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ANNEX 3

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Brunei Darussalam, Japan and Taiwan for 2024

Action Document for EU-Brunei Darussalam Partnership Facility – Phase 2

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

Action Summary Table

<p>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</p>	<p>EU-Brunei Darussalam Partnership Facility – Phase 2 OPSYS number: ACT-62764 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 Brunei Darussalam.</p>
<p>4. Programming document</p>	<p>Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021 – 2027</p>
<p>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</p>	<p>The action meets the objectives set out in the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the Strategic Compass, and the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme (RMIP) for Asia and the Pacific, namely: Priority Area 2 – (PA2): Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners’ <i>2.2.4. – ‘Pursuing EU Interests with Asian partners in Asia and the Pacific (High Income Countries and other key partners)’.</i> <u>Specifically, this action document addresses the following RMIP Specific Objectives (SO):</u> 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. SO 2 – Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards in collaboration and alliance with Asian and Australasian HICs (alliance diplomacy) SO 3 – Economic diplomacy: FTAs, level playing field, market access, investment promotion and protection, business opportunities</p>

SO 4 – Supporting key political processes, tools and objectives (Good Governance, PCAs, SPAs, Connectivity Partnerships) between the EU and Asian partner

Expected Results (ER) of RMIP to which this action is contributing are:

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.

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 .

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.

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.

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.

ER 2.2: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.

ER 3.1: 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.

ER 3.3: Increased inward FDI.

ER 3.4: Convergence on SPS, raw materials, international labour standards, intellectual property rights, competition, (green) procurement and WTO-related actions.

ER 3.5: Reinforced applied research and innovation.

ER 3.6: Sustainable and resilient supply chains and sustainable food systems, as well as the promotion of decent work.

ER 4.1: Initiation and successful conclusions of negotiation processes.

ER 4.2: Effective implementation of the EU Global Gateway.

Priority Area 1 (PA1) – Regional Integration and Cooperation

2.1.3 South East Asia and ASEAN

Specifically, this action document addresses the following RMIP Specific Objectives (SO):

SO 1 – Providing a platform for continuing and enhancing EU-ASEAN policy dialogues and exchanges of experience in a number of areas, including the ASEAN-EU Dialogue in Science and Technology; and providing support where needed and requested for capacity and institutional strengthening initiatives.

	<p>SO 2 – Enhanced EU-ASEAN cooperation to build the two regions’ resilience and preparedness to respond to global challenges, including security threats and risks in a flexible, forward-looking and strategic manner.</p> <p><u>Expected Results (ER) of RMIP to which this action is contributing are</u></p> <p>ER 1: EU-ASEAN policy dialogue is enhanced in a range of sectors, the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership is implemented and strengthened, and where needed and requested, the capacities of ASEAN regional institutions are strengthened.</p> <p>ER 2: Cooperation to build the two regions’ resilience and preparedness to for global challenges, including security threats and risks, is enhanced. Resilience and a sustainable approach to development and crisis recovery is put at the centre of EU-ASEAN cooperation.</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>Priority Area 1 – Regional Integration and Cooperation</p> <p>Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners</p> <p>Sector: Multi-sector</p>			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: SDG 17 - Partnerships to achieve the Goal</p> <p>Other significant SDGs:</p> <p>SDG 5 – Gender equality;</p> <p>SDG 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure;</p> <p>SDG 11 – Sustainable cities;</p> <p>SDG 12 – Sustainable consumption and production;</p> <p>SDG 13 – Climate action;</p> <p>SDG 14 – Sustainable use of marine resources</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multi-sector aid			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	60000 - Private sector institution (Priority 1-4)			
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 checked="" 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 girl’s 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	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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 Total estimated cost: EUR 600 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 600 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

By fully respecting and integrating the principles set out in the Joint Communication on the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific¹, this Action seeks to enable the EU to further reinforce its partnership with Brunei Darussalam through selective and *ad hoc* modalities of engagement based on mutual interest, reciprocity, and complementarities. In this context, the Action aims to address the short and medium-term foreign policy opportunities in and with Brunei Darussalam by deepening bilateral relations and dialogues, enhancing mutual awareness, understanding, and appreciation across a range of policies, and by forging tailored alliances and partnerships through public-, economic-, and cultural diplomacy tools, primarily in the fields of higher education and research, and the environment, as well as security and defence.

