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ANNEX 1

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2023 Part 3

Action Document for Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia, Hong Kong/Macao, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

<p>1. Title</p> <p>CRIS/OPSYS business reference</p> <p>Basic Act</p>	<p>Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia, Hong Kong/Macao, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan</p> <p>OPSYS number: ACT-62186</p> <p>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe).</p>
<p>2. Team Europe Initiative</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3. Zone benefiting from the action</p>	<p>The action shall be carried out in Australia, Hong Kong (and Macao), New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan</p>
<p>4. Programming document</p>	<p>Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme Asia and the Pacific 2021 – 2027</p>
<p>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</p>	<p>Priority Area 2: Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners</p> <p><i>2.2.4. Pursuing EU Interests with Asian partners in Asia and the Pacific (High Income Countries and other key partners)</i></p> <p>SO 1 – Reinforced cooperation with the EU’s partners in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen multilateralism (partnerships for multilateralism) by effectively implementing the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and enhance the EU’s role and profile as a global actor in Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>SO 2 – Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards in collaboration and alliance with Asian and Australasian HICs (alliance diplomacy)</p> <p>SO 3 – Economic diplomacy: FTAs, level playing field, market access, investment promotion and protection, business opportunities</p> <p>SO 4 – Supporting key political processes, tools and objectives (Good Governance, PCAs, SPAs, Connectivity Partnerships) between the EU and Asian partners</p> <p><u>Expected Results</u></p>

	<p>ER 1.1: Effective policy dialogues on global and regional challenges, increased cooperation on rules-based multilateral order and governance and enhanced EU participation in Asian multilateral organisations leading to improved understanding, appreciation and alignment with EU positions, including on the European Green Deal.</p> <p>ER 1.2: Expanded and reinforced peace and security cooperation with like-minded partners, responding to the demand by the EU's partners for greater engagement on security, including cyber security, maritime security, violent extremism, counter terrorism, hybrid threats and cybercrime, and on security sector reform in Indo-Pacific region.</p> <p>ER 1.3: Reinforced mechanisms of conflict prevention, early warning and peacebuilding through mediation and dialogue, crisis management, and stabilisation and post-conflict reconstruction, in line with the women, peace and security agenda.</p> <p>ER 1.4: Strengthened recognition of the EU in the Asia-Pacific as a value-based global actor and standard-setter across the whole spectrum of EU policies, through public diplomacy action.</p> <p>ER 1.5: Stronger engagement with and greater mobilisation of networks of key target audiences and potential partners in the Asia-Pacific such as youth, academics, influencers (e.g., media, think tanks, business community), civil society and cultural actors.</p> <p>ER 2.1: Improved digital and regulatory convergence facilitating the global flow of data, data protection and security, including on network security, digital communication supply chains, protection of critical infrastructure, and roll-out of 5G on the basis of global standards.</p> <p>ER 2.2: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.</p> <p>ER 3.1: Effective implementation of trade and investment agreements, including successful negotiations and enhanced cooperation on norms, regulations, standards and interoperability and the effective implementation of commitments by the Parties to adhere to international labour and environmental conventions.</p> <p>ER 3.2: Enhanced market access (including agreements on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary conditions), improved business cooperation and partnerships (B2B), in particular SMEs, and a level playing field and fair and equal treatment for European businesses leading to improved competitiveness of EU business in Asia, as well as enhanced capacities of European business organisations.</p> <p>ER 3.3: Increased inward FDI.</p> <p>ER 3.4: Convergence on SPS, raw materials, international labour standards, intellectual property rights, competition, (green) procurement and WTO-related actions.</p> <p>ER 3.5: Reinforced applied research and innovation¹.</p> <p>ER 3.6: Sustainable and resilient supply chains and sustainable food systems, as well as the promotion of decent work.</p> <p>ER 4.1: Initiation and successful conclusions of negotiation processes.</p> <p>ER 4.2: Effective implementation of the EU Global Gateway.</p>
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners

¹ In line with the Global Approach to Research and Innovation Communication.

	Multi-sector			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal Other significant SDGs: SDG 5 – Gender equality; SDG 8 – Sustainable economic growth and decent work; SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 11 – Sustainable cities; SDG 12 – Sustainable consumption and production; SDG 13 – Climate action; SDG 14 – Sustainable use of marine resources			
8 a) DAC code(s)	99810 – Sectors not specified			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	60000 - Private sector institution (Priority 1-4) 20000 - Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society (Priority 5)			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tags: digital connectivity digital governance		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	/

	digital entrepreneurship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tags:	YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 01 31 South and East Asia (EUR 3 000 000) Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 01 32 The Pacific (EUR 3 000 000) Total estimated cost: EUR 6 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 6 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

