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ANNEX V

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2023

Action Document for the Promotion of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

ANNUAL PLAN
This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan 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**	The Promotion of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding via Dialogue, Advocacy and Innovative Tools
	OPSYS number: ACT-61705; JAD.1158009
	Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
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: Continue 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: Support 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 and Conflict Prevention
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG : 16 Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
	Other significant SDG: 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

8 a) DAC code(s)	15220 - Civilian peace building, conflict prevention and resolution			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	21000 International non-governmental organisations (NGO) 23000 Developing country-based NGO			
9. Targets	☐ Migration ☐ Climate ☒ Social inclusion and Human Development ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☒ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			

10. Markers (from DAC form)	**General policy objective @**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
	Aid to environment @	☒	☐	☐
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☒	☐	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☒	☐	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change adaptation @	☒	☐	☐

11. Internal markers and Tags:	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @	☐	☒	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☐	☒	
	digital governance	☒	☐	
	digital entrepreneurship	☐	☒	
	digital skills/literacy	☒	☐	
	digital services	☐	☒	
	Connectivity @	☒	☐	☐
		YES	NO	
	digital connectivity	☐	☒	
	energy	☐	☒	

	transport	☐	⊠	
	health	☐	⊠	
	education and research			
	Migration @	⊠	☐	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities @	⊠	☐	☐
	Covid-19	⊠	☐	☐

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE – B2023-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE
	Total estimated cost: EUR 5 900 000
	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 5 900 000

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing	**Direct management** through grants.
	Indirect management with the pillar assessed entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3

1.2   Summary of the Action

As a global peace actor, the EU plays a critical role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This can among other come in the form of support to advocacy and dialogue efforts or through the promotion of innovative approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This can as well take the form of increased advocacy efforts and gathering of multifaceted actors in the field of peacebuilding (Paris Peace Forum), using more effectively and broadly social media for peace and leveraging cultural heritage as a vehicle for peacebuilding.

The Paris Peace Forum has been supported by the EU since its launch in 2018 as a key event organisation to promote peace and contribute to bridging global governance gaps. Global problems without cooperative solutions lead to conflicts. Challenges the world faces today – climate change, terrorism, migration, cyber insecurity and the like – ignore borders. Addressing them requires collective action. The Paris Peace Forum focuses on identifying and advancing concrete and innovative solutions for today's transnational challenges. Participants of the Forum have the unique opportunity to advance their initiatives through increased visibility, engaging in debates with policymakers, elected officials, and experts, as well as connecting with potential partners. It also provides the EU, as a strategic partner, with space to engage with relevant stakeholders while showcasing some of the global peacebuilding and conflict prevention work it supports.

Digital tools have now become main platforms and channels to spread information. Unfortunately, this includes harmful content such as hate speech, violent extremist propaganda, and disinformation. But they also have a potential to be used for positive peacebuilding narratives. While there has been a growing engagement to curb the spread of harmful content online in relation to terrorist groups or activities, far less attention has been paid to other types of conflict contexts. The action, designed as a second phase of the EU supported project 'Social Media 4 Peace' implemented by UNESCO, will build on the positive results achieved in the first phase of the project and further develop the resilience of societies in conflict prone environment and conflict environment to potentially harmful content, while protecting freedom of expression and enhancing the promotion of peace through social media. The first phase of the project contributed to enhance understanding of the root causes of potential harmful online content and of tools to address it, and enhanced promotion and support of peace building narratives and initiatives through digital technologies notably social media. In a society where the role and power of the social media and other digital technologies in shaping social and political changes, violent and non-violent, has become undeniable, it is crucial to build on these achievements and further enhance the understanding of the root causes, scale and impact of potential harmful content; pilot new regulatory, co-regulatory and self-regulatory tools for social media platforms to improve the curbing of online harmful content; and enhance the promotion and support of fact-based peace building initiatives, with a particular focus on youth. The activities will be tailored to each

country, focusing on the social media platforms mostly used in the respective target country.