This includes a specific focus on research and innovation, which are crucial for the green and digital transitions and for promoting growth and social welfare; as well as on promotion of cooperation in human capital development, including exchanges between and mobility of researchers and students. This also includes a focus on protection of biodiversity and restoration of degraded ecosystems (on land and/or in the ocean) as well as strengthened mitigation strategies and effective adaptation practices to climate change and in the fight to counter biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation, including increased awareness of the importance of investing in renewable energy.

More in general, this Action aims to help advance existing dialogues and open avenues to expand relations to new selected areas of engagement through public diplomacy and policy dialogue activities, in line with prevailing priorities of shared interest. This may potentially include possible exchanges on trade and business relations, cultural affairs and media, civil society and women's rights, connectivity and digitalisation, multilateralism and the international rules-based order, security and defence, and other relevant thematic sectors in which policy dialogues with Brunei Darussalam are in progress or have the potential to be further explored in areas of mutual interest. Whenever possible and appropriate, the action will also seek synergies with and promote interventions supported under the EU's Global Gateway initiative.²

This is the second phase of a short-term intervention already funded under the Rapid Response Pillar of NDICI. Building on the momentum created by activities organised in the first phase and capitalising on the lessons learnt, this new action aims at giving continuity and further broadening relationships and bilateral engagements in an increasingly complex and challenging multilateral environment, thus contributing to strengthen the overall relations between the EU and Brunei.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The action shall be carried out in Brunei Darussalam³.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Brunei Darussalam is slightly more than twice the size of Luxembourg and consists of two territories situated in the northwest of Borneo, surrounded by the Malaysian State of Sarawak. A former British protectorate (since 1888), in 1984 Brunei Darussalam became an independent sovereign Sultanate, where the same family has ruled the country for over six centuries. With a population of less than half a million people, Brunei benefits from extensive petroleum and natural gas fields, the source of one of the highest per capita GDPs in the world.

Brunei Darussalam is governed on the basis of a written Constitution, which came into effect in 1959, incorporating the official national ideology of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB - Malay Islamic Monarchy) – which emphasises Malay culture, the importance of Islam in daily life and governance, and respect for the monarchy as personified by the

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/jointcommunication_2021_24_1_en.pdf

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en

³ Some activities may also take place in the European Union and in the Indo-Pacific region.

Sultan. Brunei's Constitution establishes Islam as the country's official religion, adding that all other religions 'may be practised in peace and harmony'.

Under the constitution, His Majesty the Sultan holds absolute powers, with limitations to freedom of expression and in the absence of any elected representative of the people – as the Sultan is the head of the State, the Government and the Army with full executive authority, within the framework of an 'absolute monarchy' system. In its foreign relations, Brunei prioritises the ASEAN membership and has extensive connections with the Muslim world and several Arab countries. Brunei also has strong cooperation relations with the US and Australia in the security and defence sector, and solid educational relations with Australia (with many Bruneian students in Australia). Relations with China have also strengthened in recent years, including through foreign investment and mutual assistance in the fight against COVID-19.

Brunei's economy is almost totally supported by exports of crude oil and natural gas. Thanks to high oil revenue, Brunei has been able to provide extensive social services to its population, including free education and health care. The Government bases its development planning on the Wawasan Brunei 2035 (WB35, Vision Brunei 2035) which sets out the ambition to develop a highly educated and skilled workforce. It also aims to give its population a quality of life that ranks in the top ten worldwide (including in terms of health, personal security, environmental and social indicators); and to make it rank in the global top ten in terms of per capita income, through a dynamic, diversified and sustainable economy.

However, Brunei is also confronted with substantial economic and environmental risks, mainly due to its high dependence on the oil and gas sector. The government has enhanced efforts to develop other productive sectors-including investments in renewable energy technologies, with greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and vast solar power potential, possibly prompting a transformative shift towards renewable industries, compounded with broader investments in information/communications technologies, businesses and trade. However, diversification of economic revenue remains a major challenge as the country is heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

Furthermore, Brunei is also vulnerable to climate change, including challenges and risks related with loss of biodiversity, rising sea levels and floods, and air pollution in urban areas. Due to its low-lying topography, the country faces a serious sea-level rise problem. Climate adaptation is therefore an area of possible interest both for Brunei and for the EU.