By fully integrating and respecting the principles set out in the Joint Communication on the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific², this Action seeks to enable the EU to address the short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities in and with Australia, Hong Kong (and Macao), New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan by deepening bilateral relations and dialogues, and by forging alliances and partnerships through public-, economic-, and cultural diplomacy tools, primarily in the fields of multilateralism and international rules-based order, trade and business relations, green policies, digital policies, cultural affairs, civil society, human rights, including labour rights, and other relevant sectors in which policy dialogues with targeted countries/territories are ongoing, planned, or have the potential to be further explored. Whenever relevant, the action will also seek synergies with and promote any interventions supported under the EU's Global Gateway initiative³.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Priority 1 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/jointcommunication_2021_24_1_en.pdf

³ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en

The EU and Australia are like-minded partners, sharing a strong commitment to upholding and promoting the rules-based international order, peaceful resolution of conflicts, open markets, democracy, human rights and rule of law. While not without friction in the past, relations with the EU have been on an upward trajectory in recent years. The Framework Agreement between Australia and the EU, which was agreed since 2017, finally came into force in 2022. The Anthony Albanese government, which came into power in May 2022, has shown more affinity towards the EU and quickly affirmed its commitment to pursuing cooperation with the EU on various joint priorities at the Australia-EU Leaders' meeting in November 2022 together with the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen.

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation with Australia is also forging ahead, after some delays over the tension caused by the cancellation of the submarine contract between Australia and France in 2021. Such global headlines, as well as the historical relationship with the UK, however, mislead many, including in Australia, to underestimate the strong ties, including economic ones, that remain between the EU and Australia. This highlights the need to strengthen the EU's overall engagement and visibility in the country going forward, in particular as partners within the Indo-Pacific context.

Priority 2 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Hong Kong⁴:

Since Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997, the EU has closely followed political, social and economic developments in the territory. Recent years have been characterised by increasingly restricted political freedoms, implementation of the National Security Law, the electoral overhaul, shrinking rights and freedoms although in theory guaranteed by Hong Kong's Basic law (press freedom, freedom of speech, of association, and more), and by the disappearance of the political opposition. Many pro-democracy civil society groups have disbanded, and a number of trials of prominent politicians and activists under the national security law and the sedition law are ongoing, highlighting the deterioration of rule of law. Hong Kong is also home to more than 13,000 refugees and several hundred thousand of migrant domestic helpers that are often a victim of discrimination or labour rights violations. The erosion of Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy has rapidly accelerated, and the integration of the territory into mainland China has progressed in political areas, while the economic sphere so far has remained less impacted. Similar trends are observed in Macao. The deterioration of the situation in Hong Kong was also discussed on several occasions at the EU's Foreign Affairs Council.

Hong Kong is the world's 3rd largest investment destination and the 5th largest trading economy. With the presence of over 1,600 EU companies, the EU remains the largest non-Chinese business community in Hong Kong. The EU was Hong Kong's 3rd largest trading partner in goods in 2021, after mainland China and Taiwan. Hong Kong also continues to exercise independent authority in implementing commercial agreements, setting a monetary policy autonomously from mainland China and participating separately in its own right in many international organisations and multilateral entities, including the FATF, and the WTO. Hong Kong also remained a separate legal jurisdiction from mainland China. In terms of finance, Hong Kong remains among the largest capital markets in the world, aiming at increasing its role in green finance and environmental, social and corporate governance. Key environmental legislation (waste management, animal trafficking) was adopted in 2021. Hong Kong's climate action plan set the target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050; the plan envisages a 50% cut in carbon emissions before 2035 compared to the 2005 levels and an interim target to stop using coal for daily generation of electricity by 2035.

As the pandemic restrictions are over, the EU Office gradually restarted public outreach and engagement with the local community, organising people-to-people activities such as cultural events, meetings with civil society (in particular the LGBTIQ+ community), and on student mobility. The annual EU-Hong Kong Structured Dialogue has not taken place since 2019, whereas sectoral exchanges continue. Dialogue is especially focusing on EU or international interests and/or on where the impact of such dialogue is contributing to a larger (geographical) area, notably in the areas of the environment and climate change (with a number of high-level successful events under previous actions), finance, taxation and regulatory issues.

Priority 3 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for New Zealand

The EU and New Zealand are like-minded partners, sharing a strong commitment to upholding and promoting the rules-based international order, peaceful resolution of conflicts, open markets, democracy, human rights and rule of law. The EU's bilateral relations with New Zealand have been guided by the Partnership Agreement on

⁴ While the facility is primarily dedicated for Hong Kong, opportunities for minor engagement with Macao will be considered, as relevant.

Relations and Cooperation (PARC), which was signed in October 2016 and entered into force in July 2022. The EU and New Zealand engage in a regular political dialogue, including frequent consultations at ministerial, senior officials' and parliamentary levels. There are also numerous sectoral dialogues, including on science, agriculture, ocean governance and fisheries, human rights, development, and consular. These promote greater and smoother trade, cooperation and exchanges of ideas.