In 2016, the EU promoted culture as a key contribution to peace, democracy and sustainable development[1]. Cultural heritage can be instrumental to foster tolerance, mutual understanding, reconciliation, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, mitigate social tensions and prevent escalation into violent conflict. At the same time, the EU also recognises that cultural heritage can be used as a trigger for and a target in conflicts and be instrumentalised through disinformation or information manipulation. This Action will focus on the potential of cultural heritage to bring people together through social interaction and create opportunities for dialogue and interaction. The geographical focus will be on Central Asia, and it will contribute to capacity building of key stakeholders to safeguard and protect tangible (movable and immovable) and intangible cultural heritage, as well as promote the creative industry and respect for cultural diversity.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The EU **Treaty** clearly defines the promotion of peace and security as a fundamental goal and central pillar of the EU's external action, portraying the EU as a global peace actor. In view of the increasing number of complex crises and new intricate challenges, the EU is committed to step-up its conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts, in cooperation with its partners. To this aim, the use of advocacy, dialogue and the promotion of innovative means of conflict prevention and peacebuilding is important to advance solutions and support peace. This can among other come in the form of support to advocacy and dialogue efforts or through the promotion of innovative approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

EU's engagement on multilateralism was reaffirmed in a joint EU Communication in 2021[2] and should be considered a strong basis for this Action.

The **Paris Peace Forum** focuses on facilitating collective efforts in dealing with the many global challenges. It gathers around 5000 participants, from NGOs, private sector, international organisations and development agencies, as well as heads of states and governments. The Forum provides a platform for dialogue and sharing of experience and ideas. The Forum aims to be inclusive on all levels - geographical representation (participants from different parts of the world, with majority from Europe, Africa and the Americas), gender (2022 edition saw 338 speakers from 85 countries, out of which 54% were men, and 46% were women) and with different operational backgrounds. The Forum provides an opportunity to forge long-term relationships between like-minded individuals and organisations and enables launch of new initiatives. For example, the 2022 edition saw the launch of the initiative on the Responsible Critical Minerals Sector, aimed at ensuring that global supply chains for critical minerals function responsibly, addressing geopolitical, ecological, and social tensions around these supply chains. One of the signatories of this initiative is the EU. Debating on the meaning of war and peace to open up new paths of dialogues will be a priority of this Action and a support in this sense for the peacebuilding community.

The **digitalisation of societies** around the world has led to unprecedented opportunities for the free flow of information. At the same time, concerted dis- and misinformation campaigns and the spread of harmful content and hate speech online have a significant impact on fuelling conflict and unrest, especially in already conflict-affected or conflict-prone societies and in special situations such as elections. Such harmful contents have disproportionate effect on vulnerable groups and in contexts where users are less empowered with digital skills to debunk and counter these contents and where justice and regulatory systems are not adequate to face these challenges in manners compatible with international human rights law. The war in Ukraine and the weaponisation of social media to spread disinformation and propaganda have shown once again how social media can not only trigger tensions in the offline world but can become as such the new battlefields, as highlighted by the Special UN Rapporteur on the Right to Opinion and Expression in her report on disinformation and freedom of expression during conflict[3]. There is an increasing global consensus of the need to regulate digital platforms, with a right-based approach, to ensure they are more transparent and accountable and to guarantee that not only the right to impart

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[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52016JC0029&from=EN

[2] pdf (europa.eu)

[3] https://media.un.org/en/asset/k15/k159zvw1b0

information, ideas, opinions, but also the rights to seek and receive – all three under the overall umbrella of freedom of expression – are protected. The EU has taken a leading role with the adoption of the Digital Services Act to enter into force in 2024 and aiming at creating a safer digital space, where users' fundamental rights are best protected.

As an immediate complement to its conclusions of 8 April 2019 on a EU strategic approach to international cultural relations, in its Council Conclusions on **EU Approach to Cultural Heritage in conflicts and crises** (June 2021)[4], the EU reaffirms its support to the integration of international cultural relations in the EU's Foreign and Security Policy and recognises the "*role of cultural heritage as an important vehicle for peace, democracy and sustainable development by fostering tolerance, mutual understanding, reconciliation, inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue, mitigating social tensions and preventing renewed escalation into violent conflict*". Besides, the EU also recognises that "*cultural heritage can be instrumentalised and used as a trigger for and a target in conflicts*" and can be "*subject to disinformation or information manipulation*". This is a reason why awareness and protection of cultural heritage should be an integral part of a conflict sensitive approach, throughout all phases of conflicts and crises. In a global threats perspective, protecting cultural heritage also contributes to the EU strategy on organised crime, and more specifically the Commission's action plan against trafficking in cultural goods for 2022-25, also recognising the relation between cultural trafficking and the financing of terrorism (e.g. EU Regulation 2019/880). An EU Action Plan against Trafficking in Cultural Goods was also adopted at the end of 2022[5]. In addition, the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 identifies that some of the significant contemporary global opportunities and challenges also include "*fragility of support systems for creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions*".

