is ensured through the Friends of Presidency Group for Cyber Issues.

Close contacts will be maintained with the ongoing Euromed Police IV and Euromed Justice IV projects¹¹, but also with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which has an ongoing cybercrime programme in Tunisia.

Component 3 – Interpol:

Interpol is the world's largest international police organisation, with 190 member countries and as such is a key partner for the EU and many other donors, in the field of operational police co-operation.

It also provides linkages to regional organisations such as Europol and the newly created AFRIPOL.

The European Union currently contributes to the funding of several different Interpol projects, including:

- WAPIS – West African Police Information System
- iArms III – Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System
- I-24/7 Extension – Jordan

Interpol is also closely involved in other EU-funded projects such as Fight against trafficking along the Heroine Route, Container Control Programme around the Black Sea and AIRCOP and Euromed Police IV.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

Co-operation with the Neighbourhood aims not only to prevent, prepare and respond to disasters in these partner countries and the EU, but also to contribute to social and

¹¹ C(2014)5948 COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 25.8.2014 on the Annual Action Programme 2014 - Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, Annex 2.

political stability. Climate change adaptation will be factored into the project, as it will have a strong emphasis on disaster risk reduction and preparedness. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction emphasizes also the role of vulnerable groups (including women, children, youth older persons or persons with disabilities) and advocates for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk management. To this effect, awareness and understanding of cultural specificities and differences should also be taken into account.

Component 2 - Cybercrime:

The Commission will ensure that measures are implemented in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and in accordance with the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. A human rights perspective will also be present in the measure on cybercrime, in accordance with the safeguards foreseen in the 2013 Cybersecurity Strategy of the European Union and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

Amongst others, the cybercrime programme also contributes to a better protection of internet users against abuse and misuse. It also directly concerns the youth and women, victims in the field of sexual crimes.

Component 3 – Interpol:

Interpol continually strives to promote respect for and the observance of human right principles, as stated in its mandate. Secondly, Interpol ensures that human rights are respected during the processing of personal information. The oversight role is fulfilled by the General Secretariat itself and by the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files, which is also responsible for processing requests for access to Interpol's files, including requests for correction or deletions.

By increasing the number of detections and interdictions, this component also indirectly contributes to a better protection of potential victims, mostly vulnerable groups such as in the trafficking of human beings and the smuggling of migrants.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

The global objective is to contribute to increasing resilience and reducing the social, economic and environmental costs of natural and man-made disasters in the ENP South region.

The specific objectives are:

- National approaches to disaster management are further developed, based on prevention, mitigation, and preparedness rather than on response, with the involvement of all relevant governmental actors as well as of civil society stakeholders;
- Intra-regional, and where appropriate regional, co-ordination and co-operation is enhanced, in order to have coordinated responses of countries of the Mediterranean Basin affected by the same disaster; and institutional co-operation between the Union

Civil Protection Mechanism and the ENP South partner countries' civil protection agencies is strengthened.

Component 2 – Cybercrime:

The global objective of the project is to contribute to the prevention of and fight against cybercrime, in line with international human rights and rule of law standards and good practices.

The specific objective of the project is:

- The national legislations and institutional capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence in the region of Southern Neighbourhood are strengthened.

Component 3 – Interpol:

The global objective of the project is to contribute to a better detection and interdiction of organised crime and terrorist individuals or groups.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Information exchange and data collection is increased, on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, human smuggling and trafficking of small arms and human beings, using Interpol systems such as databases, the encrypted network and the specialised task forces;
- The quality of analytical reports is improved, for the beneficiary countries but also for Interpol, Europol, Eurojust and Frontex.

4.2 Expected results and main activities

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

The expected results are:

- Enhanced co-operation, exchange of good practices and support for capacity building in prevention actions (including risk assessment, risk management capability, risk prevention measures, risk mapping, early warning and awareness raising),
- Improved knowledge base on disaster risks and disaster prevention policies, and awareness raised on disaster prevention,
- Good practices are readily identified, shared and adopted by relevant stakeholders,
- A training network is established and maintained, effectively linking all relevant stakeholders.

To the maximum possible extent, the choice and design of the PPRD activities will be aligned with those provided by DG ECHO to priority ENP countries in the UCPM framework, and more broadly with the principles and approaches underlying the UCPM.

The main activities are:

- Launch a Technical Assistance Facility:

The Technical Assistance Facility will provide a maximum degree of flexibility in the selection of individual measures that are deployed to address common capacity

building needs identified by the ENI SPC within a demand-driven approach defined in the regional and national priorities and not provided by the activities below.

- Implement an Exchange Programme:

The Programme will give civil protection experts the opportunity to share experiences, gain valuable knowledge and strengthen operational skills by a system of exchange. Experts can either apply to go on an exchange mission, or civil protection organisations can invite expert(s).

- Provide Training courses:

The programme will offer a wide range of courses from basic training to high-level courses for future mission leaders, such as coaching on establishing national response teams, support the development of guidelines on receiving international teams (HNS) or sending national teams abroad. Training on gender mainstreaming and gender analysis in disaster risk management will be provided.

- Organise Joint Simulation Exercises:

Simulation exercises are fundamental to prepare civil protection teams to react fast when disasters occur. Exercises at European and Neighbourhood level, involving a number of countries at a time, contribute to enhancing collaboration in disaster preparedness across borders.

- Provide access to an online knowledge base and e-learning and organise workshops and conferences.

- Launch Call for proposals for Prevention and Preparedness projects.

The calls will be targeted to the specific needs of the region and sub region in full alignment with the UCPM calls.

Component 2 – Cybercrime:

Result 1: National criminal law frameworks reviewed, in line with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, including rule of law and human rights safeguards

Activities:

- Review of domestic legislation
- Support to domestic law drafting working groups
- Training activities on conditions and safeguards as well as data protection
- Regional meetings for the sharing of experience

Result 2: Specialised police and prosecution services and interagency co-operation strengthened

Activities:

- Review of institutional capacities for cybercrime investigations and prosecutions as well as computer forensics
- Advice, sharing experience and study visits on the establishment or strengthening of specialized services

- Support to law enforcement training and incorporation of the courses in the curricula of the training academies
- Support to standard operating procedures for the use of electronic evidence
- Promotion of interagency co-operation amongst cybercrime units, financial investigators and financial intelligence units in the search, seizure and confiscation of online crime proceeds
- Promotion of public/private co-operation, in particular on law enforcement and service provider co-operation on access to electronic evidence

Result 3: Modules on cybercrime and electronic evidence better mainstreamed into the curricula of judicial training institutions

Activities:

- Adaptation of training materials
- Training of trainers
- Support to delivery of courses at training academies and the mainstreaming of the courses into the curricula of training academies

Result 4: More efficient international co-operation

Activities:

- Review of rules, procedures and institutional capacities for international co-operation on cybercrime and electronic evidence
- Training and advice for 24/7 points of contact
- Support to participation in international initiatives

Result 5: Cybercrime and cybersecurity policies and strategies reviewed

Activities:

- Review of current policies/strategies and sharing of experience
- Workshops and advice on policies and strategies

Component 3 – Interpol:

The expected results are:

- Selected border posts equipped with the Interpol's secure global communications network (I-24/7),
- Increased information sharing through the further deployment of Interpol I24/7 and the correspondent databases,
- Increased data collection by Neighbourhood South countries

The main activities will be:

Promote the use of Interpol systems:

- Baseline study on the present use of Interpol databases in MENA
- Identification of the reasons for underutilisation

- Awareness campaigns for the promotion of a better use of existing available data and for an increased feeding of the databases (this is of particular importance especially in countries with multiple layers of agencies involved in law enforcement and rather reluctant to add information)
- Needs assessment for capacity building and training per country on the use of the Interpol systems (how to consult and how to feed the databases but also how to analyse the data and cooperate with the specialised task forces)
- Perform capacity building and specialised trainings (where necessary, these trainings will also tackle the issues of rule of law, human rights and data protection; where relevant, these trainings will also take into account co-operation with the different actors involved in the prevention of crime and protection and assistance of the victims, especially in the case of trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants)

Equipment of critical border posts (the material deployment of the I 24/7 should remain exceptional and should only target a limited number of critical border posts important at a regional level):

- Needs assessment for the deployment of equipment
- Analysis of the forecasted investment plans of the partner countries but also foreseen in ongoing and planned projects by bilateral or international donors
- Selection of critical border posts to be equipped and supply of equipment
- On the spot training in the newly equipped posts

Table-top exercises:

- Operations through table top exercises and if feasible joint cross-border operations based on the Interpol Spartacus Operation model. These table-top exercises will allow to analyse the effectiveness of the increased deployment of the Interpol systems: databases, encrypted networks and specialised task forces.

4.3 Intervention logic

Component 1 – Civil Protection:

Among all UCPM activities identified in the corresponding Decision, only some are open to the full participation of Neighbourhood countries (as defined in Art. 28.2).

Within the Mechanism, several service contracts managed and funded by ECHO are already ongoing, for example on training, expert exchange, improving the knowledge base, meetings, conferences and others, calls for proposals are launched for organising exercises, modules exercises, prevention and preparedness projects.

ECHO's Annual Work Plans (AWP) includes a financial provision for the implementation of the UCPM in third countries, but in principle priority ENP countries (Jordan, Algeria and Tunisia for the South) will be targeted. These countries were selected by ECHO based on their degree of commitment and progress vis-à-vis the UCPM.

In light of the above, the PPRD III project will be complementary to ECHO's support as it will allow a more regional and sub-regional focus including:

- To provide support to non-priority ENP South countries,

- To provide support to all ENP South countries on activities outside the scope of Art 28.2 of the UCPM Decision. Such support will not be strictu sensu part of the UCPM, i.e. joint with EU MS, but it will be aligned with the UCPM principles and approaches,
- To organise (sub) regional activities.

In order to comply with individual requests from partner countries a Technical Assistance Facility will provide tailored capacity building in priority areas, through a maximum degree of flexibility in the selection of individual measures that are deployed to address common capacity building needs identified by the ENI SPC within a demand-driven approach.

The action may be implemented with EU Member States Agencies which shall compose a consortium with at least three Member States and one ENP civil protection authorities or agencies acting on a nation-wide basis as a central authority or central agency in the area of civil protection.