Over the last few years, EU-New Zealand relations have grown progressively dynamic and productive, most notably with the conclusion of negotiations on a modern green and inclusive FTA in June 2022, with the Agreement due to be signed in mid-2023 and foreseen to enter into force within 2024. The EU has a strategic interest in seeing the EU economy reap the full potential of the benefits flowing from the FTA. This requires effective implementation of the FTA and the promotion of the related new opportunities the FTA will open for EU businesses. It is particularly important to ensure delivery on commitments in some crucial new areas for EU trade policy: the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter, the Sustainable Food Systems chapter and the Māori Trade and Economic Cooperation chapter.

Additionally, the EU and New Zealand concluded negotiations on New Zealand's association to the Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation in 2022, which will allow researchers in New Zealand to participate in the programme and apply for research grants on equal terms with candidates in the EU. At a meeting between Commission President von der Leyen and then Prime Minister Ardern in June 2022, the EU and New Zealand moreover agreed to step up their cooperation on climate and agriculture. New Zealand has welcomed the EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

There is thus scope for continued, concrete activities around policy dialogue and public diplomacy, not only related to future FTA implementation and trade, but also other areas of mutual interest such as climate diplomacy and sustainable development, notably in the Pacific, amongst others.

Priority 4 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Singapore

Singapore is an important and likeminded partner for the EU due to its geopolitical and strategic location, its highly developed economy, and its emerging role in the international arena, including the UN and ASEAN. It shares the EU values for a rules-based global order and open and fair markets. Singapore supports platforms that allow small states to discuss and foster common positions on issues of mutual concern, thereby giving them a bigger voice in the United Nations. In 1992, Singapore established an informal and non-ideological grouping of small states in the United Nations in New York known as the Forum of Small States (FOSS), which it has been chairing ever since. In 2009, Singapore set up another informal grouping of 30 small- and medium-sized members of the UN: the Global Governance Group (3G). Furthermore, it is an active member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Singapore is the economic, commercial and strategic entry point into Southeast Asia, a trade and investment and transport hub, trendsetter, and political and economic influencer in ASEAN. Due to its strong relations with countries in the wider region (India, China, Japan, Australia), it also has importance for the EU's leverage and partnerships in Indo-Pacific region.

Bilaterally, with the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that entered into force in November 2019 and the signed Investment Promotion Agreement (IPA) in October 2018, there are increased market access opportunities for EU businesses in the city-state, including the 12,000 European companies based there. Overall, Singapore is the EU's 14th biggest trading partner in goods and its fourth biggest trading partner in services. Similarly, and in anticipation of its full ratification, the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in October 2018 provides for deepened engagement between the EU and Singapore on shared interests and challenges, including on environment, climate change, and security. Recently, the signature of the EU-Singapore Digital Partnership affirmed the interest to increase digital connectivity and harness technology for sustainable development and shared prosperity.

For the EU, and given similar targets for a net-zero, digital and resilient society, deepening exchanges and highlighting the value of the EU-Singapore partnership can contribute to further improving connectivity with Asia. There is thus scope to expand and consolidate current policy outreach and to further involve Singaporean stakeholders in public diplomacy actions with the EU.

Priority 5 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Engagement for Taiwan

As a vibrant Chinese-speaking democracy, Taiwan is a key partner in the context of the EU Indo-Pacific strategic approach and the EU's increased geopolitical interest in the region. The EU and Taiwan share common values, such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights, multilateralism and the upholding of the rules-based international order. In line with the EU's One China Policy, the EU and Taiwan enjoy a close trade and economic partnership. The EU is Taiwan's largest foreign investor. In 2020, Taiwan became the EU's 14th trading partner in the world, and it is a key player in the global value-added chains.

Taiwan's democracy, already a model for the region, can further benefit from the strengthening of its human rights institutions, the promotion of an independent and critical press and further exposure to EU policies, practices, and values. Taiwan is also on its way to become a key partner for the EU in the fight against disinformation and foreign influencing campaigns.

Important policy areas of mutual interest to the EU and Taiwan include disinformation, decent work including migrant labour, as well as human rights including the abolition of the death penalty. While Taiwan has a flourishing civil society space, capacities to participate and drive policy and regulatory dialogues are not always robust.

As pandemic restrictions are over, there is an increasing appetite for people-to-people exchanges and in-person events organised by civil society to build capacities and enhance civil society engagement. Therefore, there is a unique opportunity for the EU to engage in public diplomacy to advance EU priorities and interests through the support for and engagement and exchange with local civil society.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Priority 1 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia

While Australia has long been seen as a trusted ally and already identified as one of the EU's key partners in the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy adopted since 2021 – despite ongoing official dialogues and FTA negotiations – there remains a gap in the realization of potential synergies both at the bilateral and multilateral level.

Beyond the emphasis on economic partnerships such as the ongoing FTA negotiations, which should soon conclude and will require continued support on its promotion and implementation, there is eagerness to highlight the cultural links between the EU and Australia, to assert the EU not only as an important trade partner, but also a cultural superpower with shared values. A facility to carry out public diplomacy activities as well as support and project EU policies is the right tool to furthering relations and drive political and thematic priorities in a flexible manner.