2.2 Problem Analysis

In an increasingly multipolar world, geopolitical competition for influence in South-east Asia and the Pacific has been recently intensifying. As a small country in a complex geopolitical region, Brunei Darussalam has sought to keep equal distance with the big global powers by maintaining solid relations with both the US and China. The US has a longstanding cooperation with Brunei in the sector of security and defence, while China is mainly present through investments and trade, building inroads into the country's economy as part of its efforts aimed at strengthening economic interdependence with ASEAN countries. The UK, as the former colonial power, remains a close partner, especially in the security domain, and the country also maintains close links with Singapore (security, monetary – currency agreement, etc.).

At the same time, Brunei is also capitalising on Islamic leadership – not only through the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) but also in the ASEAN region, by building deeper linkages with both Indonesia and Malaysia – as evidenced by its recent positioning on the latest escalation of the Middle East crisis, when Brunei joined Indonesia and Malaysia in delivering the OIC's messages in strong support of Palestine to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum in November 2023.

Strategically located at the heart of South-east Asia and along the East-West maritime trade route, Brunei has been increasingly investing in Maritime Security in recent years – underpinning the strategic importance of the country in the maritime domain in light of growing vulnerabilities and security risks to the safety of sea lines, communication and trade routes. Overall, as the most affluent country in the region and a steady member of ASEAN since the country became independent in 1984, Brunei has been playing a strategic role at the regional level, in spite of (and beyond) its limited size – as demonstrated by its most recent ASEAN chairmanship in 2021 and the handling of ASEAN's response to the February 2021 military coup in Myanmar.

In such complex geopolitical context, the EU has an interest in strategically positioning to strengthen its influence as a global actor in the South-East Asia region, by actively engaging with Brunei Darussalam – through broadening, deepening and strengthening political and economic ties. However, in recent years the EU has had

limited engagements in and with Brunei, while bilateral relations have not always been smooth: following Brunei Darussalam’s introduction of the Sharia Penal Code on 1 May 2014, the EU’s negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the country were suspended in 2015. However, in light of today’s global challenges and the EU’s strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, there is a compelling need to revisit and improve the EU’s relations with the country.

Following the ASEAN-EU Post-Ministerial Conference on 26 July 2024, Brunei Darussalam is taking over from the Philippines as the ASEAN Country Coordinator for relations with the EU. For a period of three years, Brunei will thus act as the interface between the EU and ASEAN, with the official mandate of passing on any requests – and a less official one of trying to ensure that these requests are duly followed up and, if possible, accepted by other ASEAN Member States. The Bruneian coordinatorship comes at a crucial junction in EU-ASEAN relations, with possible deliverables including a 2025 Lisbon-format ASEAN-EU summit (which remains to be confirmed at the time of writing - to be possibly hosted by Malaysia), the 25th ASEAN-EU Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in 2026 (to be hosted by Brunei), a 2027 EU27 Commemorative Summit (to be hosted by Singapore), regularisation of summits, and continuous pushes for EAS and ADMM+ memberships (in line with the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy). The yet-to-be-opened ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, which is to be hosted by Brunei, may provide another potential avenue for broader cooperation.

At present, there are only two EUMS with ambassadorial representation within the country: Germany and France. In this context, it is of utmost importance for the EU to apply innovative forms of engagement, aimed at capitalising on opportunities while showing capability to keep ‘the right distance’ when engaging with Brunei – by resorting to flexible and adaptive engagement modalities. Overall, the flexible tools and modalities of work for political engagement provided by a cooperation facility have already contributed to strengthened bilateral EU-Brunei ties on important selected matters of shared interest such as higher education and climate action. In the context of Brunei’s upcoming country coordinatorship, this Facility is equally important for highlighting the multilateral dimension of the EU’s engagement with ASEAN.

The EU-Brunei Partnership Facility is the first and only instrument providing support to the EU Delegation in reasserting the EU’s presence and visibility in Brunei, with a potential to further explore possible ways forward to advanced partnerships in different areas. It builds on a pre-cursor facility which has confirmed the political relevance of this type of action, with positive outcomes in terms of political engagement and visibility for the EU – as a result of a series of activities, such as: the first phase of EU Ambassador's lectures at the University Brunei Darussalam; public outreach on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in conjunction with International Women's Day, followed by an engagement session with CSOs and a business meeting; policy outreach on Building Regional Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation; webinars to promote the Erasmus+ and/or Horizon Europe programmes; and targeted media outreach. This action will capitalise on these positive outcomes and possibly expand engagement with Brunei to new areas of mutual interest.