Component 2 – Cybercrime:

Under each result, activities will start with an assessment of capabilities and issues and will end with a performance review to determine progress made.

There will be a combination of regional and bilateral activities. Close coordination will thus be sought with EU Delegations and other organisations to avoid duplication of efforts and to make use of synergies with country-specific projects.

The project will build on achievements of the Cybercrime@EAP, iPROCEEDS, GLACY and GLACY+, as well as regional and bilateral ongoing actions.

Contrary to the EU-funded cybercrime projects in the Neighbourhood East and the Balkans, the approach is less ambitious in the Neighbourhood South. Many activities are about reviewing and assessing needs, advising, promoting and building capacity. While for example for Eastern Partner countries conditions for a structured process of public/private co-operation on cybercrime is underway and agreements can be concluded, the approach for the Southern Partner countries is more at the stage of awareness raising and identifying the first steps necessary to engage in such processes.

The project will apply a differentiated and phased approach.

Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia could be considered priority countries which may benefit from the full range of support provided they have the necessary human rights and rule of law safeguards.

Co-operation with other countries would focus on the strengthening of legislation, human rights and rule of law conditions for cybercrime and electronic evidence followed by gradual involvement – if feasible – in the other project activities.

In this way, it should be possible to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks and practices, including rule of law and human rights safeguards, in some countries of this region with the ambition that they would serve as examples of good practice to others, fostering a regional dynamic for the promotion of due process compliant standards in addressing cybercrime, in line with the Budapest Convention provisions. This approach would help prevent the risk of law enforcement authorities benefiting

from training on investigative techniques without the necessary rule of law and human rights safeguards.

Component 3 – Interpol:

Increasing information exchange and data collection (objective 1) will require capacity building and further deployment of I24/7 and I-link in the Neighbourhood South partner countries.

Activities commence with an assessment of capabilities and needs in order to prepare an adapted capacity building programme and an investment plan where required.

Interpol will enhance the current activities of its Counter Terrorism Fusion Sub-directorate (CTF) responsible for the region, to serve the purpose of information sharing, identification of travel routes of terrorists, detection of firearms flows. The regional project "Al Qabdah", offers the partner countries, the EU Member States and the EU agencies (Europol, Eurojust, Frontex) additional possibilities to collect, analyse and share relevant information on terrorist groups (their membership and affiliates). The development of a virtual regional bureau for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will become the first step of a standing regional bureau.

Interpol will also activate operational work to enhance detection capabilities of the routes used or potentially used by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) to reach the conflict zones (Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya) or by FTF "returnees" to reach the MENA countries or Europe.

The project will also contribute to the specialised task force ISON for smuggling of migrants.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months for component 1 and 36 months for components 2 & 3.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Indirect management with a Member State agency

Component 1 (Civil Protection) of this action may be implemented in indirect management with Member State agencies in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

This implementation entails capacity building, technical assistance, training, exchange of experts but also launching call for proposals for the implementation of joint exercises, prevention and preparedness projects.

This implementation is justified because the project requires the involvement of EU Member States Civil Protection Agencies which on their own do not necessarily have the project management capacity.

The entrusted entity would carry out budget-implementation tasks necessary to achieve the results outlined in section 4.2.

The entrusted entity will be selected after negotiations resulting from a call for manifestation of interest addressed to all EU Member States agencies eligible for indirect management (from the list of the pillar-assessed agencies).

5.3.2 Indirect management with an international organisation

Component 2 (Cybercrime) of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

This implementation entails to strengthen the capacities of the Neighbourhood South partner countries to apply legislation on cybercrime and electronic evidence and enhance their abilities for effective international co-operation in this area.

This implementation is justified because the Council of Europe has a unique expertise in the domains the proposed action intends to address and falls within the call of the 2013 EU Cyber Security Strategy to engage with international partners and organisations to support global capacity-building. Having more than 10 years of experience in cybercrime capacity building efforts, as well as being the guardian of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, the Council of Europe has the required know-how and capacity to undertake such initiatives in third countries. The entrusted entity would carry out budget-implementation tasks necessary to achieve the results outlined in section 4.2.

Component 3 (Interpol) of this action may be implemented in indirect management with Interpol in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

This implementation entails capacity building and further deployment of I24/7 in the Neighbourhood South partner countries.

This implementation is justified because Interpol is the world's largest international police organisation (190 member countries). Its mission is to facilitate international police co-operation even where diplomatic relations do not exist between the countries concerned, and to provide support and assistance to all services, organisations and authorities working to prevent and fight crime.

The entrusted entity would carry out budget-implementation tasks necessary to achieve the results outlined in section 4.2.

5.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

In case of exceptional circumstances, should the above mentioned modality not be possible for component 3, it could be implemented in direct management through a direct award of a grant.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 Component 1 – Indirect management with a Member State agency	5,000,000	
5.3.2 Component 2 – Indirect management with the Council of Europe	3,000,000	
5.3.2 Component 3 – Indirect management with Interpol	3,000,000	
Totals	11,000,000	

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Component 1 (Civil Protection) may be directly implemented by a group of EU Member State Civil Protection Agencies. The Commission will manage the agreement in close liaison with the EU Delegations in the ENP South partner countries.

A Steering Committee will be established with the participation of the relevant Commission services as well as representatives from the Civil Protection Authorities and the focal points established under this project. ECHO will be closely involved in the design and monitoring of project activities.

Component 2 (Cybercrime) will be directly implemented by the Council of Europe.

An appropriate management structure will be established to ensure the coherence of the project and synergies with the similar projects ongoing in the Neighbourhood East, the Western Balkans and the global project GLACY+. The Council of Europe will be responsible for the overall management of the project.

Component 3 (Interpol) will be directly implemented by Interpol. Interpol will be responsible for the overall management of the project in close relation with the National Central Bureaus of the partner countries (NCB).

5.7 Performance 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 partners' responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partners 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) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, an ex-post evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that these are innovative approaches.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least 3 months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, 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 shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9 Audit

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	<p>C1: Civil Protection - contribute to increasing resilience and reducing the social, economic and environmental costs of natural and man-made disasters</p> <p>C2: Cyber - prevent and fight cybercrime in line with human rights and rule of law</p> <p>C3: Interpol - better detect and interdict organised crime and terrorist individuals or groups by increasing the use of existing tools for data collection and sharing</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - progress towards Sendai Framework targets</p> <p>C2: Cyber - number of domestic and international prosecutions and cases adjudicated on cybercrime in line with rule of law and human rights</p> <p>C3: Interpol - number of hits worldwide on data SLTD provided by Neighbourhood South countries</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - to be defined with DG ECHO in the preparatory and implementation phase</p> <p>C2: Cyber - to be defined by Council of Europe in the preparatory phase</p> <p>C3: Interpol - data subject to confidentiality at this stage - to be defined by Interpol in the preparatory phase</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - to be defined with DG ECHO in the preparatory and implementation phase</p> <p>C2: Cyber - to be defined by Council of Europe in the preparatory phase</p> <p>C3: Interpol - increase of 20%</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection DG ECHO reports EM-DAT website (the international disaster database) UNISDR reports</p> <p>C2: Cyber Project progress reviews</p> <p>C3: Interpol Statistics provided by Interpol Information Systems and Technology Directorate</p>	

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)</p>	<p>C1: Civil Protection - national approaches to disaster management are further developed, based on prevention, mitigation, and preparedness rather than on response - intra-regional and regional co-ordination and co-operation is enhanced and institutional co-operation between the UCPM and the ENP South partner countries is strengthened</p> <p>C2: Cyber - strengthen the capacities of the countries to apply legislation on cybercrime and electronic evidence and enhance their abilities for effective international co-operation</p> <p>C3: Interpol - increase information exchange on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and trafficking of small arms and increase data collection - increase the quantity and quality of analytical reports</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - availability of operational DRR National Action Plans per country - number of active associated partnerships in place</p> <p>C2: Cyber - number of countries signing the Budapest Convention or applying legislation in line with the Budapest Convention</p> <p>C3: Interpol - number of hits in Europe on data provided by Neighbourhood South countries - number of new available data from the Neighbourhood South - number of contributions of ENP South countries to the specialised task forces</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - 1 - 0</p> <p>C2: Cyber - 0 ratifications - 2 applying legislation</p> <p>C3: Interpol - data subject to confidentiality at this stage - to be defined by Interpol in the preparatory phase - to be defined by Interpol in the preparatory phase</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - + 3 - + 3</p> <p>C2: Cyber - +2 ratifying - +2 applying legislation</p> <p>C3: Interpol - increase of 20%</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection DG ECHO reports MoU with DG ECHO</p> <p>C2: Cyber Council of Europe Treaty Office</p> <p>C3: Interpol Statistics provided by Interpol Information Systems and Technology Directorate Analytical reports provided by Europol and Frontex</p>	<p>Partner countries are willing to reach a higher degree of co-operation within the region, intra region and with EU.</p>
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Outputs	<p>C1: Civil protection - enhanced co-operation, exchange of good practices and support for capacity building in prevention actions - improved knowledge base on disaster risks and disaster prevention policies and good practices are readily identified, shared and adopted - training network is established and maintained</p> <p>C2: Cyber - national criminal law frameworks reviewed, in line with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, including rule of law safeguards - specialised police and prosecution services and interagency co-operation strengthened - modules on cybercrime and electronic evidence better mainstreamed into the curricula of judicial training institutions - more efficient international co-operation - cybercrime and cybersecurity policies and strategies reviewed</p> <p>C3: Interpol - selected border posts equipped with the Interpol's secure global communications network (I-24/7), - increased information sharing through the further deployment of Interpol I24/7 and the correspondent databases, - increased data collection Neighbourhood South countries</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - number of joint operations including non-associated countries - online knowledge base available also for non-associated countries - number of readily available training packages available also for non-associated countries</p> <p>C2: Cyber - number of draft laws or amendments in line with the Budapest Convention - availability of training modules - number of cybercrime strategies and policies including interagency co-operation and international co-operation</p> <p>C3: Interpol (in the Neighbourhood South countries) - expansion of Interpol I 24/7 beyond National Central Bureaus - number of records fed into the database SLTD - number of searches in SLTD - number of hits in SLTD</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - 0 - no base available - no access</p> <p>C2: Cyber - to be defined by Council of Europe in the preparatory phase</p> <p>C3: Interpol - data per country subject to confidentiality at this stage - to be defined by Interpol in the preparatory phase</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection - + 4 - base available on a permanent basis - acces to online training</p> <p>C2: Cyber - to be defined by Council of Europe in the preparatory phase</p> <p>C3: Interpol - for the deployment of I 24/7: at least 5 critical border posts - concerning the use: for MENA countries + 20% above the yearly worldwide average statistical increase</p>	<p>C1: Civil protection DG ECHO reports</p> <p>C2: Cyber Project progress reviews</p> <p>C3: Interpol Individual statistics per country provided by Interpol Information Systems and Technology Directorate</p>	<p>Partner countries will ensure sustainability and durability to the respective projects by making available the necessary human, financial and material resources.</p>
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 3