Priority 2 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Hong Kong⁵:

Despite the deteriorating political environment and rule of law in Hong Kong, further EU investment in multi-sectoral engagement is required in key domains for EU-Hong Kong cooperation, not least because of considerable EU business interests in Hong Kong. Continuing and enhancing multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement is needed for maintaining open channels of communication with key counterparts, and to help operationalize engagement at the people-to-people level.

At the same time, the perception of the EU is to be strengthened as a global standard-setting champion and a reliable counterpart. EU interests are to be also pursued through engagement aimed at strengthened regulatory collaboration in the sectors of strategic relevance for the EU, and in support of economic diplomacy. Interventions supporting policy dialogue and public-/economic- diplomacy outreach will seek to strengthen sectoral engagement through mobilisation of key relevant stakeholders on topics of mutual interest, including to identify areas where potential lies for further enhancing of bilateral ties.

Among the targeted thematic areas foreseen are trade policy, climate change and carbon neutrality, environment protection (waste management), green procurement/finance/business/transport, resource efficiency, circular economy, sustainable urbanization, fight against human trafficking, anti-discrimination, human rights, vocational training, customs cooperation, IPR, connectivity (e.g. aviation, shipping, logistics), anti-money laundering, financing of terrorism, protection of multilateralism and WTO reform, CSR/decent work, and others.

⁵ While the facility is primarily dedicated for Hong Kong, opportunities for minor engagement with Macao will be considered, as relevant.

In this new context, the EU wants to find new ways to engage with and to support civil society, and to promote EU values and policies. Particular attention will be paid to strengthening people-to-people ties by supporting exchanges with civil society, independent media, academic institutions, and with students.

Priority 3 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for New Zealand

Building on a strong foundation of like-mindedness and shared values, as well as the impetus from the recently concluded FTA negotiations and the need for further support in its promotion and implementation, the EU foresees opportunities to expand to new target stakeholders for public diplomacy efforts, and further exchange on diverse policy areas with actors from various sectors.

There is a need to ensure continuous proactive engagement to socialize the EU in New Zealand, to support the implementation of the FTA especially from 2024 onwards, promote increased research cooperation as well as wider policy dialogue in a broad range of policies of mutual interest.

Therefore, a facility will enable the EU to continue its engagement on existing priorities such as youth engagement, climate diplomacy and trade promotion, while exploring and expanding its engagement with new stakeholders on diverse topics.

Priority 4 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Singapore

Singapore has affirmed its foreign policy objectives to ensure independence from other countries whilst nurturing good relations with as many nations as possible, including its influence in ASEAN. As a key economic and political partner, which largely shares the EU objectives to uphold international law, rules-based multilateralism, and the peaceful resolution of disputes, deepening cooperation and building mutual understanding with the EU is key – including towards other Southeast Asian nations and within the wider EU partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

Furthermore, with the growing US-China competition, leveraging the positive implementation of the EU-Singapore FTA, achieving the potential to innovate and develop through exchanges and joint objectives contained in the PCA and the bilateral Digital Partnership, and enhancing joint goals for green, digital, and sustainable societies will be important. As the EU takes global leadership through the Green Deal, explaining their importance for the future bilateral cooperation will be key.

In addition, consolidating the public diplomacy engagement of the EU with Singaporean stakeholders and audiences will allow to further build recognition and trust in the EU as a solid, valid and reliable partner, whilst promoting the understanding of EU values and principles, the importance of inclusion, and the respect for Human Rights. Therefore, this facility will be key to further explain, reach out and build alliances and technical exchanges that are key for the EU's relations with and through Singapore.

Priority 5 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Taiwan

Building upon connections, relationships and insights developed under the ongoing EU-Taiwan Engagement Support Facility, there is a distinct opportunity to promote the EU's role in Taiwan by supporting civil society to enhance their capacities to engage actively in policy and regulatory dialogues. In continuation of the results of the Facility, a next step in EU-Taiwan engagement is direct support to civil society in policy areas of mutual interest and importance to the EU and Taiwan, including disinformation, decent work including migrant labour, as well as human rights including the abolition of the death penalty.

The direct support for activities to promote EU priorities and values and to conduct meaningful people-to-people exchanges between the EU and Taiwan will facilitate progress of the EU global and bilateral agenda, especially with regards to the EU's role as a global actor and strong EU support for the rules-based multilateral global order. Raising the profile of the EU through support to civil society will not only enhance the impact of EU action on the issues detailed above, but also strengthen the EU's role as a global actor in Taiwan and throughout the region, thereby supporting EU Strategic Autonomy.

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

Priority 1 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia: Commonwealth and local government, private sector and businesses, academia, students, civil society organisations, cultural institutes, think tanks, trade associations, EU Member States and Chambers of Commerce.