2.2   Problem Analysis

For the EU, promoting conflict prevention and peacebuilding is an essential component of building resilient states, societies and communities[6]. There is a high value in prioritising prevention of conflicts, containing conflict and supporting peacebuilding at all stages of a conflict cycle through dialogue and innovative means. This Action aims at highlighting the role of various partnerships in the field of peacebuilding and conflict prevention and seek coherence around dialogue in these approaches.

The EU is a peace actor that supports rules-based multilateralism and as such reiterates that cooperation through effective multilateralism remains the best way to advance national as well as collective interests. Strengthening the multilateral system is based among other things on extending multilateralism to new global realities and therefore reflecting together on the digital age and other new challenges to peace and security, such as the threats to cultural heritage.

Civic space for debates, serving as a means to fostering peaceful interactions and promoting exchanges of views is critical in all peacebuilding initiatives. In the same vein, advocacy campaigns do not always get enough traction and attention, although they are necessary to continue promoting the value of anticipating and preventing conflicts over reaction and response. This Action will support initiatives in this direction and instil a culture of exchange.

In more details, the **Paris Peace Forum** consists of a new type of exchanges and promotion of good practice and research in the field. It is multi-actor and multi-disciplinary and aims at overcoming siloes of various sector communities. New coalitions of actors, from civil society groups to companies and local governments, are rising alongside governments to provide solutions. The Paris Peace Forum helps them hatch, grow and reach their maximum impact. It creates networks, norms and capacities to make the planet a better place. The Paris Peace Forum is a platform open to all seeking to develop coordination, rules, and capacities that answer global problems. It offers opportunities for dialogue between different stakeholders, while enhancing visibility of their work on issues of global importance. Furthermore, the Forum focus is on enabling cooperation on many critical areas and global challenges, notably on the fight against global warming and loss of biodiversity, pandemic recovery and preparedness, nuclear disarmament, race to reach the SDGs, economic and scientific cooperation as well as the custody of the global commons including oceans, the poles and outer space. Support to the Paris Peace Forum will thus provide the EU with an opportunity to promote peacebuilding in an innovative manner.

Harmful content online is increasingly recognised as a global challenge worldwide, and has a negative impact on conflict dynamics. There is a need to address this challenge and build on the recent interest of **social media**

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[4] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9837-2021-INIT/en/pdf
[5] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0800&from=EN
[6] https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/join_2017_21_f1_communication_from_commission_to_inst_en_v7_p1_91603

platforms to further explore and address the impact of harmful online content in conflict-affected contexts and strengthen the capacities to counter such negative use of social media. There are growing concerns about how digital communication tools have become instrumental platforms to spread harmful content with significant impact on conflict dynamics and peace. Across the globe, Web 2.0[7] innovations in technology have changed the way people get information and connect with each other. Social media, in particular, enables people to become producers of content and information rather than just passive consumers. Major political events, including violent conflicts, are increasingly the object of wide social media coverages with various intentions. On the one side, social media is used to increase civic mobilisation and to enable an increased access to information, empowering citizens to organise major peaceful political movements. On the other, it is also used by certain groups or agenda-setters to polarise society, manipulate with micro targeting, spread and amplify disinformation, misinformation and propaganda, increase intolerance and even to fuel hate and conflicts – including during electoral processes. The Action foresees activities at global level and in three/four pilot countries, with a specific focus on building the capacities of youth in tackling disinformation and harmful content. Global activities should include research on content moderation during conflict, which will inform multi-stakeholder discussions, as well as advocacy and campaigns on Media and Information Literacy (MIL) tackling hate speech through peacebuilding narratives.