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document

'Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South'

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in section 5.3.1 concerning calls for proposals and in section 5.3.2 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South CRIS number: ENI/2016/039-475 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	The action shall be carried out at the following location: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Tunisia and Syria. and in countries neighbouring the Neighbourhood region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)

¹ See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Regional South - Objective 3: Building a Partnership with the People			
5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 13,000,000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 11,290,000</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,710,000</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.01.01</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management:</p> <p>Grants – calls for proposals</p> <p>Grants – direct award</p>			
7. DAC code(s)	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<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"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships			

SUMMARY

The main objective of the programme '*Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South*' is to promote the engagement of citizens in public affairs and political participation, targeting in particular young women and men, empowering them to assume a central and visible role in addressing social challenges in partnership with peers to the north and south of the Mediterranean.

Three complementary actions will be supported with the following specific objectives:

- strengthen and structure the dialogue on regional agendas between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and national/local authorities;
- empower young women and men in their ability to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate;
- promoting co-operation between local media and youth in order to increase the role and visibility of youth in pluralistic media (public and private broadcasters as well as online media)

The *Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South* will be implemented in three components:

C.1 Civil Society Facility 2016 – support for setting up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) promoting regional structured regional dialogue in the Neighbourhood South (EUR 3 million).

C.2 Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0 (EUR 3.29 million)

C.3 Participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media (EUR 5 million)

1. CONTEXT

1.1. Regional context

Approximately 20 % of the population, in the Neighbourhood South are between 15-24 years old. This share keeps growing as never before in the region's history. Given this trend and as stated in the new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) it is of utmost importance to give due importance to young people's rights and aspirations, and imply those in our partnership with the region. Promoting their role and empowering young women and men to participate in public and private spheres of life contributes to buttress political stability, social inclusion and economic growth.

There is a shared sense of frustration among citizens in the Southern Neighbourhood in general of feeling excluded from political processes, which is particularly strong for young people. To ensure their participation in public affairs, including decision-making processes, young people search for credible avenues of participation. They try to equip themselves with skills enabling them to further develop their ideas and aspirations, to be able to discuss them and advocate for them with authorities.

A wide diversity of new civil society actors has emerged since 2011 in several countries of the region. Nevertheless many new initiatives, especially those launched by young people, are hindered by both internal constraints such as the lack of

experience and skills or limited financial and administrative capacities as well as external ones emanating from a repressive environment, the lack of funding opportunities and isolation.

Similar to the sense of exclusion from the political process, young people in the Arab world perceive a lack of credible media platforms for voicing out their opinion and hence having limited options to take active part in the developments in their societies. Public and private broadcasters, in particular TV, which still holds the widest reach and popularity in the region among traditional media, have historically devoted little programming to young people taking into account their needs and concerns. Consequently, young people have turned to the internet as the main source of news and entertainment. The concerns are that whilst the internet provides a wealth of information and views, it has no editorial gatekeepers and encourages users to seek out echo chambers where they engage exclusively with like-minded peers. In extreme cases this can contribute to facilitating youth radicalisation as vulnerable individuals are exposed to highly partisan and indoctrinating narratives.

In addition, despite the multiplicity of venues for dialogue that encourage exchange and debate within the civil society³ fabric across the region, there is no mechanism or entity to mobilise structured regional dialogue in an inclusive, continuous, sustainable manner which is articulated around priority themes and contributes to policy making while connecting civil society, EU institutions and other regional entities around issues of concern and interest in the regional agenda. Civil society organisations (CSOs) have long been seeking for the establishment of a mechanism (a technical secretariat) to catalyse regional dialogue, governed by civil society, able to set priorities, using web-based platform for wide outreach and organising periodic events for exchange and network (such as the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Forum).

1.1.1. EU Policy Framework

The proposed action is in line with the new ENP, placing special emphasis on supporting civil society and promoting citizen participation and engagement, focusing especially on young women and men. More specifically, the *Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South* aligns with the new ENP in:

- providing support to civil society, both through direct means (developing the capacities of civil society organisations, professionals and leadership) and indirectly by facilitating participation of civil society at local, national and regional levels, deploying tools for a deeper engagement with civil society and social partners;
- promoting inclusive dialogue on good governance, human rights and democracy issues, and main issues of concern at national and regional levels;
- placing emphasis on the prospects for youth, stepping up partnerships with young people, promoting people-to-people contacts and providing young people with new venues and tools for exchange, debate and network;
- promoting gender equality and women's rights; empowerment of women and girls; their access to justice, education, health care and other social services;

■ ³ Definition of Civil Society as set in the Communication “The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations” (COM (2012) 492).

strengthening their voice; fighting stereotypes; shifting institutional culture to be 'gender friendly';

- supporting citizens' ability to hold governments accountable; improve the pluralism, independence, and professionalism of the local media; helping it to act as a forum for public debate and as the catalyst for change in partner countries; promoting open and free internet.

The proposed action is also in line with the Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan: chapter I.b ("invigorating civil society") that includes empowerment objectives for young women and men. It also reflects the three priorities of the 2012 EU Communication on "**The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations**": enhancing enabling environment; promoting a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs; increasing local CSO's capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors.

1.1.2. Stakeholder analysis

The programme involves a wide variety of actors active in the Mediterranean Region: a) civil society and citizens in general with particular focus on young women and men; ii) national authorities; iii) EU institutions; iv) regional institutions and entities.

As defined in the 2012 EU Communication on "**The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations**", the EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. They include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media. Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs.

Civil society has been facing key challenges: emerging CSOs in the region, especially for women and youth organisations have to define their role and complementarity: in particular, on issues such as specialisation, professionalisation and mobilisation of the general public, isolation vs. regional networking and dialogue, young vs. older/institutionalised CSOs.

The action focuses on young women and men from diverse social-economic and geographical backgrounds. These young people, who represent a large part of the population, have limited access to quality education and job opportunities. They lack venues for citizen's engagement, they do not find that politicians or mainstream media adequately reflect their interests and concerns, and in addition, they have little means of influencing this.

Other important stakeholders are local and national media in particular new media/online media, which are developing fast, but often lack journalistic professionalism and a sustainable business approach. While the consumption of online media and social media by young Arabs is on the rise, they still get in 2016,

63% of their news from TV as compared to 45% online news sources and 32% from social media⁴. Because of this wide reach and their public service mandate, public broadcasters and those with a public service mandate will also be targeted.

If relevant, partner countries other than ENI countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey) shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

1.1.3. Priority areas for support / problem analysis

In a restrictive environment and with less funding from donors, civil society is being confined to compensate the deficiencies of the state as a service provider in the social domain including in education, access to justice or health services. This does not allow civil society to grow into its role of watchdog of democracy and thus to contribute to stabilisation in the region.

By definition civil society is strongest when close to its grass root base finding answers to challenges in its wider vicinity, monitoring the evolution of needs, official responses and the application of rule of law. However if the space to play this role is shrinking, opening up platforms at regional level will allow civil society organisations to share experience and build knowledge on how to evolve in a restrictive environment, develop alternative networks and define new channels in order to hold their governments accountable and participate in the political debate.

Nevertheless, participation with a regional dimension is challenging for civil society organisations. The diverse nature of civil society, mobility constraints, limited number of and weak networks as well as the rapid evolving nature of the Civil Society (CS) actors including religious civil society are all factors that hinder dialogue on regional agendas among CSOs and national/international stakeholders. However considering that often enough at local and national level space for CSOs is shrinking, the regional arena offers a breathing space allowing for the exchange on new and creative approaches. Online platforms allow for a potentially wide outreach. They promote networks and allow building trust among relevant players, and creating channels of coordination among CS actors, EU institutions and other regional entities. Through these online platforms and face-to-face meetings the EU will support consultations of CSOs at several levels (local, national, regional, international).

In this perspective, the EU will continue and widen its support to developing the capacity of young people to enable them to play their full part in the public and political life of their country. Developing in particular their debate, analytical and evidence-based advocacy skills and opening new venues for dialogue and public consultation will enable young people to challenge societal developments in their countries and throughout the region. It will help them to be more vocal about their aspirations and expectations, contributing in this way to building societies which are aware of the needs of young people and increasingly capable of offering answers. The more societies take responsibility for their young generation and the more young people are empowered to shape their future, the less likely they are to turn towards radical, uncompromising ideas and visions of the world.

⁴ Arab Youth Survey 2016, Asda'a Burson-Marsteller, <http://www.arabyouthsurvey.com/en/findings>.

Independent media can act as a forum for public debate. However very few of the national broadcasters or online media take up the role of public service media in informing, educating and entertaining the younger segments of their audience. As a consequence young people in the Neighbourhood South feel that their aspirations and concerns are not reflected by the media, print, online or broadcasters. Indeed, very few media carry out audience research and develop programming based on audience interests and needs. There are hardly any programmes targeting young audiences beyond cartoons, sports and music programmes.

The credibility and role of media as watchdog of democracy and catalyst for change in support of the wider civil society will be improved if media (public and private broadcasters, new/online media) reflect the needs and concerns of their audiences in particularly young audiences. By facilitating the interaction between civil society and media, ideas for new programmes and platforms can be developed with the participation of young women and men so that they meet their needs of information, education and entertainment and allow them to engage.