Priority 2 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Hong Kong: local authorities, private sector and businesses, civil society organisations, academia, students, local cultural platforms and groups, think tanks, EU Member States and Chambers of Commerce. In addition, HK is (still) host to many international stakeholders operating from Hong Kong.

Priority 3 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for New Zealand: Government, private sector and businesses, academia, students, civil society organisations, cultural institutes, think tanks, trade associations, EU Member States and Chambers of Commerce.

Priority 4 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Singapore: Government, private sector and businesses, academia, students, civil society organisations, cultural institutes, think tanks, trade associations, EU Member States and Chambers of Commerce.

Priority 5 - Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Taiwan: civil society organisations, Taiwan authorities, academia, young (students in particular), private sector and businesses, cultural institutes, think tanks, trade associations, EU Member States and Chambers of Commerce.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy goals and opportunities, in particular in/with Australia, Hong Kong (and Macao), New Zealand, Singapore, and Taiwan, by deepening EU relations and dialogues, and by forging alliances and partnerships, through enhanced engagement.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) of this action are to:

1. Support multi-stakeholder EU-Australia dialogues through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations;
2. Support multi-stakeholder EU-Hong Kong (and Macao) dialogues through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations;
3. Support multi-stakeholder EU-New Zealand dialogues through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations;
4. Support multi-stakeholder EU-Singapore dialogues through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations;
5. Support multi-stakeholder EU-Taiwan dialogues through support to civil society for further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

1.1 contributing to Specific Objective 1: Dialogues and partnerships between the EU and Australia and wider understanding and awareness of the EU's role as a global player are promoted in domains of mutual interest with Australia, particularly on trade, culture, security, and climate change.

2.1 contributing to Specific Objective 2: EU-Hong Kong dialogue and public- and economic-diplomacy outreach supported with the aim to strengthen cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders, including through people-to-people engagement, on topics of mutual interest and by identifying areas with potential for further enhancement of bilateral ties.

3.1 contributing to Specific Objective 3: Dialogues and partnerships between the EU and New Zealand, and wider understanding and awareness of the EU's role as a global player promoted in domains of mutual interest with New Zealand, particularly on trade, youth engagement, and climate change.

4.1 contributing to Specific Objective 4: Enhance and consolidate EU-Singapore engagement, dialogue, and public and economic diplomacy outreach through engagement and exchanges with relevant public, private and civil society stakeholders, on EU strategic objectives and areas of mutual interests.

5.1 contributing to Specific Objective 5: EU-Taiwan engagement, dialogue and public diplomacy outreach through engagement and exchanges with local civil society with an aim to strengthen cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders on topics of mutual interest.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities are indicative and the list is not exhaustive:

Activities relating to Output 1.1: organisation of events, technical cooperation, production of policy briefs, preparation of communication material, academic and think tank exchanges, cultural/media activities, etc

Activities relating to Output 2.1: organisation of events, technical cooperation, production of policy briefs, preparation of communication material, human rights-promoting measures, civil society-, academic- and think tank exchanges, cultural/media activities, etc

Activities relating to Output 3.1: organisation of events, technical cooperation, production of policy briefs, preparation of communication material, academic and think tank exchanges, cultural/media activities, study visits, etc

Activities relating to Output 4.1: organisation of events, technical cooperation, production of policy briefs, preparation of communication material, academic and think tank exchanges, cultural/media activities, study visits, etc

Activities relating to Output 5.1: Activities implemented by civil society are foreseen to consist of events, people-to-people exchanges and visits, technical cooperation, dialogues and exchanges, trainings and workshops, development of knowledge products and communication materials, etc

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

By engaging with relevant audiences in support of finding common understanding on key climate and environmental issues, the action will systematically integrate messages to promote climate action and engagement on environmental protection, in line with the EU's environment and climate diplomacy priorities.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the programme. The action will promote participation and inclusion of women stakeholders in activities on the ground, proactively seek to enhance understanding of EU gender policies, and promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment.

Human Rights

Respect for human rights is a fundamental value of the European Union. This action will accommodate the most pertaining issues of relevance to respective dialogues, including in relation to diversity, non-discrimination, women's rights, freedom of expression, etc., and to promote the EU's human rights policies.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action does not have a thematic focus on disability. However, the European Union recognises and respects the right of

persons with disabilities. The Commission is committed to making project information and activities as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users and participants, including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities.

Reduction of inequalities

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Democracy

The action will work towards common understanding on the importance of democratic governance, seek engagement with democratic institutions in the targeted countries/territories, and work to promote the principles of an international rule-based order, multilateralism, EU’s democratic principles, and mechanisms of governance.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Disaster Risk Reduction

This cross-cutting issue is not applicable for the proposed action.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Irritants coming from political developments that negatively affect EU relations with the targeted countries/ territories. External environment	Risk 1	M	H	Careful monitoring of political relations, continuous engagement with main stakeholders and diversification of interlocutors/partners, constant identification of less sensitive topics of mutual interest that could be explored.
Planning and systems	Limited budget and medium-term nature of interventions compared to the multi-sectoral needs to be addressed.	M	M	Prioritisation of needs in the medium term and parallel planning of additional targeted actions, as needed.