A facility aimed to carry out public diplomacy activities as well as support and project EU policies is therefore the most suitable tool for further strengthening relations with Brunei in a complex political context, with specific capacity to drive political and thematic priorities in a flexible and selective manner.

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

Government stakeholders, private sector and businesses, academia, students, civil society organisations, cultural institutes, think tanks, trade associations, EU Member States.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to improve the European Union’s role as a global player and a strategic partner in South-East Asia by strengthening the EU-Brunei Darussalam relationships.

The **Specific Objective** of this action is to enhance the mutual awareness, understanding, and appreciation between the EU and Brunei across a range of policies, including on the EU-ASEAN dimension, with a focus on environmental cooperation, higher education, and security and defence.

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

1. **Output 1:** Wider understanding and awareness in Brunei of the EU's role as a global player and a strategic partner of ASEAN is promoted in domains of mutual interest, particularly on culture, higher education, youth engagement, trade, security and defence, environment and climate change, and by identifying other areas with potential for further enhancement of bilateral ties, including through people-to-people engagement.
2. **Output 2:** Cross-sectoral partnerships between the EU and Brunei are supported with key stakeholders to foster mutual awareness, understanding, and appreciation across a range of policies by increasing bilateral and multilateral contacts in official dialogues, in second-track and professional cooperation, and at a people-to-people level and through supplementary media outreach.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Related to Output 1:

- 1.1 Awareness raising aimed at strengthening the positive perception of the EU by selected State and non-State stakeholders and audiences in Brunei.
- 1.2 Policy dialogues, outreach and public/cultural diplomacy events, exchange seminars.

Related to Output 2:

- 2.1 Awareness raising aimed at strengthening the positive perception of the EU by selected non-State audiences in Brunei – including through EU Ambassadors' lectures at university.
- 2.2 Public/cultural diplomacy events, cultural exchanges, including student exchanges, study visits, scholarships, promotion of research – comprising webinars and other activities aimed at promoting the Erasmus+ and/ or Horizon Europe programmes.
- 2.3 Events aimed at raising awareness on environment and climate change, including beach or river clean-ups and dialogues or workshops on areas of mutual interest such as the energy transition.
- 2.4 Visits to the European Union for media professionals, researchers, Civil Society representatives, etc.
- 2.5 Media outreach, targeting both conventional and social media.
- 2.6 Organisation of events, conferences, workshops, webinars, dialogues, exchanges with Government stakeholders, Civil Society Organisations, women and youth groups, students, cultural institutes, private sector and businesses, media and media professionals, academia and think tank, development of knowledge products and preparation of communication/visibility materials, promotion of research, study visits, cultural and media activities, people-to-people exchange.

The EU will seek to engage with this action through Team Europe initiatives/approaches to the best extent possible and reach out to EUMS to that effect.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

By engaging with relevant counterparts, stakeholders and audiences in Brunei 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, climate change mitigation and adaptation, in line with the EU's environment and climate policies, and 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 objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the programme. The action will

promote women’s rights as well as participation and inclusion of women stakeholders in activities on the ground, proactively seeking to enhance understanding of EU gender equality policies, and promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment – in full recognition of and in line with the political specificities and cultural sensitivities of the societal context in Brunei Darussalam.

Human Rights

Respect for human rights is a fundamental universal value. This action contributes to promote inclusive approaches through social dialogues or people-to-people exchanges, thus indirectly contributing to freedom of expression and association. In addition, this action will promote universal human rights values, including respect for diversity, non-discrimination, women’s rights, freedom of expression and media while . However, in light of political and cultural sensitivities in Brunei, this work will mainly be done through indirect and discrete modalities of engagement, in low-profile tones.

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. This action acknowledges that the EU 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 – and will organize public and outreach events and activities accordingly.

