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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VII

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action programme for the Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2024

Action Document for Support Measures

ANNUAL MEASURE

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

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness Support Measures OPSYS number: ACT-62442, JAD-1368284 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe			
2. Team Europe Initiative	No			
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally			
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027			
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 1: Continuing to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms to better detect early signs of conflicts, monitor conflict and design appropriate responses; Priority 2: Promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes; Priority 3: Supporting peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies/ communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Peace, stability, conflict prevention, security			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 16 - Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15220 - Civilian peace building, conflict prevention and resolution (100%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	52000 - Other (includes 'for profit', consultants and consultancy firms) 21000 – International NGO 20000 - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<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): BGUE – B2024-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE Total estimated cost: EUR 2 500 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 500 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness Support Measures will contribute to the research, identification, formulation, evaluation, and implementation of interventions, inter alia providing technical assistance and training, and organising meetings and seminars, bringing relevant stakeholders together, for actions under the thematic area Peace, Stability and Conflict prevention of the NDICI.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out globally.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The actions envisaged under the thematic area Peace, Stability and Conflict prevention of the NDICI-Global Europe build on the experience and lessons learned of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and three years of implementation of actions under the Rapid Response and Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding pillars of NDICI-Global Europe. The importance of and need for knowledge management have been considered increasingly important throughout the service and beyond, with an acknowledgement that the coherence and efficiency of EU actions can be substantively strengthened if and when existing individual and institutional knowledge is better harnessed, and spaces for the development of new knowledge are created and supported. Strengthened knowledge management can also help to better inform decision making on priority areas of intervention and budget allocations and EU policies and strategies, as well as stimulate collaboration and innovation, and enhance communication.

The objective of this Action is therefore to **strengthen sustainable and systematic mechanisms and processes to foster, capture and disseminate knowledge in order to increase the efficiency and coherence of the European Union's actions in the areas of crisis response, and conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness**. Support measures may thus comprise the transfer of know-how, the exchange of information and good practices (including the use and development of methodologies and/or knowledge products), risk/threat assessments, research and analysis, early warning systems, training and service delivery, as well as financial and technical assistance for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of peace-building actions.

2.2 Problem Analysis

A problem analysis cannot be undertaken on the Support Measures as such, but might be included, if necessary, for the implementation of single interventions funded through the Support Measures.

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

International, national and local organisations, civil society organisations, academic institutions, think tanks and private companies can be selected as implementing partners based on their operational capacity, value added and experience in a specific field and/or country. Local authorities, civil society actors and local stakeholders could benefit from the Support Measures as the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness activities would be better implemented and monitored.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to **increase the efficiency and coherence of the European Union's actions in the areas of crisis response, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness**.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to **strengthen sustainable and systematic mechanisms and processes to foster, capture and use knowledge more effectively through flexible Support Measures**. Expenditures associated with, but not limited to, the identification, preparation, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation activities related to the implementation of the programme and to the achievement of its objectives will be covered. Such measures (e.g. strategies, risk analyses, gender analyses, short-term capacity-building, thematic gap analyses, information sessions, special events for awareness-raising, publications, training activities, identification and formulation of activities, third party monitoring, evaluations, studies and technical assistance) contribute to the sound management of the instrument, to the achievement of its expected results and to the measurement, analysis and reporting of its impact.

3.2 Indicative Activities

The Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness Support Measures will strengthen sustainable and systematic mechanisms and processes to foster, capture and use knowledge more effectively in the areas of crisis response, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness. Activities will be implemented through fact-finding and needs-assessment missions, workshops, seminars, conference, in-depth research and analyses, trainings, study visit programmes, etc. as relevant and needed.

The expected results to be achieved and the corresponding activities to be undertaken by the Support Measures may include the following:

A) Knowledge generation and use: knowledge production and capture are effectively strengthened and individual and institutional experiences, good practices and knowledge are better harnessed in order to: i. inform future FPI and EU priorities and initiatives and improve programme design; ii. push and adapt innovative approaches; and iii. contribute to the development of valuable knowledge on frontier topics in crisis response and conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness in partnership with potential and current implementing partners.

Activities may include:

- Identifying and addressing knowledge gaps;
- Identifying and setting up knowledge mechanisms and processes and/or strengthen existing mechanisms and processes;
- Gathering lessons learned from the wide array of FPI initiatives and undertaking research and studies covering risk analysis, gender analysis, conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity assessments, environmental and climate impact assessments, identification/definition of needs, and feasibility;
- Undertaking thematic reviews focusing on specific themes within conflict prevention and peace-building programming and rapid response, and including interlinkages between both;
- Identifying synergies with actions by other services and stakeholders (donors, civil society, etc);
- Identifying global trends and the alignment of FPI actions with these;
- Identifying and using expertise as needed;
- Monitoring ongoing programmes and projects financed under the IcSP and the NDICI Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness component and providing recommendations on necessary corrective measures as needed;
- Carrying out evaluations of interventions (programmes and projects) including the assessment of outputs, outcomes and impacts.

B) Knowledge use, dissemination and sharing: knowledge connections and exchanges are strengthened internally (EEAS, JRC, DG INTPA, DG NEAR, DG ECHO) and externally (including with academia, think tanks, UN agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations and networks), and knowledge products are used to strengthen policy development, programming and project formulation and identification.