People and the organisation	Inability to work with specific local stakeholders, given the challenging political and security environment.	M	M	Constant engagement in identification of possible alternative local partners and on different means of engagement.
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Lessons Learnt:

Australia: There is a need for support to policy dialogues and public diplomacy activities in Australia to be more flexible and nimbler, as previously this has been overly prescriptive, when there should be room to more concretely explore different topics and areas of connection. Particularly, there has been heavy emphasis on trade relations, which while important, has overshadowed the EU’s strong position as a global cultural power, with clear but often overlooked ties with Australia. There is also a need to work more closely with partners and service providers based in Australia who has local insights, connections, and knowledge of cultural sensitivities to ensure the EU’s approach and communication reaches more audiences effectively. Hence, a Call for Tenders where local companies or institutions can participate will be key going forward.

Hong Kong: While faced with deteriorating rule of law in Hong Kong, the ongoing EU-Hong Kong Engagement Support Facility allows the EU to continue strengthening cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders on topics of mutual interest and on areas where potential lies for further bilateral engagement. The events organized under this facility pique the interest of senior local officials, private sector, academia, and students, indicating interest in exchanges on matters of mutual interest. As policy dialogue-focused activities require close EU steer and clearance, continuing and regular liaison with the EU Office on the topics in which to invest resources remains a necessity. In order to address the needs and pursue strategic EU interests in key areas, the new action is foreseen to extend beyond event organisation also towards mobilisation of technical advisory cooperation, production of policy briefs, preparation of communication material, human rights-promoting measures, civil society-, academic- and think tank exchanges, cultural/media activities, and similar. The ongoing project shows that having the capacity on the ground (in Hong Kong) is crucial for success as are dealing with stakeholders and understanding of the local (business) environment.

New Zealand: Building on the momentum created by the conclusion of negotiations for the FTA and the association of New Zealand to Horizon Europe as the first partner outside of the EU’s neighbourhood, there is scope for broadening the EU’s partnership with New Zealand. Beyond public diplomacy around the implementation of the FTA following its entry into force in 2024, New Zealand’s role as member of the Pacific Islands Forum and as gateway to the (South) Pacific further burnishes its importance as a partner in the Indo-Pacific in the context of the EU’s strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The EU’s successful experience working with universities to engage local youths in Model EU simulations and facilitate discussion with youths in Europe have suggested the EU should expand its engagement with academic institutions, and intentionally target various segments of society beyond government and policymakers. In addition, the Delegation’s engagement with the indigenous Māori community has been well received, and this should continue systematically in all future endeavours. There is also a need to work more closely with partners and service providers based in New Zealand who have local insights, connections, and knowledge of cultural sensitivities to ensure the EU’s approach and communication reaches more audiences effectively. Hence, a Call for Tenders where local companies or institutions can participate will be key going forward.

Singapore: Involving key stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society requires flexible approaches. The ongoing PCA Facility has shown the need to build specialised, targeted and concrete dialogues, events, and smaller actions that allow partners to discuss and exchange knowledge. This helps mutual understanding and building trust between institutions and individuals, which can then be strengthened and followed up bilaterally. The Facility should also be seen as a platform for European Commission services to explain EU policies that have an international dimension or impact, in particular for trade and foreign relations. In this regard, the Facility could activate the partnership with Singapore to inform and exchange with other key stakeholders from ASEAN and ensure a wider positive resonance for certain issues (e.g., foreign subsidies, multilateralism, vaccines, pandemic preparedness etc.).

Furthermore, the work under this facility should have as an objective to consolidate the successful EU cultural diplomacy and outreach in Singapore, towards the general public, high school and university students.

Taiwan: The ongoing EU-Taiwan Engagement Support Facility is piloting exchanges and engagement with local civil society organisations in Taiwan around key fields of interest to both the EU and Taiwan, notably through event organisation, visits and campaigns. The Facility has proven useful to assess capacities of various civil society stakeholders, as well as needs and challenges local organisations face. The Facility also provides insight regarding the best approaches for the thematic priorities and areas of interest. In order to enhance the impact of EU action, the new engagement is foreseen to extend beyond event organisation to direct implementation through a call for proposals and awarding grants to be implemented by local civil society organisations directly. While it is expected for grants implemented by local organisations to require support to build capacities, this implementation modality is more suited to promoting the EU's role, priorities and values in Taiwan with stronger, more meaningful and longer-lasting impact.