2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Risks of political instability in the region and possible changes of government or regimes. Support given to political actors, leaders of political movements and emerging leaders is a highly sensitive issue.	H	Monitoring of the situation and supporting democratic structures and principles. This goes directly to the core of the Civil Society Facility, which sets out to promote a more participatory approach to decision-making processes by broader inclusion of CSOs. Partner countries can choose between different schemes of cooperation and actions do not necessarily concern all countries. Non-inclusion of countries in crisis will not hamper project implementation, as this is a regional project that can be flexible in the countries it targets.
There is a risk that the authorities might not see the added value of involving CSOs in the policy dialogue / public affairs or that they might not provide an enabling environment that puts in place modern and transparent institutions to encourage accountability and good governance and ensure fair and transparent rules	H	The EU's political dialogue with partner countries includes the requirement to engage with CSOs at national level and to promote a more enabling environment for the work of civil society, in an attempt to counteract any unwillingness on the part of partner countries' authorities to engage with CSOs.
Unwillingness of CSOs to engage in policy dialogue / public affairs with the State or simply the lack of incentives to do so.	M	Tripartite dialogue (between the authorities, the EU and CSOs) will then help to highlight the usefulness for CSOs and also for the authorities of conducting a dialogue

		and working together
Limited capacity of actors (CSOs, local authorities, ...)	M	Specific support to be provided to local actors in particular to build partnerships
Lack of coordination channels for CS in the region (networks, platforms) and no permanent communication between regional CS actors and EU institutions.	M	Identify/reinforce networking opportunities towards mappings and forums Improve coordination and communication (use different media)
Increasingly restrictive situation for media and journalists	M	Identify subjects, platforms programmes which meets needs of young audiences (education , jobs..) without having a political angle
In particular broadcasters who are state funded do not perceive the urgency of changing production patters to produce content relevant for the young and opening up channels to engage with them	M varies considerably between countries	Recognition of risk
Assumptions		

3. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1. Lessons learnt

Ongoing support to good governance and democratisation processes in the Neighbourhood South region have shown the need to support citizens' engagement and especially participation of young women and men in public affairs. Citizens request to voice their concerns, to debate, to be heard and to be taken into account.

Programmes, in support of civil society and their evaluations, have brought a positive contribution to the building of democratic societies where governing authorities are recognized legitimate if their politics are accountable to the citizens and/or, where the degrees for social inclusion and gender equality have increased. New venues for dialogue and the increasing use of social media have brought debate to peripheral and isolated areas, beyond the reach of the usual channels. In terms of policy dialogue, several EU-funded civil society initiatives have brought valuable good practices and lessons. For example at country level, the EU-funded project on tripartite dialogue between civil society, Tunisian authorities and EU could bring an interesting format which can be used for inspiration.

Supporting capacities of civil society from a regional perspective has proven of added value in the Neighbourhood South. Following the concept paper⁵ proposing options on this mechanism, it is recommended to strengthen and expand current networks, looking for a diversification in participants, include wider civil society organisations (schools, universities, media, ...) and promote the interaction between civil society and national authorities. In addition it is important to promote both axes

⁵ *Concept Paper on issues to be addressed and choices to be made for the definition of a governance and management model to enhance regional civil society-related dialogue in the ENP south*, by Juan Nicolas, December 2015.

of communication and exchange between countries in the region, North-South and South-South.

New initiatives promoting participation and engagement of civil society need to show: i) political recognition and leverage; ii) policy orientation; iii) openness and transparency; iv) ownership by civil society v) open channels of interaction with authorities and EU institutions; vi) coherent and complementary of the dialogue at national and regional levels; vi) engagement of wide range of stakeholders, such as local authorities, trade unions, business associations, environmental organisations, social movements, local development agencies, foundations, youth organisations, media or academia.

The component promoting the role and engagement of young women and men in pluralistic media complements the regional EU-funded MedMedia programme which supports the institutions and individuals committed to reforming the media sector in the Southern Mediterranean region. The new project proposes to take up one specific, successful strand of activities launched by MedMedia, namely programming for young audiences by public broadcasters and to develop it further. MedMedia's 'youth on screen' workshops organised together with the EU-funded Net-MedYouth programme have demonstrated that civil society, in particular youth organisations have vibrant if not always viable ideas for programmes targeted at young audiences. They are not necessary based on scientific surveys but nevertheless, based on their expertise, offering young people platforms of information and engagement on issue that matter to them. MedMedia will end in late 2017 and can thus directly and specifically share experiences and contacts with the new project.

By opening the target group up to include online media this component will build on the experience gained under the EBTICAR project⁶ in terms of providing sub-grants to allow online-media significant step forwards combined with technical assistance to reap the most benefit from funding.

The development of media programmes and channels relies on the interaction between civil society and the media in order to develop interesting, financially viable and sustainable options.

3.2. Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

At regional level, the setting up of a technical secretariat for strengthening regional dialogue will build on on-going efforts, with special attention to link what the EU is supporting at national level (civil society roadmaps) and other regional initiatives in place (Civil Society Facility Technical Assistance (CSF South), the EU-Civil Society Forum Neighbourhood South, the *Policy Forum for Development*).

The activities included in this component will take into account the main programmes implemented by the major donors in the region. It is worth noting that ongoing programmes under EU financing, such as NET-MED Youth, Spring Forward for Women, MedMedia, MedCulture, institutions receiving EU Support (Anna Lindh Foundation, Council of Europe, European Endowment for Democracy) and through the Erasmus+ Programme's Youth in Action strand promoting mobility of young people, youth workers and other stakeholders, informal and non-formal

⁶ 'EBTICAR - Nouvelles libertés d'expressions, citoyennes et numériques en Méditerranée ' is the EU- funded project which provides sub-grants to innovative online media in the southern Neighbourhood and accompanies the implantation of these sub-grants. The name EBTICAR stands for 'E-Booster for Technical and Innovative Contents in the Arab Region'.

learning, mutual understanding, training and youth networking projects and support of youth organisations from both the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries which all enhance Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the youth field.

In addition, the programme Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0 will complement a global initiative under the thematic programme 'Investing in People' whose aim is to contribute to inclusive growth by helping partner countries to better respond to the aspirations of young people and strengthen their involvement in national development processes, through a better understanding of the determinants of youth inclusion and greater capacity to design effective evidence-based national policies promoting youth inclusion.

At regional level, the programme will take into account and coordinate with other regional EU programmes dealing with enhancing women's rights and promoting equality. It will also coordinate with programmes dealing with media such as Young Mediterranean Voices. In addition the programme will ensure improved synergy effects through coordination among donors and with other relevant initiatives dealing with capacity building and skills improvement.

3.3. Cross-cutting issues

In 2013, civil society representatives proposed the EU institutions to articulate debate and consultation around three main areas: i) reducing inequalities (economic and social rights), including gender equality and women's rights; ii) shrinking space for civil society (civil and political rights); iii) mobility and migration shrinking space. Therefore, by promoting citizens' engagement and participation under those three axes, this programme includes crucial cross-cutting issues such as human rights, governance, and rule of law, gender, environment and climate change.

The action will highly contribute to governance and democratisation by the supporting involvement and participation of citizens, especially young people, in public affairs. Also the debates that will be organised among women and men will deal with priority themes for the region, among them respect for human rights and promotion of democracy, equality between women and men, respect for environment and sustainable use of resources, migration and mobility, refugees situation, etc.

While the programme is unlikely to have a direct impact on the environment, activities that may promote environmental and climate change awareness through media, being an priority item of concern, which may have an indirect and positive impact.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1. Objectives/results

The main objective of the programme '*Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South*' is to promote citizen engagement in public affairs and political participation, targeting in particular young women and men, empowering them to assume a central and visible role in addressing common social challenges in partnership with peers to the north and south of the Mediterranean.

Three complementary actions will be supported with the following specific objectives:

- strengthen and structure dialogue on the regional agenda between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and authorities;

- empower young women and men in their ability to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate;
- promote co-operation between media and youth in order to increase the role and visibility of youth in pluralistic media (public and private broadcasters as well as online media) in order to reflect the needs and concerns of youth in programmes/channels with focus on education, entertainment and information.

The programme '*Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South*' will be implemented through three components with the following expected results:

Component 1.- Civil Society Facility 2016 – Support for setting-up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) strengthening structured regional dialogue (EUR 3 million) - enhanced participation of civil society in policy dialogue and advocacy mobilised by a technical secretariat which promotes debate and dialogue around regional agendas and links civil society, EU institutions and other regional entities (Anna Lindh Foundation, League of Arab States, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Council of Europe, etc.). This technical secretariat is governed by civil society. It also promotes regional networks and exchanges, the contribution by civil society to policy making, as well as increased capacities of CSOs for advocacy and participation.

Component 2.- “Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0” (EUR 3.29 million) - increased number of young people have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities. Their voices are being integrated into policy dialogue at national and regional level promoting and enhancing a culture for public debate.

Component 3.- Promoting participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media (EUR 5 million) - public broadcasters and those with a public service mandate, as well as online media in the region, offer programmes/platforms/online channels developed with young audiences for young audiences, recognising the added value of a close co-operation with civil society on programmes/platforms.

The action promotes the use of innovative tools, IT platforms and web-based media to widen the outreach to a whole range of actors in the region and allow participation by permeating where civil society have difficulties to operate.

4.2. Main activities

The main activities, by component, are:

Component 1.- Civil Society Facility 2016 – Support for setting-up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) strengthening structured regional dialogue (EUR 3 million).

The technical secretariat, governed by civil society, will be able to engage in:

- creating clusters for dialogue on determined priority sectors, developing key messages to authorities and regional institutions;
- organising fora, working groups and debates (presential and online) through web based platforms and/or meetings/conferences/workshops organised in the region. Specific attention will be given not only to equal representation of women but also to the mainstreaming of gender issues in topics of debate and discussion;

- developing communication and advocacy activities such as an on-line platform in EN, FR, AR to facilitate activities;
- creating a "resource centre" for civil society and produce comprehensive regional mappings as well as sharing of good practices. Attention will be given to the disaggregation of data by sex in all documents/reports produced by the resource centre;
- providing capacity building (through e-learning methods) on skills for advocacy, social accountability, sector policy follow up, public debate;
- promoting networking activities among peers.