Cultural heritage is recognised as a way to express a community's values, customs and objects across generations and as such constitutes a conflict prevention and peacebuilding tool. The Action will contribute to the EU concept on Cultural Heritage in Conflict and Crisis, promoting respect for cultural diversity and using it to promote conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It will improve the conditions for intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention in Central Asia, by enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to safeguard and protect tangible (movable and immovable) and intangible cultural heritage. The role of the education sector is critical in this regard. With clear indications that trafficking of cultural assets contributes to the financing of organised crime and terrorist networks, the lack of knowledge on how to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural assets and properties needs to be addressed. Promoting the creative industry and respect for cultural diversity will be central to intercultural dialogue. This component of the Action will thus also focus on the ability of bringing people together through social interaction and creating opportunities for dialogue and interaction.

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

Direct beneficiaries are the conflict-prevention and peacebuilding actors who will implement this action, including civil society organisations and international partners.

The **Paris Peace Forum** is an NGO organised as a platform open to all stakeholders seeking to develop coordination, rules and capacities that answer global problems. Its main target groups are heads of state, leaders of international organisations and companies, and civil society organisations from the Global South and North, as well as citizens around the globe. The Forum aims to be as inclusive as possible, engaging on issues such as peace and global governance , security, development, the environment, new technologies, inclusive economies and culture and education.

For the **social media component**, youth-led organisations, together with civil society and international organisations with long-standing experience addressing conflict-fuelling narratives, will create space and partnerships to foster collective action to build resilience and respond to violence. The target groups are social media platforms and other relevant Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digital technology companies; national, regional and global regulatory or governance fora as well as the relevant national democratic institutions (e.g. parliament, regulatory body for media or data protection, electoral management body, civil society, judicial actors).

The **cultural heritage component** of the Action will place women, youth, representatives of professional communities – culture professionals, teachers – and other rights-holders and their joint actions and platforms with the local authorities at the centre of the intervention. The direct beneficiaries of the action will be cultural heritage experts, customs and security officers, national and local cultural administrations (both urban and rural), ministries of culture, ministries of emergency management, ministries of defence, museum specialists, culture professionals, public prosecutors, school teachers, local communities. In addition, youth from secondary schools and colleges, teaching staff, cultural practitioners will indirectly benefit.

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[7] Web 2.0 (also known as Participative and Social Web) refers to websites that emphasize user-generated content, ease of use, participatory culture.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The overall objective of this Action is to promote conflict prevention and peacebuilding as a contribution to building the resilience of societies.

Specific objectives of the Action are:

1. To contribute to the success of the Paris Peace Forum (PPF) and increase the visibility of the work of the EU in peace and security;
2. To build the resilience of societies in conflict prone environment and conflict environment to potentially harmful content, while protecting freedom of expression and enhancing the promotion of peace through social media;
3. To improve the conditions for intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention in Central Asia by enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders to safeguard and protect tangible (movable and immovable) and intangible cultural heritage, as well as promote the creative industry and respect for cultural diversity.

Outcomes to specific objective 1:

1) Further promote and strengthen the EU's partnership with the Paris Peace Forum, while promoting EU's priorities and successful conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives;
2) Contribute to the strategic direction of the Forum and strengthen EU's position in multilateral peacebuilding fora.

Outcomes to specific objective 2 are:
1) Enhance researchers, policy makers, relevant social media platforms, media professionals and targeted CSOs' understanding of the root causes, scale, and impact of potential harmful content on conflict dynamics;
2) Improve the curbing of online harmful content at the regional and national level in three countries and build the capacities of relevant state and non-state actors on content moderation and conflict-sensitive reporting
3) Enhance promotion and support of fact-based peace building narratives and initiatives through digital technologies and social media at the international level and in three pilot countries.

Outcomes to specific objective 3 are:
1) Living and movable cultural heritage are used as effective tools/platforms for peace building and conflict prevention;
2) Culture is mobilised for conflict prevention in creative regional initiatives;
3) Capacity is built among relevant actors in the region (law enforcement, museum staff, media) to take part in the countering of illicit trafficking of cultural property.

Outputs contributing to Specific Objective 1:
1.1. Enhanced visibility of EU's work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, through participation in high-level events, round-tables and by showcasing EU funded projects and initiatives;
1.2. Strengthened EU's engagement with the PPF by providing strategic suggestions for the Forum's agenda and activities while reinforcing EU's commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation.