Reduction of inequalities

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

Democracy

Democracy is a fundamental value of the European Union. This action indirectly promotes inclusive approaches through social dialogues or people-to-people exchanges, which are key tools for democracy and participatory governance, with possible positive spill-over effects to other thematic areas of societal discussions. The action will also work towards promoting increased levels of understanding of the importance of EU’s democratic principles and democratic governance and the principles of an international rule-based order, multilateralism, and inclusive mechanisms of governance. However, in view of the specificities of the institutional and political context in Brunei Darussalam, this work will mainly be done through indirect modalities of engagement, including discrete diplomacy strategies and low-profile actions.

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 (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1 - to external environment	Irritants arising from political developments and inter-religious dynamics –including	M	H	Careful monitoring of political relations and interfaith dynamics, continuous engagement with key stakeholders and diversification of interlocutors/partners.

	at the global level and in other regions of the world – that negatively affect the image of the EU, with negative repercussions on perceptions of and relations with the targeted audiences in Brunei.			Constant identification of political sensitivities and fine-tuning of communication strategies and visibility of project activities accordingly, including selection of topics of mutual interest that could be explored consequently.
1 - to external environment	Decline in the overall political commitment in either Brunei and/or the EU in a more assertive approach to the partnership as a result of controversial developments in global engagements or individual policy areas.	M	H	Constantly monitoring political developments, including with active support of EUMS present on the ground, to get higher levels of understanding of the political climate and gain access to information that can help to anticipate and mitigate potential political risks (risk analysis and monitoring). Developing and maintaining regular relationships with political leaders and policy-makers to reduce political risk.
1- to external environment	Inability to work with specific local stakeholders and targeted audiences, given the challenging political environment and correlated religious dynamics.	M	M	Constant engagement in identification of possible alternative local partners and on different means of engagement, avoiding politically sensitive topics and correlated means of engagement.
3- to people and the organisation	Lack of interest from key beneficiaries to actively participate in project activities due to misunderstanding the project's objectives, scepticism about the relevance of activities, or lack of awareness.	L	M	Adopting tailored engagement strategies for each beneficiary group by, for example, using relatable narratives, success stories, and testimonials from beneficiaries who have benefited from the first phase of the project.
2 - to planning, processes and systems	Limited budget and medium-term nature of interventions compared to the multi-sectoral needs to be addressed. Low performance of contractor.	M	M	Day-to-day monitoring and proactive steering of the project by the EU Delegation with inputs from specific colleagues involved, including from EUMS present on the ground. Thorough prioritisation of needs in the medium term and parallel planning of additional targeted actions, as needed.

Lessons Learnt:

The first phase of the EU-Brunei Partnership Facility has allowed the EU to strengthen cross-sectoral engagement with relevant stakeholders in Brunei on topics of mutual interest and areas where potential lies for further engagement. There

is currently scope for the EU to further expand its bilateral relations with Brunei Darussalam through cooperation and partnerships based on mutual interest, reciprocity and complementarity.

Building on the momentum created by the events and activities organised under the first phase, this new action is foreseen to give continuity and further broaden common understanding and bilateral engagements in an increasingly complex and challenging multilateral environment, thus contributing to foster and strengthen the overall relations between the EU and Brunei in the areas of environmental cooperation, higher education as well as security and defence.

In a regional context that is progressively marked by geopolitical competition, this Facility may provide the EU with additional tools for strategically positioning and strengthening its influence as a global actor through active partnerships with Brunei Darussalam, with positive repercussions for its image and role at the bilateral, regional and global level. In the context of Brunei assuming its responsibility as ASEAN country coordinator for relations with the EU, special attention should be paid to EU-ASEAN relations.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to support the EU- Brunei Darussalam partnership. It will enable the EU to continue operational engagement with selected stakeholders, counterparts and designated audiences in Brunei Darussalam, which is one the EU's strategic interests for actively pursuing the EU foreign policy agenda and stepping up strategic engagement in the South-East Asia region, in line with the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and on the basis of the EU's interests vis-à-vis ASEAN (and Brunei's unique position in facilitating the delivery of these).

This action targets Brunei as the most affluent country in the region, which is a member of ASEAN, the EU's ASEAN country coordinator for a period of three years starting in late July 2024, and a potential strategic partner in a complex regional context, building on the lessons learnt from previous short-term interventions funded by the Foreign Policy Needs under NDICI – Global Europe, in which key areas of mutual interest were already identified for further enhancement of bilateral relations.