Component 2.- “Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0” (EUR 3.29 million)

This project will target young women and men and will provide for:

- capacity building activities: training of trainers' programmes, specific training programmes targeting women, specific training programmes disseminating skills for debate, dialogue and advocacy, collection and analysis and dissemination of thematic debate topics, fellowships, issue-based debate contents;
- opening new spaces for dialogue: promote 'debate tournaments'; through a sub-grant scheme, supporting 'debate hubs' dealing with concerns expressed by youth; create new spaces for debate in digital media.

Component 3.- Promoting participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media (EUR 5 million)

The project will support the development of pilot programmes and web-based platforms of online media and broadcasters from the region which reflect interests and needs of young audiences in the region based on audience analysis and feedback:

- Support the development of concepts and pre-production of TV programmes which meet the interests and needs of young audiences supported by audiences surveys/feedback and the co-operation of young people in the development of the programmes. The analysis and audience surveys/feedback will pay specific attention to young women's needs and interests;
- Support the development of online platforms which meet the interests and needs of young audiences supported by analysis of needs through audiences surveys/feedback and the co-operation of young people in the development of the programmes. The analysis and audience surveys/feedback will pay specific attention to young women's needs and interests;
- Promote co-operation between media and civil society organisations, who are aware of the frustrations, needs and interests of young audiences, for the development of relevant programmes, channels and tools;
- Establish constructive dialogue and co-operation between civil society and online media/broadcasters;
- Facilitate exchange of best practices in youth programming between media (online and broadcasters) at regional level.

4.3. Intervention logic

All the actions will be implemented via grants as:

This allows a civils society driven leadership rather than an EU driven one.

It thus opens the possibility to more creative ideas and a better echo/implementation of the priorities of civil society.

Grants are more flexible by nature and allow adapting to changing circumstances.

Grants will better capitalise on initiatives that might already exist at national or sub-regional level.

Except for component 2, calls for proposals will be used as a competitive procedure, and they will partly include sub-granting schemes opened to all eligible civil society actors (which include, among others, development NGOs, academia, professional associations, foundations, ...).

Component 2 will be implemented through a direct grant awarded to the Anna Lindh Foundation, intergovernmental organisation playing a main role in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and in strengthening the role of young people in public affairs.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2. Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3. Implementation modalities

This action will be implemented through the award of grants.

Financial allocations (grants) at regional level shall be implemented through calls for proposals (except for component 2) launched by Headquarters.

Component 2 will be implemented through a direct grant awarded to the Anna Lindh Foundation, intergovernmental organisation playing a main role in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and in strengthening the role of young people in public affairs.

5.3.1. Grants: calls for proposals (direct management) for components 1 and 3

Calls for proposals will be used as a competitive procedure, and they will partly include sub-granting schemes opened to all eligible civil society actors (which include, among others, development NGOs, academia, professional associations, foundations, ...).

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objectives per component are:

1) Civil Society Facility 2016 – support for setting up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) to strengthen structured dialogue on regional agendas between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and local/national authorities;

3) support initiatives that promote co-operation media and young people in order to reflect in programmes/channels of pluralistic media the needs of youth in education, entertainment and information' (public and private broadcasters and online media).

The expected results per component are:

Component 1 *Civil Society Facility 2016 – Support for setting-up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) strengthening structured regional dialogue* (EUR 3 million) - enhanced participation of civil society in policy dialogue and advocacy mobilised by a technical secretariat which promotes dialogue and debate around regional agendas and links civil society, EU institutions and other regional entities (Anna Lindh Foundation, League of Arab States, UfM, Council of Europe, etc.). This technical secretariat is governed by civil society and aims to enhance advocacy by civil society at regional level. It also promotes regional networks and exchanges, contributions by civil society to policy making, as well as increased capacities of CSOs for advocacy and participation.

Component 3 *Promoting participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media* (EUR 5 million) - Public broadcasters and those with a public service mandate as well as online media offer programmes/platforms/online channels developed with young audiences for young audiences, recognizing the added value of a close co-operation with civil society on programmes/platforms.

(b) Eligibility conditions

Place of establishment of applicants: ENI south countries, EU countries, IPA countries, EFTA countries.

Type: CSOs in the widest sense of the term, as defined in abovementioned European Commission Communication 2012: non-governmental organisations; organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities; local citizens' groups and traders' associations; co-operatives, trade unions and organisations representing economic and social interests; local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional co-operation and integration; consumer organisations; women's and youth organisations; teaching, cultural research and scientific organisations; universities; churches and religious associations and communities; associations of median and media development agencies; cross-border associations; non-governmental associations and independent foundations.

Subject to information to be published in the calls for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant ranges from EUR 0.5 million to EUR 1 million and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and at least two co-beneficiaries).

The indicative duration of the grants (their implementation period) is 24 to 48 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under these calls is 90% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the calls

1st quarter 2017.

5.3.2. Grants: direct award (direct management) for component 2

a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of this grant is to empower young women and men in their capacity to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate. Expected results are increased number of young people have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities. Their voices are being integrated into policy dialogue at national and regional level creating an enhanced culture for public debate.

b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Anna Lindh Foundation.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation in accordance with Art 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This is the case of the ALF which plays a pivotal role in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and functions as a network of networks. In addition, the ALF is a result of a high level advisory group on dialogue between peoples and culture in the Euro-Mediterranean area called by the Commission itself.

The ALF added value comes from its unique nature as both an inter-governmental organisation and a network of CSOs. As such, the ALF is the best platform for both governments and civil society organisations to work in the fields covered by the ALF's mandate.

c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the programme (component 2); design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

4th quarter of 2016.

5.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5. Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 1: Civil Society Facility 2016 – support for setting up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' - Neighbourhood South	3,000,000	333,000
5.3.2 – Direct grant (direct management) – Component 2: Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0	3,290,000	822,000
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 3: Participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media	5,000,000	555,000
Totals	11,290,000	1,710,000

5.6. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by Commission Services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant in close collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (European Parliament, EEAS, EU Member States). An appropriate inter-service consultation mechanism will be created to ensure the coherence of the project and synergies with the similar projects ongoing in the Neighbourhood East and the Western Balkans.

For each component, in the cases where a steering committee is created, the participation as observer of relevant Commission Services is foreseen.

5.7. Performance 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 beneficiaries' responsibilities. To this aim, the beneficiaries shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate, within the framework of each contract, 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) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8. Evaluation

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The beneficiaries and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the action.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9. Audit

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, contractors, grant

beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

6. PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	1. Promote citizen engagement and political participation of young women and men , empowering them to assume a central and visible role in addressing common social challenges in partnership with peers to the north and south of the Mediterranean	% of young women and men actively involved in public consultations/debates on policies/strategies/legislation				
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<p>1. Facilitate and structure dialogue on the regional agenda between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and authorities to contribute to policy making</p> <p>2. Empower young women and men to participate in public life through dialogue and debate</p> <p>3. Improve co-operation between media and young people in order to reflect in programmes/channels the needs of youth in education, entertainment and information.</p>	<p>C1: Number of CS networks created/supported through the hub</p> <p>C2: % of young men and women with required skills for political participation and debate as a result of the project (check indicators + baseline from previous phase)</p> <p>C3: % of pilot programmes and channels being further developed and maintained</p>	<p>C1: 0</p> <p>C2: To be established by programme</p> <p>C3: 0</p>	<p>C1: 3 by 2018</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: 75%</p>	<p>C1: statistical data available</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: web-based/ tv programming</p>	
Expected results (outputs)	1. Enhanced participation of civil society in policy dialogue and advocacy facilitated by the "Regional dialogue hub" which promotes dialogue around regional agendas and links civil society, EU institutions and other	<p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new "Regional dialogue hub" in place; number of international meetings organised online platform launched and 	<p>C1: 0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>C1: 1 regional hub by 2017</p> <p>2 international meetings per</p>	<p>C1: projects reports</p>	

	<p>regional entities</p> <p>2. Increased number of young people (men and women) that have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities.</p> <p>3. Public and private broadcasters and online media offer programmes that attract the attention of young audiences and allow them to engage on topics that concern them</p>	<p>operational</p> <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of young people (men and women) involved in project activities • Number of training programmes delivered • Number of debate tournaments organised • Number of new debate spaces created in digital media <p>C3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new TV programmes which meet the interests and needs of young audiences launched with the support of the project • Number of online channels and tools which meet the interests and needs of young audiences developed with the support of the project • Number of exchanges of good practices at regional level between media organised by the project • Number of media/broadcasters involved in project activities 	<p>0</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: 0</p>	<p>year 1 online platform by 2017</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: 4 new TV programmes by (Idem) 10 online channels by (Idem) 2 regional exchanges by end of programme (specify date) 25 media/broadcasters by (Idem)</p>	<p>C2: project reports</p> <p>C3: project reports</p>	
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of ENI South countries

Action Document for job creation, economic development and inclusiveness in the Southern Mediterranean

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 concerning calls for proposals and in section 5.3.3 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support to job creation, economic development and inclusiveness CRIS number: 2016 / 039-507 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	The action shall be carried out at the following location: Neighbourhood South countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Tunisia and Syria ³)	
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development	DEV. Aid: YES

¹ See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

³ Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011.

5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 16.8 million</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 14 million</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 2.8 million.</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.01.02</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management:</p> <p>Grants – calls for proposals</p> <p>Grants – direct award</p>			
7 DAC code(s)	<p>25010 Business support services and institutions</p> <p>33130 Regional trade agreements</p>			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	<p>Not applicable</p>			

SUMMARY

The main objective of this action is to promote job creation, economic development and inclusiveness in the Southern Mediterranean partner countries, by supporting three complementary components:

Component 1: Business-to-business networking (EUR 5 million) which aims to enhance business support organisations and increase business linkages, in particular with EU counterparts, through creating economic opportunities at international level.

Component 2: Social business ecosystems (EUR 5 million) which aims to strengthen social business ecosystems and relevant stakeholders in view of economic inclusiveness and job creation at local level.

Component 3: Regional trade integration – AGADIR⁴ (EUR 4 million) which aims to create new trade and investment opportunities for the private sector in member countries, thus contributing to economic development. It focuses on trade development and regional economic integration through the implementation of the Agadir Agreement, as a milestone towards the realisation of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Regional context/Thematic area

Sustainable growth and employment are common concerns among the partner countries in the Neighbourhood South, where 5 million jobs need to be created on a yearly basis to particularly integrate young people into the labour market. Unemployment rates in the region have remained stubbornly high during the last 5 years, particularly among youth (15–24 years) with an average rate of 25 percent for young males and about 40 percent for young females. Some estimates show that the youth unemployment rate is as high as 40 percent in Tunisia and even higher in the inland governorates, and is probably the main factor that has recently contributed to unprecedented increase of violence and extremism in the country.