Outputs contributing to Specific Objective 2:
2.1 Increased knowledge and transparency of tools in place to address potential harmful content online during conflicts;
2.2 Increased knowledge of relevant stakeholders of the context, root causes, scale and impact of the dissemination of potential online harmful content in the three pilot countries;
2.3 New tools developed and piloted at national level to address harmful content with state and non-state actors;
2.4 Capacities of CSOs, MIL actors and youth in each pilot country strengthened on promoting peace building narratives online;
2.5 Awareness raised on the potential of fact-based peace building narratives through global advocacy, with a particular focus on youth.

Outputs contributing to Specific Objective 3:
> 3.1 Peacebuilding is promoted through living heritage in education;
> 3.2 A culture of peace and conflict prevention is better promoted through cultural and creative industries;
> 3.3 Capacities to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property of relevant stakeholders are strengthened.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Specific Objective 1:
- Showcasing FPI funded projects and initiatives;
- Preparation of side events, roundtables and partner exchanges;
- Preparation of high-level panels;
- Engaging early and interacting closely with the PPF to ensure EU suggestions on thematic preferences and high-level participation are taken on board;
- Actively participate in shaping and launching new multilateral initiatives.

Activities relating to Specific Objective 2:
- Research at global level on content moderation, regulatory, co-regulatory and self-regulatory tools of social media platforms during conflict and in special situations such as elections;
- Organisation of multi-stakeholder exchanges on approaches to content-regulation during conflict;
- Mapping of the rule of law tools and legal frameworks in place to address illegal harmful content and potential harmful content;
- Mapping of regulatory, self-regulatory, co-regulatory tools developed by social media platforms;
- Training of specialised CSOs on content moderation and freedom of expression;
- Training of fact-checkers and media, journalists on the debunking of disinformation in local languages;
- Organisation of training and continuous coaching of human curators on social media;
- Capacity-building training of regulators and judiciary on harmful content moderation in three pilot countries;
- Training of CSOs on promoting peace building narratives online;
- Organisation of Media and Information Literacy training of youth organisations.
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Indicative ctivities relating to Specific Objective 3:
- Peacebuilding is promoted through living heritage in education (training of teachers);
- Translation and designing of intangible cultural heritage teaching publications and video materials in local languages;
- Advocacy for the culture for peace and conflict prevention via art at regional and national levels;
- Strengthen capacities to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property of relevant stakeholders like law enforcement and museum staff;
- Media awareness-raising campaign on prevention of illicit trafficking of cultural property;
- Development of emergency preparedness guidelines and plans for national cultural heritage and other relevant cultural heritage institutions.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change
Environmental degradation, such as biodiversity loss, pollution, access toand management of natural resources, are critical drivers of conflicts, especially when aggravated by the effects of climate change. Implementing partners will ensure that the design of their respective projects and the implementation of activities take these risks into account and address them when relevant.

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 projects to be funded in the framework of this action should take into account the differences in the experiences and needs of men, women, boys and girls when designing and implementing activities. At community level, careful attention should be given to the possible negative impacts on gender and women's equality when supporting traditional leaders and/or community representatives that do not actively include women, youth and minorities in

consultations.

Human Rights

An inclusive, equal and non-discriminatory approach will be adopted when engaging on global governance, social media and cultural heritage in conflicts and crises, especially in aspects related to gender, youth, persons belonging to minorities, religious belief and communities, and indigenous peoples.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. While not significant, specific concerns related to people with disabilities should be addressed across the three specific objectives to the extent possible, as well as their right to participate in peacebuilding when appropriate and relevant for the objectives of each project.

Reduction of inequalities

Advocating and promoting a culture of conflict prevention and peacebuilding through increasing dialogues necessarily implies participatory approaches that are conducive to reduction of inequalities. This involves upholding the fundamental freedoms of those affected by conflicts, especially the most vulnerable.