Further to the country-specific lessons learnt in the past projects that will be accommodated in the new action, any future interventions will also need to ensure regular exchanges, sharing of best practices, and coordination in terms of messaging with the other ongoing EU-funded policy dialogue- and public diplomacy-supporting initiatives in the region with the purpose of ensuring a coherent narrative aligned with the key strategic priorities of the EU vis-à-vis the region.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that continuing operational engagement in/with counterparts in Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan is primarily in the EU's strategic interest if we are to actively pursue our foreign policy agenda and step up strategic engagement in/with the region, as called for by the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. This action – which targets some of the closest likeminded partners and important economies for the EU in the region and seeks to continue supporting exchanges with our key partners on joint values, global governance and global challenges - builds on the lessons learnt from preceding short-term interventions funded by the Foreign Policy Needs under NDICI – Global Europe that already identified key areas in which mutual interest exists for the further enhancement of bilateral relations. The proposed action will engage on a range of files targeting several audiences on a long-term perspective, while taking into account a series of cross-cutting issues.

Assuming that mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral relations in key priority areas, and openness towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence, the action support to dialogue and public-/economic-diplomacy outreach can result in tangibly strengthened cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders in all targeted countries/territories, including through people-to-people engagement, on the most strategic topics of mutual interest and by identifying areas with potential for further enhancement of bilateral ties.

If the expected set of outputs are delivered, this can contribute to deepened multi-stakeholder dialogues with key audiences in the targeted countries/territories, and further policy engagement and outreach in key domains for the bilateral relations.

If these outcomes can be achieved and the corresponding assumptions materialise, the EU's short and medium-term foreign policy goals in the region can be easier achieved through deepened relations and dialogues, forged alliances and partnerships, and enhanced multi-sectoral engagement.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

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

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

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy goals and opportunities, in particular in/with Australia, Hong Kong (and Macao), New Zealand, Singapore, and Taiwan, by deepening EU relations and dialogues, and by forging alliances and partnerships, through enhanced engagement.	1- Number of approaches and/or practices beneficial to the achievement of EU interests, values and standards which have been taken up in third countries.	1 - 0	1 - 5	1 - Official statements from bilateral dialogues/ summits	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	1 Multi-stakeholder EU-Australia dialogues supported through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations	1.1 - Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced 1.2 - Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up, or during, regional/ international fora which have been influenced	1.1 - 0 1.2 - 0	1.1 - 1 1.2 - 2	1.1 - Relevant sectoral studies, surveys and reports 1.2 - Official statements from international fora	Mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral relations in key priority areas. Openness exists towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence.
Outcome 2	2 Multi-stakeholder EU-Hong Kong (and Macao) dialogues supported through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations	2.1 - Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced 2.2 - Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up, or during, regional/ international fora which have been influenced	2.1 - 0 2.2 - 0	2.1 - 1 2.2 - 2	2.1 - Relevant sectoral studies, surveys and reports 2.2 - Official statements from international fora	Mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral relations in key priority areas. Openness exists towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence.
Outcome 3	3 Multi-stakeholder EU-New Zealand dialogues supported through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations	3.1 - Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced	3.1 - 0 3.2 - 0	3.1 - 1 3.2 - 2	3.1 - Relevant sectoral studies, surveys and reports	Mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral

		3.2 - Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up, or during, regional/ international fora which have been influenced			3.2 - Official statements from international fora	relations in key priority areas. Openness exists towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence.
Outcome 4	4 Multi-stakeholder EU-Singapore dialogues supported through further engagement and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations	4.1 - Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced 4.2 - Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up, or during, regional/ international fora which have been influenced	4.1 - 0 4.2 - 0	4.1 - 1 4.2 - 2	4.1 - Relevant sectoral studies, surveys and reports 4.2 - Official statements from international fora	Mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral relations in key priority areas. Openness exists towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence.
Outcome 5	5 Multi-stakeholder EU-Taiwan dialogues and engagement supported through support to civil society and outreach in key domains for bilateral relations	5.1 - Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced 5.2 - Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up, or during, regional/ international fora which have been influenced	5.1 - 0 5.2 - 0	5.1 - 1 5.2 - 2	5.1 - Relevant sectoral studies, surveys and reports 5.2 - Official statements from international fora	Mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral relations in key priority areas. Openness exists towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Wider understanding and awareness of the EU's role as a global player promoted in domains of mutual interest with Australia, particularly on trade, culture, security, and climate change.	2.1.1 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events 2.1.2 - Number of events organised or supported	2.1.1 - 0 2.1.2 - 0	2.1.1 - TBD 2.1.2 - TBD	2.1.1 – Project reports, media monitoring 2.1.2 – Project records	Commitment exists on both sides to strengthen bilateral relations with tangible outcomes. Both parties are keen on identifying and exploring additional sectors in