The largest reservoir of jobs remain the 6 million micro, small and medium enterprises (mSMEs) that account for 90% of total employment, but which are not yet contributing their full share to sustainable growth and often remain in the informal economy. More productive and efficient enterprises fuel economic growth and create demand for skilled labour, generating better paid jobs with decent working conditions. These enterprises, which operate in the formal economy, are also a source of value-added, contributing through taxation to provide the resources needed for developing an efficient public administration and sustain public investment in areas such as infrastructure, health and education.

Boosting regional trade integration, economic development and inclusiveness, and job creation requires strong business support institutions, with networks within the region and with European counterparts, the inclusion of new economic actors, as well as an improved business climate, in particular through transparent and open trade and investment regimes.

1.1.1 *EU Policy Framework*

The actions proposed under this Action Document are joint priorities for co-operation as called for by **different Joint Communications** of the European

⁴ The Agadir Agreement for establishing a Mediterranean Free Trade Area was signed on 25 February 2004 and entered into force in 2007. Agadir member countries include Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan, while the Palestinian Authority and Lebanon requested accession to the Agreement in 2013 and 2014.

Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy⁵.

Three Joint Communications since 2011, namely "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean", "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood" and most recently "The Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy" have identified inclusive economic development and employment creation, in particular for the youth, in the strong mutual interest of the EU and Southern Mediterranean partner countries.

The ENP review explicitly puts economic and social development at the heart of the EU's contribution to stabilising the neighbourhood and building partnerships. It is calling on partner countries to support the adoption of policies conducive to stronger, sustainable and more inclusive economic growth, facilitating business and investment partnerships; promoting market access and trade development, developing mSMEs, and fostering employment.

In addition, the actions proposed reflect other key EU policy frameworks, such as the priorities expressed in the Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) ministerial meeting on industrial co-operation (19 February 2014) adopted by the EU and Mediterranean industry ministers. It calls for intensifying networking of businesses and business support services in the EU and other Mediterranean countries, and for strengthening and creating synergy between networks of businesses of all sizes and the organisations which support their development. The proposed actions are also in line with the priorities pursued under the employment and labour dimension of UfM, which concentrated recently among others on job creation in the formal sector.

According to Council Conclusions (7 December 2015) "The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe", social economy further contributes to several key EU objectives, including the achievement of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, high-quality employment, social cohesion, social innovation, local and regional development and environmental protection. Since the launch of the Social Business Initiative strategy in 2011, a lot has been achieved within the EU in terms of improving access to private, public and hybrid funding; giving more visibility to social enterprises; optimising the legal environment in which they operate. The EU Social Business Initiative now focuses on strengthening the External Dimension.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

Component 1 – Business to Business networking

The main target groups for this component are: Business Support Organisations (Chambers of Commerce, Business Associations, federations, SME organisations, employers' organisations etc.) and business networks in the Mediterranean partner countries. In view of ensuring the delivery of efficient support and linkages services

⁵ COM (2011)200 of 8 March 2011 "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean"; COM (2011)303 of 25 May 2011 "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood"; COM JOIN(2015)500 final of 18 November 2015 "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy".

to the SMEs of the region, there is a need to further develop quality Euro-Mediterranean networks and a robust set of intermediary organisations supporting the development of SMEs. The final beneficiaries are existing SMEs with a potential for internationalisation.

Component 2 – Social enterprises ecosystems

The main target groups for this component are: National and local authorities dealing with enterprise creation and private/social business stakeholders with a view to promoting public – private dialogue and further action/reform; social enterprises support structures and other relevant social business stakeholders (e.g. clusters, incubators, accelerators). The final beneficiaries are social enterprises/ clusters of enterprises with a strong potential for job creation.

Component 3 – Regional trade integration - AGADIR

The main target groups for this component are linked to the institutional framework of the Agadir Agreement: the Agadir focal points and specialised departments of Trade Ministries in the Member Countries as well as the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU), based in Amman. The ATU is mandated by the Trade Ministers and the Foreign Affairs Ministers Committee to oversee and promote the implementation of the Agadir Agreement. Other stakeholders in the project are the private sector and various private sector representative bodies, chambers of commerce and industry, and sector associations in the Member Countries of the Agadir Agreement.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Component 1 – Business to Business networking

The deteriorating economic situation and the challenging security context in most Southern Mediterranean partner countries combined with a stagnating European economy have resulted in reduced investment and business linkages between EU and Mediterranean businesses. EU investments towards the region have gone down 40% since 2008 while EU imports from partner countries in the region have been almost stagnant during the last years (1.1% average growth for the period 2010-2014).

Most SMEs in Mediterranean partner countries need support for their internationalisation efforts to identify the potential of their products, develop a market strategy, understand cultural as well as technical and non-technical barriers, and gain access to financial instruments. Private and public business support organisations (BSOs) are essential partners and multipliers in economic transformation, provided they possess the necessary know-how and outreach to the SMEs in their respective countries.

Especially in times of economic recession and instability, there is a need to facilitate links between European business networks and BSOs in the Mediterranean, and strengthen their capacities to provide effective services and tools, tailor-made to the needs of SMEs, to promote trade and investment flows between the two rims of the Mediterranean Sea.

Support to Euro-Mediterranean business support organisations is a long-standing feature of EC assistance to private sector development in the region, with an ongoing project (Euromed Invest EUR 5 million) finishing by end 2016. Continued regional

support to business-to-business networking is in the mutual interest of the EU and its Mediterranean partners.

This component will target specifically the institutional level and reinforce business support organisations. It aims to further develop quality Euro-Mediterranean business networks; providing adequate internationalisation support and linkage services for SMEs at regional or sub-regional level in targeted sectors with a strong potential for growth and job creation. This will be achieved through matchmaking meetings between sector business associations and companies, intra Mediterranean (in support of sub-regional initiatives such as the Agadir agreement) and with their counterparts in the EU; capacity building of intermediary organisations for the provision of internationalization services as well as towards financial self-sustainability; for advocacy and public-private dialogue; and promoting the networking of Euro-Mediterranean business support organisations involved in trade and investment promotion.

A regional initiative is best suited to complement existing actions at bilateral level and to create business linkages among Mediterranean partners themselves and their European counterparts.

Component 2 – Social enterprises ecosystems⁶

Within the EU, social entrepreneurship has become a growing phenomenon accounting for about 10% of the economy, 25% of new enterprises and start-ups and approximately 12 million jobs. Social enterprises are increasingly becoming important drivers for inclusive growth and play a key role in tackling current economic and environmental challenges. They create jobs in a sustainable manner, mostly locally. Moreover, social enterprises are often strong drivers for social innovation and respond to needs that are otherwise not met by public authorities and/or market players.

According to analysis by the FEMISE research network, social economy could generate up to 4% of total employment in Southern Mediterranean countries⁷. For the Mediterranean Partner Countries, the social economy sector has an important potential for job creation and socio-economic inclusion, in particular for youth and women. A number of social enterprises in the Mediterranean countries are already active and innovating in different sectors, including agriculture/fisheries, housing, education, tourism, green economy/recycling, health and community-based social services.

⁶ Social entrepreneurship is described as economic action which serves the community's interest – in particular with social or/and environmental objectives – rather than profit maximization. The profit made by the business is mainly reinvested into the business or the community, which makes social enterprises viable long-term investment opportunities. There are different organisational statutes, such as co-operatives, mutuals, associations or enterprises with a regular private/business statute but which put social impact as a primary aim.

⁷ See: "Community-oriented economy: A driver of inclusiveness and job creation in the Mediterranean Partner Countries?" - www.eib.org/infocentre/publications/all/etude-femip-femise-economie-sociale-et-solidaire.htm

Several bottlenecks have been identified for the development of social economy/social entrepreneurship in the Southern Mediterranean region. While social enterprises are already active in the region, social entrepreneurship is still a relatively recent phenomenon and its potential for inclusive economic development is not yet known. Countries lack a legal and institutional framework that would encourage and promote social enterprises initiatives and adequate dialogue/exchange platforms are missing. Another shortcoming identified is the lack of access to finance and the need for developing financial instruments tailored to social business needs.

This component aims to address these challenges in a comprehensive manner: (i) macro-level activities will involve public authorities at national/local level and private/social business stakeholders with a view to promoting public – private dialogue and further action/reform; (ii) at meso level, the programme aims at supporting social enterprises support structures and other relevant social enterprises stakeholders. This will be achieved through capacity building and networking activities – South-South and South-North – peer learning and partnerships with relevant European organisations and networks, involvement of Mediterranean social business stakeholders in programme activities; (iii) at micro level, possibly through sub-granting / cascading grants, the programme will provide support to a number of selected promising initiatives with a high potential for job creation to serve as a demonstration/pilot experience in view of replicability and scaling-up. Priority will be given to projects developed and/or implemented by young and women social entrepreneurs, in particular in less developed territories/parts of the countries.

A regional initiative will be of high relevance in the current context of high unemployment as a useful contribution to structure social business ecosystems policies and practices, share experiences and support pilot actions with a strong demonstration effect, potentially to inspire new bilateral initiatives in the region.

Component 3 – Regional trade integration - AGADIR

The EU preferential trade agreements system in the Mediterranean region remains incomplete in the absence of an effective implementation of a deep and comprehensive South/South Free Trade Agreement. The Agadir Agreement has launched a process of trade integration among Southern Mediterranean partner countries which has been supported by the EU since 2007.

However, regional integration is a lengthy process. The share of the intra-Agadir trade in the total trade of Agadir Members Countries is a small fraction of its total (estimated at 5.9% in exports and 5.1% in imports as of end 2014) and it has been stagnant during the last years – although this might be due to the global economic crisis and political instability in the region. The South Mediterranean countries have until recently attached greater importance to their trade relations with the EU than to the development of strong exchanges with their neighbours, and barriers to trade within the region remain high. Therefore, regional trade flows and economic integration between these South Mediterranean countries remain far below expectations and should continue to be promoted.