Democracy

Dialogue and civic space for debates, serving as a means to fostering peaceful interactions and promoting exchanges of views is critical in all peacebuilding initiatives and provides the state with more accountability and respect for democratic principles and practices.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Action will take into account local conflict dynamics, do no harm principles and maximise opportunities to make positive contributions to build peace and resilience at all levels, while at the same time mitigating risks of unintended negative impacts. It will be implemented through a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach, ensuring coordination, coherence and collaboration in order to reduce overall vulnerability of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities, build resilence and address root causes of conflict.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Projects to be funded in the framework of this action should take into account any risks of environmental degradation, climate change and natural disasters overall and aim to reduce those risks, especially when constituting an opportunity to strengthen state, societal or community resilience or achieving peacebuilding and security objectives.

3.4   Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating measures
External/ politcal	Risk related to political support to the PPF and its relevance in the global context	**Low**	**Medium**	Active engagement with the management structures of the Forum, as well as increased outreach to relevant partners to ensure input from the ground which would safeguard the Forum's relevance.
Security / Safety	Deterioration of the security situation in a specific country.	**Medium**	**Medium**	Working with partners with long experience in operating in conflict-prone and conflict-affected countries Regular exchange with partners to ensure that the action is in line with local needs or can be adapted if necessary The partners have comprehensive contingency

				and risk-mitigation procedures in place, especially if some political developments occur such as economic sanctions.
Inflation/Price rise	The escalation of conflicts in general, border conflict between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the economic sanctions against the Russian Federation following the war of aggression against Ukraine have had increased major impacts on prices increase in Central Asia, especially on-air ticket costs, hotel/ accommodation costs	**Medium**	**Medium**	The partners include contingencies in the budget for such a possible impact on prices during the project implementation.
Security / Safety	Stakeholders involved in project activities in conflict-prone countries face political and security threats	**Low**	**Medium**	The partners will develop the appropriate risk management frameworks to anticipate and respond to security threats. Partnering with experienced organisations that will carefully monitor the situation and threats and adapt where necessary.
Security / Safety	Initiatives aiming to tackle harmful content online infringe on the human rights situation in countries, notably freedom of expression and association.	**Low**	**Medium**	The partners will carefully monitor the impact of their activities to ensure they do no harm.

Lessons Learnt:

As the **Paris Peace Forum** grows in importance, it is imperative to maintain its inclusivity and focus. The Forum should continue serving as a platform to find solutions to global governance issues, maintaining strong conflict prevention and peacebuilding angle. It should also aim at increasing inclusivity by reaching out to those who have alternative suggestions, innovative approaches and are offering creative solutionsaddition, the Forum should maintain the focus on quality of sessions and content, while avoiding temptation to go into too many different directions.

One key finding of the first phase of **Social Media4Peace** was that digital platforms are not yet prepared to analyse and classify hate speech and disinformation according to local contexts and languages – there is thus a particular

need to train human content curators and moderators on identifying and removing harmful content online in local languages. The establishment of multi-stakeholder coalitions and the fostering of dialogue at the national level is proving particularly effective in the first phase of project implementation and is foreseen to be continued under the proposed action. Lessons-learnt under the EU-funded project #CoronavirusFacts have shown the importance of involving youth actors and youth-led civil society groups in activities to tackle harmful content-online, including capacity-building but also advocacy and media and information literacy. Building on this, the new action will particularly be targeted at youth.

In previouis projects related to **Cultural Heritage,** it was acknowledged that getting different communities together around the preservation of cultural heritage is a unique and very strong tool to create a sense of togetherness. This enables the development of joint objectives and provides a hands-on demonstration of the advantages of creating a future jointly together, even with direct impact on economic development and employment. Since the preservation of cultural heritage to quite some extent is related to the preservation of immaterial heritage, the project output can, if not properly steered, be a bit vague. Thus, it is important to ensure close monitoring of the actions and establish a series of clear milestones to be achieved from the outset. There is also hard evidence that illicit trafficking, including in cultural goods, has been extensively used to finance both organised criminal networks and organisations promoting violent extremism. Thus, some initiatives to support countering trafficking would be called for in the Central Asia region that is now potentially more exposed to both with the instability at the border with Afghanistan.

3.5   The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the EU promotes conflict prevention and peacebuilding as a contribution to building the resilience of societies with support to actors in key and innovative conflict prevention and peacebuilding areas, then relevant capacities and processes will be more effective at tackling conflict and security challenges.