The rationale behind this action is therefore based on the assumption that fostering dialogue and selected partnership between Bruneian and European partners would lead to broadening and deepening common understanding and bilateral relations in an increasingly challenging multilateral environment. In this context, the action support to dialogues and public-/economic-diplomacy outreach can result in strengthened cross-sectoral engagement with key relevant stakeholders in Brunei, including through people-to-people exchanges, on the most strategic topics of mutual interest and other areas with potential for further enhancement of bilateral ties.

IF the expected set of outputs are delivered, in terms of engagement with relevant stakeholders and selected audiences in Brunei through capitalising on opportunities for dialogue and public-, cultural- and economic-diplomacy outreach in domains of mutual interest, including through people-to-people engagement, THEN the role of the EU in South-East Asia will be strengthened, BECAUSE relations with Brunei will be more solid as possible partnerships will be furthered and deepened, alliances forged, multi-sectoral engagements enhanced, paving the way to extended policy engagement and outreach between the EU and Brunei in key domains for bilateral relations.

IF these outcomes can be achieved and the corresponding assumptions materialise, THEN bilateral relations with Brunei and multilateral relations with ASEAN will be deepened and strengthened, AND the geo-political role of the EU as a global player in South-east Asia will be strengthened, BECAUSE the EU's short and medium-term foreign policy goals in the region will be more easily achieved.

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	The European Union's role as a global player in South-East Asia is improved as the EU-Brunei Darussalam relationships are strengthened	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 - 3	Official statements from bilateral dialogues/ summits	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	Mutual awareness, understanding, and appreciation are enhanced between partners across a range of policies, including on the EU-ASEAN dimension, with a focus on environmental cooperation, higher education, and security and defence	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 - Number of processes related to non-state level partnerships / agreements which have been influenced	1- 0 2 - 0	1 - 2 2 - 5	1 - Official statements from bilateral dialogues/ summits 2 - Relevant sectoral studies, surveys and reports	Mutual interest exists to maintain and further strengthen bilateral relations and further expand dialogues and partnerships in key priority areas. Openness exists towards addressing global challenges through eventual policy convergence, partnerships and dialogues.
Output 1	Wider understanding and awareness of the EU's role as a global player and a strategic partner of ASEAN are promoted in domains of mutual interest, particularly on culture, higher education, youth engagement, trade, security and defence, environment and climate change, and by identifying areas with potential for further enhancement of bilateral ties, including through people-to-people engagement.	1.1 - Number of events organised or supported 1.2 - - Number of persons directly benefiting from the intervention 1.3 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events	1.1 - 0 1.2 - 0 1.3 - 0	1.1 - TBD 1.2 - TBD 1.3 - TBD	1.1 - Project reports, media monitoring 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	Cross-sectoral engagement between the EU and Brunei is supported with key relevant stakeholders for mutual awareness, understanding, and appreciation, across a range of policies by increasing bilateral and multilateral contacts in official dialogues, in second-track and professional cooperation, and at a people-to-people level and through supplementary media outreach.	2.1 - Number of events organised or supported	2.1 – 0	2.1 – TBD	2.1 - Project reports, media monitoring 2.2– Project records	Commitment exists on both sides to strengthen exchanges, dialogues and partnerships with tangible outcomes. Both parties are keen on identifying and exploring additional sectors in which the partnerships/relations could be enhanced.
		2.2 - Number of persons directly benefiting from the intervention	2.2 – 0	2.2 – TBD		
		2.3 - Number of outcome statements emanating from the events	2.3 – 0	2.3 – TBD		
		2.4 - Level of engagement online and on social media	2.4 – 0	2.4 – TBD		

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.

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 62 months⁴ from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁵.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement will contribute to achieving the specific objective 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).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Specific Objective 1 composed of	600 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 0	
Totals	600 000

⁴ This includes an indicative period of maximum 14 months for concluding contracts, and an indicative 48 months of action implementation with some flexibility in case of unforeseen circumstances.

⁵ 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.

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Action will be managed under the policy steer of relevant EU services in the EU Delegation to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam and/or the EU Delegation to ASEAN together with the FPI Regional Team Asia-Pacific, 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 implementation.

EU Member States representatives and EU business chambers and industry associations may be informed, consulted and associated to 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.

4.7 Pre-conditions

N/A

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.

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 sex 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 equality dimensions, and, where possible and 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 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

the innovative characters of this action and 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:

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: single contract in the present action