Activities may include:

- Supporting and assisting partners and stakeholders in and of beneficiary countries in the framework of initiatives such as short-term training, legal advice, strategy support, etc.
- Developing quality policy, strategies and overall programming through advisory groups and through access to quality studies undertaken by appropriate EU and third country experts and the establishment of sustainable relationships with the beneficiary countries;
- Providing ad-hoc technical assistance, advice, training courses, capacity building inputs, etc.; both internally and externally as needed.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The relationship between climate change and conflict is still being analysed and is recognised as being quite complex and multi-layered. On one side, the effects of climate change can cause sudden and unplanned movements of people, which then can cause competition over the use and availability of resources, use of land and housing. Vice-versa, conflicts often create displacements (both internally as well as across borders), which can put the environment and limited natural resources under stress. Indicators related to the effects of climate change have been recently introduced in conflict analysis methodologies. The EU itself has started to consider them in its own conflict analysis screenings and Early Warning System. This Action will consider these reflections and elements and will envisage mainstreaming further these aspects in all AAP actions.

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 the Action will include the analysis of the impact that sexual and gender-based violence can have during conflict and, more broadly, during political violence. When relevant, data, research and activities undertaken within the framework of this Action will include a gender component and the meaningful involvement of women and youth organisations and/or women and youth members will be ensured.

Human Rights

Conflicts represent a significant challenge to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Violations of human rights are often considered as indicators of potential risks of conflict; moreover, violation of human rights themselves can be a conflict trigger. The Action will rely on the international human rights framework as reference framework for all types of analyses. Thus doing, the activities implemented through the Action will be able to gather and analyse a consistent amount of data on human rights violations in the selected areas.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that projects to be funded under this action should aim to tackle challenges relating to disability and enhance the participation of people with disabilities when appropriate and relevant for the objectives of each project.

Democracy

The Treaty on European Union recognises that in its relations with the wider world, the EU shall uphold and promote its values, including democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. The EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy and the New European Consensus on Development recognise the importance of ensuring that the EU's external action is conflict sensitive, especially in fragile contexts. It also confirms that exclusion, inequality, impunity and absence of the rule of law are primary drivers of conflict. In line with the EU political and policy framework, this Action will contribute to enhance democracy and rule of law by providing robust and timely conflict analyses and recommendations on how to prevent conflict and atrocity crimes.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action will contribute to enhance the capacity of both the EU and its local partners to carry out conflict analysis in a robust, timely and inclusive way in order to ensure conflict sensitive programming, according to the NDICI-GE regulations.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Data related to natural hazards and disasters will be taken into consideration by implementing partners in their analyses, especially if hazards are climate related and occur in conflict or fragile settings.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
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2	Risk of inefficient management: (Responsiveness)	Medium	High	Due to the nature of conflict prevention/stability actions, it is essential that the activities implemented under the support measure are swift and able to adapt. While there is an inherent risk that contracting and mobilisation could be delayed due to administrative or practical constraints, the established procedures are expected to continue to facilitate timely responses.
2	Risk of ineffective management: non-achievement of political, strategic or operational performance objectives (policy or control)	Medium	High	Due to the high sensitivity and political importance of many of the conflict prevention/stability measures, attention to quality is of particular importance. The results of the implementation of the actions will be regularly monitored and reviewed according to needs identified, changing contexts and conflict sensitivity issues.
2, 4	Risk of non-compliance	Medium	High	To avoid irregularities, due attention will be paid to transparency and to the fair treatment of the potential implementers of the action. The interventions under this action will be performed according to the procedures for the EU external actions, in particular through framework contracts (FWC).

Lessons Learnt:

The lessons learnt stem from previous experiences of Support Measures under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP); similar Support Measures existed under article 4 component (conflict prevention/peace-building). The experience from the seven years of IcSP Support Measures has been positive. The Support Measures play a crucial role in the defining of new actions, as well as for their implementation and evaluation. The Support Measures can be quick and flexible tools that require light administration. For that reason, service contracts, and in particular framework contracts (FWC), have shown to be adequate in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. In order to increase flexibility under the Support Measures, provisions for grants as well as indirect management were added to allow for an even greater pool of potential implementing partners. This is in line with the recommendation in the external Mid-Term Evaluation of the IcSP that “*Small actions (e.g. conflict analyses, feasibility studies, etc.) undertaken to enhance efficiency, should not require the same processes to be followed as large decisions*”.¹ It is deemed important to continue with the provision of the Support Measures also under the thematic Pillar of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

There is no intervention logic for the Support Measures since this is not an intervention but a flexible tool to finance the activities mentioned above.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

There is no intervention logic for the Support Measures since this is not an intervention but a flexible tool to finance the activities mentioned above.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/documents/key-documents/icsp-mte-final-report.pdf> (page 25).

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 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation

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 measures².

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

Service contracts will be awarded following the most adequate modalities to seek the most appropriate expertise for study, research, training or technical assistance objectives. In the past, service contracts have been awarded through Framework Contracts or direct award in case of urgency. Contractors also included associations and local companies that were best placed to perform the specialised tasks needed.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances

In case the selection of implementing partners as per the criteria and conditions set out above might not prove successful, changes from direct to indirect management mode, and vice versa, will provide the possibility to identify other types of applicants according to the same criteria. Specific expertise on peace and security as well as knowledge management will be used as identification criteria to identify partners for either direct or indirect management.

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, subject to the following provisions.

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

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Procurement (direct management)	2 500 000
Evaluation/Audit/Expenditure verification	will be covered by another decision
Contingencies	N.A.
Totals	2 500 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action is managed by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) as contracting authority.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the

² 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.

Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Selected implementing partners will be responsible to collect, analyse and monitor data based on a monitoring and evaluation plan developed prior to the start of the implementation of activities.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days 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 shall be shared with the partner country 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, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.3 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.

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.

It should be noted that targeted awareness-raising and information sharing activities necessary to achieve specific programme/project objectives by engaging with specific audiences identified by the action remain possible.

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 (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action(s)>
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
	(...)	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>