3.6   Logical Framework Matrix

Main expected results (maximum 10)	Results chain (Main expected results) (at least one indicator per expected result)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact (Overall Objective)	To build the resilience of conflict-prone and conflict-affected countries for conflict prevention and peacebuilding is strengthened, with support to dialogue, advocacy and innovative multi-disciplinary approaches	**Impact Indicator 1:** The intervention contributed to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and stabilisation in the given context of the action **Impact Indicator 2:** The intervention minimised risks and maximised positive outcomes on peace and security (Y/N) **Impact Indicator 3**: Number of persons directly benefiting from the intervention (M/W/B/G)	World Bank Political Stability and/or Absence of Violence Index and Global Peace Index scores; Heidelberg Institute for Conflict Research Conflict Barometer Narrative progress reports by international implementing partners and local partner projects	*Not applicable*
Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))	1. To bring together all relevant stakeholders at the Paris Peace Forum to advance concrete solutions for peacebuilding and conflict prevention where non exist 2. To build the resilience of conflict-prone and conflict-affected countries to potentially harmful content is strengthened, while protecting freedom of expression and enhancing the promotion of peace through social media 3. To strengthen the culture of peace in Central Asia by providing pathways for intercultural dialogue towards a sense of joint identity based on common cultural heritage dimensions	**Outcome Indicator 1**: The intervention envisages information sharing and coordination with (other) multilateral institutions. (Y/N) **Outcome Indicator 2:** Alignment of the intervention with the correct understanding of the conflict situation. (not at all, limited degree, medium, significant , fully) **Outcome Indicator 3:** % of supported stakeholders which use new tools to address potential harmful content (disaggregated by sex, age, profile, geographical area) **Outcome Indicator 4**: Number and outreach of online peacebuilding initiatives (campaign, reports, videos, etc) by trained CSOs and influencers involved in the project (disaggregated by	Narrative reports from implementing partners	The political and security situation in each country allows the implementation of the activities as per the foreseen modalities and does not require substantial redesign. All stakeholders involved in the project have expressed an interest and willingness to engage in a partnership process Partnerships will adopt conflict-sensitive principles to ensure do no harm approach and that positive changes are achieved.

		geographical area) **Outcome Indicator 5:** % of trained stakeholders reporting improved awareness and capacities to effectively manage and raise awareness of cultural heritage and common history in Central Asia **Outcome Indicator 6:** % of trained stakeholders that report increased regional cooperation in Central Asia (e.g. on data and tracking) regarding illicit trafficking in cultural goods		
Outputs	1.1 Enhanced visibility of EU's work on conflict prevention and peacebuilding, through participation in high-level events, round-tables and by showcasing EU funded projects and initiatives; 1.2.Strengthened EU's engagement with the PPF by providing strategic suggestions for the Forum's agenda and activities while reinforcing EU's commitment to multilateralism and global cooperation 2.1. To enhance researchers, policy makers, relevant social media platforms, media professionals and targeted CSOs' understanding of the root causes, scale, and impact of potential harmful content on conflict dynamics 2.2.To improve the curbing of online harmful content at the regional and national level in three countries and build the capacities of relevant state and non-state actors on content moderation and conflict-sensitive reporting 2.3. To enhance promotion and support of fact-based peace building narratives and	**Ouput Indicator 1.1: %** of activities implemented on time and following the planned schedule. (**EU core indicator**) **Ouput Indicator 1.2**: Number of consultations, coordination meetings and joint actions with other institutions realised. (**EU core indicator**) **Ouput Indicator 1.3**: The dimensions on age and diversity were included as well. (Y/N) (**EU core indicator**) **Output Indicator 1.4**: Number of meetings with the PPF management and secretariat **Output Indicator 1.5**: Number of EU events and participation in partner events as well as projects showcased **Output Indicator 2.1:** Number of research papers/studies on trends and challenges of online harmful content under an EU funded intervention **Output Indicator 2.2:** Number of mapping reports of the legislation in place to address harmful content online (disaggregated by geographical area) (**customized indicator**) **Output Indicator 2.3**: Number of partners mobilised that actively contribute to the national multi-stakeholder coalition on potential harmful hate speech (disaggregated	To be further elaborated at project proposal stage but amongst others: Narrative Reports from implementing partners field Offices, reports from the project's local partners and from key stakeholders at the national and regional level Participants pre- and post activity surveys, surveys with conflict-affected countries M&E through project cycle, final project evaluation Statistics by social media platforms, research by specialised CSOs	The political and security situation in each country allows the implementation of the activities as per the foreseen modalities and does not require substantial redesign. All stakeholders involved in the project have expressed an interest and a willingness to engage in a partnership process. Partnerships will adopt robust conflict-sensitive principles to ensure activities do no harm and bring about positive changes.