Despite the political and financial difficulties in the region, the current Agadir Member Countries have made efforts to increase their trade integration efforts to secure further progress and sustainability of the Agadir Agreement. Ministerial Committee decisions have launched several processes during the last years.

Approximation and harmonization of laws, policies and procedures on different economic and trade sectors like customs, export and import procedures, and competition are underway. As an important political signal - for the first time since the last meeting in 2010 - a Trade Ministerial conference took place on 3rd April 2016 where the accession of Palestine and Lebanon to the Agadir Agreement was agreed in principle and a number of protocols on trade harmonization were adopted. Member Countries also agreed to engage in negotiations to liberalize trade in services.

In light of the above, the EU proposes to extend its support to the Agadir Technical Unit to accelerate the implementation of its trade integration agenda and its work-plans for the period 2017-2019. This will be done through capacity building, networking and trade facilitation activities for the Agadir member countries and the Agadir Technical Unit.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Political instability preventing a regional focus on economic development, drop of business linkages, trade and investment flows	Moderate to high	Adoption of a progressive or variable geometry approach
Limited involvement of stakeholders and uneven interest from public authorities	Low to moderate	Identification of stakeholders to be involved in the project and ensure their implication from the early stage of the design
Limited scaling up of new initiatives aiming to boost employment at national level	Moderate	Involvement of policy makers and key stakeholders from an early stage of design into new initiatives aiming to boost employment. Adoption of pilot projects, replication of success stories and inclusion of strong visibility measures especially for actions which are new and innovative for the region
Limited capacity of actors (local authorities and social partners) at local level	Moderate	Specific support to be provided to local actors in particular to build partnerships and networks with European counterparts
Assumptions		
<p>Policy makers, business and trade associations, local actors and social partners are willing to co-operate and share their experience within the region.</p> <p>Policy makers in the region are looking for innovative political initiatives and co-operation strategies to increase trade and economic integration, and to tackle high unemployment. Countries are willing to develop joint actions, tools and methods targeting new business opportunities and job creation in particular for youth and women.</p> <p>Partner countries are willing to reach a higher degree of co-operation within the region and</p>		

with EU.

Partner countries will ensure sustainability and durability to the respective projects by making available the necessary human, financial and material resources.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Lessons learnt from past bilateral and regional programmes on private sector development (such as the EU-funded programme "Support to business and investment partnerships in the Southern Mediterranean, 2013-2016") evidence the positive contribution to strengthening business networks, facilitating exchanges and interconnections between companies from the EU and the Mediterranean Partner Countries, and establishing business co-operation agreements. While bilateral action has contributed significantly to reinforce capacities of business representative organisations, regional action was considered best suited for exchange of experience among institutions and establishing links and networks with European counterparts. Business-to-business networks are thus a key feature of the EU approach to private sector development in the region. However, findings also point to the risk of dispersing efforts too widely and to the difficulty of measuring specific impact at company level for matchmaking events, due to a reluctance of enterprises to disclose business information.

Regarding regional trade integration through the Agadir Agreement, the findings of the evaluations carried out in 2012 and 2015 indicate that technical barriers to trade in the region are still significant as demonstrated by the low trade volumes and poor specialisation in the exchange of products. This is due to the fact that most of the Agadir countries are producing similar goods; however, there are exceptions (such as in the light manufacturing and automotive cars sectors, in agro-industrial products and in services) which offer a potential for regional trade. According to the private sector progress in eliminating non-tariff barriers and improvement of trade facilitation would lead to a significant increase in trade within the region. Therefore the trade facilitation promoted by the ATU should be persevered. Lessons learnt can be summarised as follows: (i) the technical work of the ATU should be more focused and steered by the Agadir Trade Ministers; (ii) closer involvement of the private sector is necessary to prioritise the ATU's trade harmonisation work and to make the benefits of the Agadir Agreement better known; and (iii) Agadir member countries should demonstrate stronger ownership and engagement for full implementation of the agreement (by deepening the agreement in fields such as non-technical barriers to trade, services and by widening the agreement to new members).

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

For component 1, synergies will be sought with the Enterprise Europe Network, which has been extended to a number of Mediterranean countries, and which provides a range of integrated services in relation to SME internationalization as well as with EU bilateral programmes, such as the Inclusive Economic Growth programme in Egypt which includes a component to strengthen meso-level organisations for the delivery of business services, the "Programme d'Appui à la compétitivité des services" (PACS) in Tunisia, and private sector support in Palestine.

For component 2, co-ordination will be ensured with other relevant EU bilateral initiatives related to social enterprises, notably: Tunisia "Initiatives d'emploi en Economie sociale et solidaire en Tunisie" (IESS); Algeria, with PADSEL-NOA; and with a component of the Programme d'Appui Jeunesse-Emploi (PAJE) – "Structuration du secteur de l'économie sociale, solidaire et innovante et soutien au développement de l'entrepreneuriat des jeunes"; Morocco "Appui technique aux opérateurs de l'économie sociale et solidaire dans la province 'Al Hoceima"; Egypt with a cluster grant on social entrepreneurship within the Research, Development and Innovation Programme (RDI) and relevant private sector activities in Palestine. Efforts will be made to link these nascent initiatives through the proposed regional action so that experiences can be shared at regional level and lead to better awareness of policy makers of their potential for job creation. .

For component 3, links have already been established with other key initiatives on regional trade integration, notably the Euro-Mediterranean Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism, a joint EU-ITC programme which includes technical trade information of the Agadir Member countries; the EU-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) regional programme to support investment frameworks and promotion in the Southern Mediterranean countries; and the SIDA programme to support standardisation and technical harmonisation works of the Agadir Technical Unit (2014-2017).

Overall at programme level, co-ordination and synergies will be ensured with other relevant EU activities at country level, by closely involving EU Delegations, including consultation on proposals submitted to the Steering Committees, as well as organisation of specific events and co-ordination meetings in each country with relevant stakeholders. At regional level, the programme will also be co-ordinated with activities developed by the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) in particular in relation to the Med4Jobs initiative.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Equal opportunity and gender mainstreaming: Inequalities in the participation of women in business and the labour market are registered in the whole region, together with other significant differences such as substantial wage gap between men and women and the lack of entrepreneurial opportunities. Unemployment generally affects women more than men in all age groups, particularly as regards long-term unemployment. The growing educational level of women in the region has often not translated into improved market access. The action will address equal opportunity and gender mainstreaming in several ways: in particular Component 1 will aim to include business support organisations representing female entrepreneurs and will also put emphasis on women entrepreneurship through use of role models, peer learning and mentoring, Component 2 will involve by design the participation of young women and men in the creation of social businesses in local communities.

Migration/protection of vulnerable groups: Among the key actions, the ENP review suggests greater EU involvement in fostering regional co-operation between neighbouring countries facing common challenges such as security and migration. Stronger links with the diaspora, legislative bodies and local economic actors, such as business, trade unions and social partners were highlighted as key in fostering self-reliance for the forcibly displaced, and for progressively integrating migrants

and returnees. The issue of migration will be integrated across project activities, whenever relevant and feasible.

Engagement with civil society: public-private policy dialogue and civil society engagement are very important for the success of this project, in particular for youth employment and employability. Components 1 and 2 of the action will directly involve civil society organisations (CSOs), including social partners, in project activities as they will be called to play an active role in the implementation of pilot projects, whenever possible; and Component 3 will seek to involve private sector in the prioritisation of the trade facilitation works and intra-trade awareness opportunities.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives

The **overall objective** of this action is to promote job creation, economic development and inclusiveness in the Southern Mediterranean partner countries. Three complementary actions will be supported with the following **specific objectives**:

(i) to enhance business support organisations and increase business linkages, in particular with EU counterparts, to create economic opportunities at international level (Component 1 – Business to Business networking).

(ii) to strengthen social business ecosystems and relevant stakeholders with a view to economic inclusiveness and job creation at local level (Component 2 – Social enterprises ecosystems).

(iii) to create new trade and investment opportunities for the private sector in Agadir member countries, thus contributing to economic development in the region. It focuses on trade development and regional economic integration through the implementation of the Agadir Agreement, as a milestone towards the realisation of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area (Component 3 – Regional trade integration – Agadir).

4.2 Main activities and expected results

Component 1 – Business to Business networking

The main activity consists in supporting the development of quality Euro-Mediterranean business networks providing adequate support and linkage services for SMEs at regional or sub regional level in targeted sectors.

Main expected results:

- regional sector strategies in a limited number of sectors with a high potential for growth and employment creation are identified to attract new EU and intra Mediterranean trade and investment flows and to further enhance EU and intra Mediterranean business partnerships;
- matchmaking meetings are organised between specialists of the Mediterranean sector business associations, companies and their counterparts in the EU and intra-Mediterranean;

- capacities of intermediary organisations are further strengthened to provide improved internationalization services towards their members as well as towards international trade and investment partners, and work towards financial self- sustainability;
- BSOs in the Mediterranean play a stronger role in public-private dialogue and in advocating the needs of their members;
- networking of Euro-Mediterranean organisations involved in trade and investment promotion for the private sector is facilitated and sustainable links with counterpart institutions in the EU are developed;

Activities under this component, at regional and sub-regional level, will encompass the organisation of workshops, annual conferences, short term technical assistance, training of Mediterranean trainers, information and results dissemination activities, design of sector strategies, studies and preparation of guidelines for sustainability aspects. Attention will be paid to include business support organisations representing female entrepreneurs. Efficient interfaces with the Enterprise Europe Network will be developed in order to maximise business linkages.

Component 2 – Social enterprises ecosystems

Activities under this component will support the development of social entrepreneurship policies and structures that are expected to have a significant impact in terms of job creation (in particular for youth and women) building on existing experiences (such as the European co-operative movement, the Euro-Mediterranean network of the Social Economy – ESMED, or MedESS, a multi-stakeholder initiative committed to the development of social economy in the Mediterranean), local economic development and economic diversification in the Mediterranean partner countries. A number of pilot - demonstration activities will contribute to social inclusion and poverty reduction. Priority will be given to projects developed and/or implemented by young and women social entrepreneurs, in particular in less developed territories/parts of the countries.