						which the partnership/relations could be enhanced.
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 EU-Hong Kong dialogue and public- and economic-diplomacy outreach supported with the aim to strengthen cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders, including through people-to-people engagement, on topics of mutual interest and by identifying areas with potential for further enhancement of bilateral ties.	2.1.1 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events 2.1.2 - Number of events organised or supported	2.1.1 - 0 2.1.2 - 0	2.1.1 - TBD 2.1.2 - TBD	2.1.1 – Project reports, media monitoring 2.1.2 – Project records	Commitment exists on both sides to strengthen bilateral relations with tangible outcomes. Both parties are keen on identifying and exploring additional sectors in which the partnership/relations could be enhanced.
Output 3 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 Wider understanding and awareness of the EU's role as a global player promoted in domains of mutual interest with New Zealand, particularly on trade, youth engagement, and climate change.	2.1.1 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events 2.1.2 - Number of events organised or supported	2.1.1 - 0 2.1.2 - 0	2.1.1 - TBD 2.1.2 - TBD	2.1.1 – Project reports, media monitoring 2.1.2 – Project records	Commitment exists on both sides to strengthen bilateral relations with tangible outcomes. Both parties are keen on identifying and exploring additional sectors in which the partnership/relations could be enhanced.
Output 4 relating to Outcome 4	4.1 EU-Singapore engagement, dialogue, and public and economic diplomacy outreach is enhanced and consolidated through engagement and exchanges with key relevant public, private and civil society stakeholders, on EU strategic objectives and topics of mutual interests.	2.1.1 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events 2.1.2 - Number of events organised or supported	2.1.1 - 0 2.1.2 - 0	2.1.1 - TBD 2.1.2 - TBD	2.1.1 – Project reports, media monitoring 2.1.2 – Project records	Commitment exists on both sides to strengthen bilateral relations with tangible outcomes. Both parties are keen on identifying and exploring additional sectors in which the partnership/relations could be enhanced.

Output 5 relating to Outcome 5	5.1 EU-Taiwan engagement, dialogue and public diplomacy outreach through engagement and exchanges with local civil society with an aim to strengthen cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders on topics of mutual interest.	5.1.1 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events	5.1.1 - 0	5.1.1 - TBD	5.1.1 – Project reports, media monitoring	Commitment exists on both sides to strengthen bilateral relations with tangible outcomes.
		5.1.2 - Number of events organised or supported	5.1.2 - 0	5.1.2 - TBD	5.1.2 – Project records	Both parties are keen on identifying and exploring additional sectors in which the partnership/relations could be enhanced.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 80 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision. This includes an indicative period of maximum 14 months for concluding contracts and an indicative 48 months of action implementation.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁶.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Grants will contribute to achieving the specific objective 5 in section 3.1.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants include legal entities such as non-government organisations, civil society organisations and networks, academic and student networks, associations, scientific/technical institutions and think tank networks, social partners, public bodies, economic operators such as SMEs, pro-European organisations and media outlets.

4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement will contribute to achieving the specific objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 in section 3.1.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

⁶ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Objective 1 (Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia) composed of	1 500 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	1 500 000
Objective 2 (Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Hong Kong) composed of	1 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	1 000 000
Objective 3 (Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for New Zealand) composed of	1 500 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	1 500 000
Objective 4 (Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Singapore) composed of	1 000 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	1 000 000
Objective 5 (Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Engagement for Taiwan) composed of	1 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	1 000 000
Totals	6 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Actions will be managed under the policy steer of relevant EU services in the EU Delegations/Offices and/or from the Headquarters in order to ensure their alignment with the EU's strategic priorities and approach in key targeted sectors. The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) Regional Team Asia-Pacific will be responsible for the administrative, legal and financial issues relating to implementation of actions and supervise the timely receipt of quality outputs in liaison with the EU Delegations/Offices in targeted countries/territories.

Project Steering Committees (PSCs) will be set up where applicable, composed of representatives of FPI, relevant EU services in the EU Delegations/Offices in the targeted countries/territories, and/or from Headquarters, as relevant. PSCs are tentatively foreseen to meet every six (6) months. They will give overall strategic and policy steer to facilities and projects, validate the pipeline of interventions identified and proposed by stakeholders, and monitor the output quality with the support of project implementation teams. PSC structures will be further detailed at the contract level.

EU Member States representatives and EU business chambers and industry associations may be informed and consulted on the actions' activities in order to maximise synergies with their own interventions.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

The implementing partners will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring and reporting based on the agreed indicators in the logframe. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by per gender of participants, type of activities and sectors of participants. Adjustments to the agreed indicators will be subject to a discussion and approval by the contracting authority. The contracting authority will also be responsible for the approval of reports (interim, final etc.).

All monitoring, evaluation and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the gender dimension, and, where applicable, the implementation of the human rights-based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data).

The implementing partners will bear primary responsibility for the data collection, analysis and monitoring.

5.2 Evaluation

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

Mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to lessons learnt and for planning purpose for possible future similar interventions.

Final or ex-post evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular its contribution to the attainment of EU's political goals vis-à-vis the targeted countries/territories.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

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

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead-be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e., audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

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

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Policy Dialogue Support Facility Australia
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Policy Dialogue Support Facility Hong Kong
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	Policy Dialogue Support Facility New Zealand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 4	Policy Dialogue Support Facility Singapore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 5	Policy Dialogue Support Facility Taiwan