	initiatives through digital technologies and social media at the international level and in three pilot countries 3.1 To use living and movable cultural heritage as effective tool/platform for peace building and conflict prevention 3.2 To mobilise culture for conflict prevention in regional creative initiatives 3.3 To strengthen capacities to prevent the illicit trafficking of cultural property of relevant stakeholders	by age, sex, profile **Output Indicator 3.1:** Number of Regional working meetings on promoting peace building through living heritage **Ouput Indicator 3.2**: Number of trained teachers on Cultural Heritage in education for peace-building and intergenerational transmission **Output Indicator 3.3**: Number of advocacy initiatives for the culture for peace and conflict prevention via art **Output Indicator 3.4:** Number of regional capacity-building training on Illicit trafficking prevention **Output Indicator 3.5:** Number of Media awareness-raising campaign on prevention of illicit trafficking **Output Indicator 3.6:** Number of youth participating in specific activities supported by an EU funded Action (M/W/B/G) **(EU indicator)** **Output Indicator 3.7:** Number of advocacy actions implemented by local CSOs **(EU indicator)**		

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country regional organisation/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 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 Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures[8].

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)
(a) Purpose of the grant(s)
The purpose of the grant is to promote conflict prevention and peacebuilding via increased dialogues with multiple actors and support advocacy objectives.

Actions will aim at reaching out and enhancing the dialogue with local civil society actors – in particular from conflict-affected countries – and where relevant with other stakeholders such as third countries authorities, international and regional organisations and private sector shall be encouraged.

(b) Type of applicants targeted
Civil society actors as defined in recital (46) of the NDICI Regulation 2021/947 are considered eligible under this Action. For international non-governmental organisation applicants, partnerships with local organisations established and active in the countries targeted will be particularly important in order to meet this measure's objectives.

Interventions will target: countries affected by/emerging from a conflict; countries affected by high levels of violence, or whose peace and stability is threatened; fragile states with weak capacity to perform core governance functions; countries in democratic transition, or where the lack of civic engagement and opportunities for participation in public life is seen as a factor threatening peace.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to international and local civil society organisations selected using the following criteria: experience convening international dialogue and events on peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence and specialisation as per article 195, paragraph f) of the Financial Regulation. The Paris Peace Forum is an NGO organised as a platform open to all stakeholders seeking to develop coordination, rules and capacities that answer global problems. It is the only organisation in charge of organising

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[8] 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.

the Forum, which is an unique annual international event focusing on global peace governance.

4.3.2 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with a pillar assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: institutional mandate to tackle conflict and promote peace globally in the digital and cultural areas; experience working in conflict prevention and peacebuilding; experience working on tackling harmful content online, notably with social media companies; leverage and ability to manage complex partnerships involving multiple stakeholders; leverage and ability to manage complex projects with global and in-country activities. Specific experience working in the domain of disinformation and misinformation as well as on cultural heritage as a vehicle for peace.

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case the selection of implementing partners as per the criteria and conditions set out above might not prove successful, changes from indirect to direct 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, conflict prevention and peacebuilding and inclusive approaches in the domain 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

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Dialogue and advocacy for conflict prevention composed of	900 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Social media for peace composed of	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.3.2	3 000 000
Cultural Heritage composed of	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.3.2	2 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision
Totals	5 900 000

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, in collaboration with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant EU Delegations.

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.

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 partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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:
Data collection, analysis and monitoring will be the responsibility of, and carried out by, each project's implementing partners and will be financed under the regular budget of each project. In the case of multi-country projects, implementing partners will be requested to present how monitoring and data collection will be operated.

5.2 Evaluation

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

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
☒	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)		
☐	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
☐	Single Contract 1	
☐	Single Contract 2	
	(…)	
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)		
☐	Group of contracts 1	