Main expected results:

- public private policy dialogue at national level is enriched through the contribution of BSOs active in the field of social entrepreneurship;
- the legal framework for developing social enterprises in Mediterranean partner countries is strengthened and conducive to their specific needs;
- a platform / regional network of existing social enterprises support structures (social enterprises clusters/incubators/accelerators) is set up and strengthened through capacity building activities; networking and partnerships with EU equivalent organisations are established;
- economic sustainability of a number of social enterprises is ensured through mentoring / coaching services delivered by social entrepreneurship support organisations and other relevant business support organisations;
- a number of promising initiatives at micro level are supported to demonstrate / showcase the potential of social entrepreneurship for inclusive growth and job creation;

Type of activities: networking and capacity building of social entrepreneurship support organisations, including social enterprises incubators/accelerators; improving traditional private sector intervention in the development of social enterprises; giving more visibility to social enterprises; optimising the legal environment through public – private dialogue and policy initiatives; connecting social enterprises with social investors and improving access to finance; priority sectors: agriculture/fisheries, housing, education, tourism, green economy/recycling, health and community-based social services.

Component 3 – Regional trade integration - AGADIR

The activities under this component will support the consolidation of the institutional framework set up under the Agadir Agreement for establishing a Free Trade Area, including the sustainability and credibility of the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU) as an international body, having the necessary capacity to facilitate regional economic integration and to serve the trade development needs of government and private sector in Member Countries.

Main expected results:

- Agadir Technical Unit (ATU) technical, administrative and financial capabilities are enhanced to act as credible organisation and catalyst in the implementation of the Agadir Agreement integration agenda and work-plans(2017-2019);
- Regional trade facilitated/trade capacities of the Agadir Member Countries enhanced;
- Awareness and interest of the private sector to increase trade through the Agadir Agreement processes is raised.

The type of activities envisaged are: Organisation of regional workshops to implement the trade integration and national policy dialogue and networking (including with the business community): with exchange of experiences and peer-review and peer-learning mechanisms; Capacity-building and technical assistance to the ATU and trade experts from its member countries on trade facilitation issues (TBTs, standards / conformity assessment / mutual recognition procedures, rules of origin, intellectual property rights, services and investment, competition, dispute settlement, anti-dumping, diagnostic studies, policy analysis and recommendations to trade ministers); Monitoring and evaluation, data collection, visibility including development of communication tools to disseminate information (conferences, investors' guides, newsletters, brochures, etc.).

4.3 Intervention logic

Component 1 – Business to Business networking

The action will be implemented through a call for proposals.

Component 2 – Social enterprises ecosystems

The action will be implemented through a call for proposals including sub-granting activities to benefit pilot demonstration (cascading grants).

Component 3 – Support to trade integration

The action will be implemented through a grant awarded directly to the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU) who is the organisation responsible for the implementation of the Agadir Agreement and the facilitation of trade integration in the region. Sub-contracting of some activities (less than 25% of the total) for the provision of specialised expertise with a relevant international organisation (e.g. International Trade Centre) may be considered by ATU.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months for component 1 and 2, and 36 months for component 3.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1. Grants: call for proposals (direct management) – Component 1: Supporting Business Support organisations in the ENP South

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objectives of the call for proposals consist in supporting the development of quality Euro-Mediterranean business networks including the provision of providing adequate support and linkage services for mSMEs, in a variety of promising sectors at regional or sub regional level.

Main expected results are the following: regional sector strategies targeted in sectors with a high potential for growth and employment creation; sectoral matchmaking meetings between specialists of the Mediterranean sector business and employers' associations, companies and their counterparts in the EU and intra-Mediterranean organised; enhanced capacity of intermediary organisations to provide improved services towards their members as well as towards international trade and investment partners, and work towards financial self- sustainability; networking of Euro-Mediterranean organisations involved in trade and investment promotion for the private sector leading to sustainable links with counterpart institutions in the EU.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be legal persons, and

- be non-profit-making, and
- be specific types of organisations such as: non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international (inter-governmental) organisations as defined by Article 43 of the Implementing Rules to the EU Financial Regulation, and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or a country that is a beneficiary of the ENI Regulation, a country that is a beneficiary of an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance set up by Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 (IPA) or a Member State of the EEA, and
- *be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicants and affiliated entities, not acting as an intermediary.*

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

First quarter of the year 2017.

5.3.2 Grants: call for proposals (direct management) – Component 2: Support to social enterprise ecosystems in the ENP South

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objectives of the call for proposals are the development of initiatives in support of social entrepreneurship policies and structures that are targeted to have a significant impact in terms of job creation (in particular for youth and women), local economic development and economic diversification in the Mediterranean partner countries.

Main expected results are the following: a legal framework for developing social business in Mediterranean partner countries strengthened and conducive to the specific needs of social enterprises; a platform / regional network of existing social business support structures is set up and strengthened through capacity building activities; networking and partnerships with EU equivalent organisations are established; economic sustainability of a number (to be defined) of social businesses

is ensured through mentoring / coaching services delivered by social business support organisations and other relevant business support organisations;

(b) Eligibility conditions

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be legal persons, and
- be non-profit-making, and
- be specific types of organisations such as: non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international (inter-governmental) organisations as defined by Article 43 of the Implementing Rules to the EU Financial Regulation, and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or a country that is a beneficiary of the ENI Regulation, a country that is a beneficiary of an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance set up by Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 (IPA) or a Member State of the EEA, and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicants and affiliated entities, not acting as an intermediary.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 90% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

First quarter of the year 2017.

5.3.3 Grant: direct award (direct management) - Component 3 – Support to trade development in Southern Mediterranean through the Agadir Agreement trade integration agenda and work-plan (2017-2019)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of this grant is the consolidation of the institutional framework set up under the Agadir Agreement establishing a Mediterranean Free Trade Area, including the sustainability and credibility of the ATU as an international body,

having the necessary capacity to facilitate regional economic integration and to serve the trade development needs of government and private sector in Member Countries.

The main activities will encompass the financing of ATU capacity expertise, provision of short-term technical assistance, training, design of sector strategies, studies and preparation of guidelines, procedures and manuals related to trade facilitation, technical harmonisation and the promotion of trade and investment. Other activities will include the organisation of workshops and conferences, facilitation of participation of delegates to these events, dissemination of information on trade and investment opportunities offered by the Agadir Agreement in particular to the private sector.

Main expected results are the following: Agadir Technical Unit (ATU) technical, administrative and financial capabilities are enhanced to act as credible organisation and catalyst in the implementation of the Agadir Agreement integration agenda and work-plans (2017-2019); Regional trade facilitated/trade capacities of the Agadir Member Countries enhanced; Awareness and interest of the private sector to increase trade through the Agadir Agreement processes is raised.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU) – which is the international organisation established by the Agadir Agreement. Sub-contracting of some activities (less than 25% of the total) for the provision of specialised expertise with a relevant international organisation (e.g. International Trade Centre) may be considered by ATU.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Art 190 (c) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the beneficiary is in a legal or factual monopoly situation in relation to the objective pursued by the EU grant or is identified as beneficiary in the basic act on which this Decision is based.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevant of the proposed action to the objectives set up for component 3: design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Fourth quarter of the year 2016.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 1: Business to Business networking	5,000,000	1,250,000
5.3.2 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 2: Social business	5,000,000	550,000
5.3.3 – Direct grant (direct management) – Component 3: Regional trade development - AGADIR	4,000,000	1,000,000
Totals	14,000,000	2,800,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by Commission services (Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant in close co-operation with other Commission services and other relevant stakeholders. For each component, in cases where a Steering Committee is created, the participation of relevant Commission services is foreseen.

5.7 Performance 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 beneficiaries responsibilities. To this aim, the beneficiaries 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) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and

of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, an ex-post evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that these are innovative approaches.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The beneficiaries and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, 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 shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9 Audit

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective Impact	The main objective of the Action is to promote job creation in the formal economy, economic development and inclusiveness in Southern Mediterranean partner countries	Increase in trade and economic growth, and related employment opportunities in the formal economy, in particular for women and the youth	ECFIN, Eurostat, ETF reports WB, UN reports			

Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<p>1. The objective of this component is to enhance business support organisations and increase business linkages, in particular with EU counterparts to create economic opportunities at international level</p>	<p>Number of business partnerships initiated by the project Number of companies participating in matchmaking events Increased market access for target companies Involvement of BSOs in policy dialogue at national level.</p>	<p>Identification report/ Inception phase</p> <p>BSOs and private sector surveys</p>	<p>Identification report/ Inception report</p>	<p>Progress reports from implementing partner ROM and evaluation report</p>	<p>Partner countries are willing to reach a higher degree of co-operation within the region and with EU.</p>
	<p>2. The objective of this component is to strengthen social business ecosystems and relevant institutional stakeholders in view of economic inclusiveness and job creation at local level</p>	<p>Number of legislative proposals conducive to social business Improved awareness of policy makers of the potential for Social Business development. Regional platform of support structures established Number of new social enterprises initiatives economically viable Number of social enterprises connected to incubators/ accelerators/business angels.</p>	<p>Identification report/ Inception phase</p> <p>CSOs surveys</p>	<p>Identification report/ Inception report</p>	<p>Progress reports from implementing partner ROM and evaluation report</p>	<p>Partner countries will ensure sustainability and durability to the respective projects by making available the necessary human, financial and material resources</p>
	<p>3. The objective of this component is to create new trade and investment opportunities for the private sector in Agadir member countries, thus contributing to economic development in the region. Support is focused on trade development and economic integration in the Southern Mediterranean through the implementation of the Agadir Agreement, as a milestone towards the realisation of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area</p>	<p>Number of harmonised regulations and trade facilitation procedures / liberalisation in sectors which open new intra-trade opportunities. Increase in the volume and number of products/ services exchanged. Reduction of time of products in customs. Improved awareness of the trade opportunities by the private sector</p>	<p>Inception report of the ATU and Agadir Ministers Strategic Roadmap 2017-2020</p> <p>BSOs and private sector surveys.</p>	<p>Identification report/ Inception report</p>	<p>ATU Progress reports ROM and evaluation report</p>	

Outputs	To be proposed by the selected application grant in the respective 'Call for Proposals' (Components 1 and 2) or defined during Inception phase with partner countries and implementing organisation (Component 3)					
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