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ANNEX 1

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 the EU-Japan Policy Support Facility

ANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

<p>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</p>	<p>EU-Japan Policy Support Facility OPSYS number: ACT-62784 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)</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 Japan</p>
<p>4. Programming document</p>	<p>Regional Multi-annual 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 EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, the Strategic Compass, and the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme (RMIP) for Asia and the Pacific, namely:</p> <p>Priority Area 2 – (PA2): Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners</p> <p>2.2.4. – <i>‘Pursuing EU Interests with Asian partners in Asia and the Pacific (High Income Countries and other key partners)’</i>.</p> <p><u>Specifically, this action document addresses the following RMIP Specific Objectives (SO):</u></p> <p>SO1– Reinforced cooperation with the EU’s partners in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen multilateralism (partnerships and multilateralism) by effectively implementing the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and enhance the EU’s role and profile as a global action in Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>SO2– Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards in collaboration and alliance with Asian and Australasian HICs (alliance diplomacy).</p> <p>SO4– Supporting key political processes, tools and objectives (PCAs, SPAs, Connectivity Partnerships, Security, Good Governance) between the EU and Asian High Income Countries and other key partners.</p>

	<p>SO5– Enhance EU’s profile as global actor in the Asia-Pacific through Public Diplomacy and Principles.</p> <p><u>Expected Results (ER) of RMIP to which this action is contributing:</u></p> <p>ER.1.1: Effective policy dialogue on global and regional challenges, increased cooperation on rules-based multilateral order and governance and enhanced EU participation in Asian multi-lateral organisations leading to improved understanding, appreciation and alignment with EU positions, including on the European Green Deal.</p> <p>ER 2.2: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.</p> <p>ER 2.6: Developing and strengthening sustainable green and blue growth, supporting green and digital transitions, in particular a circular economy approach to sustainable production and consumption.</p> <p>ER 4.1: Successful political processes with Asian HICs.</p> <p>ER 5.2: Build trust, enhance the understanding of the EU in the Asia-Pacific, support the implementation of the EU’s policy priorities and facilitate future cooperation across policy areas (incl. sectoral diplomacies such as economic diplomacy, climate diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, science diplomacy).</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 2 – Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners Sectors: Multiple sectors			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: SDG 17 - Partnerships to achieve the Goals</p> <p>Other significant SDGs:</p> <p>SDG 1 - No Poverty</p> <p>SDG 5 - Gender Equality</p> <p>SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</p> <p>SDG 10 - Reduced Inequality</p> <p>SDG 16 - Peace and Justice Strong Institutions</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multi-sector aid			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	60000 – Private Sector Institution			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities1 @	<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: 14 02 01 31 South and East Asia Total estimated cost: EUR 1 200 000			

1 For more information, please consult: The European Commission inequality marker - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu) and Inequality Marker – Complementary Guidelines Application of the I-Marker to SSC fiches and Action Documents | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)

	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 1 200 000
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: Procurement

1.2 Summary of the Action

The overall aim of the proposed action (or “the Facility”) is to deepen EU-Japan relations on priority themes of EU and mutual interest.

Specific activities will be implemented to support the dialogues held in the wide array of policy areas covered by the different bilateral agreements and partnerships, mainly by the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and with the possibility to carry out activities –if relevant and necessary- related to others such as the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the EU-Japan Green Alliance, the EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership, the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, etc. The action will also, where possible and subject to political interest, rapidly respond to emerging issues and global challenges of mutual concern. The specific activities to be implemented by the Facility shall be identified among the existing policy dialogues through for example the ad-hoc joint committees established, such as the one for the SPA, or other mechanisms involving the participation of the EU Delegation and/or EC Services. The activities will be in accordance with, and contribute to, the implementation or to the definition of EU policies regarding relations with Japan. Furthermore, with a view to making it relevant to groups beyond the Government of Japan (GoJ) at the national level, it is also foreseen that relevant stakeholders will be given the opportunity to both propose and implement activities in the framework of the Facility, on the basis of criteria and priorities coherent with the rest of the action.

Specific activities will indicatively include the organisation of conferences, workshops, technical seminars, studies, (comparative, technical, etc.), legal analysis, translation, promotional material (flyers, poster, pamphlets, videos, adverts, etc.), the development of media/social media campaigns as well as other innovative activities deemed suitable to enhance EU-Japan relations.

The Facility will contribute to widely promoting EU interests in Japan. Furthermore, it is expected that it will also contribute to the increasing alignment of the EU and Japan's policy positions and approaches including in multilateral fora as well as the increasing harmonisation of legal frameworks in the policy areas addressed through the action.

1.3 Zone benefitting from the Action

The action shall be carried out in Japan².

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

As advanced, industrialised democracies, the EU and Japan have many common interests. Japan is the EU’s closest strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region. The scope of the overall EU-Japan relationship has broadened in recent years and now goes far beyond the earlier trade-related focus of the 1970s and 1980s. Building on shared fundamental values, top leaders meet at the annual EU-Japan Summits since 1991. As confirmed during the 29th EU-Japan Summit held in July 2023, the EU and Japan expressed satisfaction with the progress made in their bilateral relations and committed to working together to support a just and durable peace that is based on respect for international law and the principles of the UN Charter. EU and Japanese leaders committed to working together – and with a wide range of partners – on economic security and trade, digital transformation, energy and green transitions, sustainable development and health security, among others. The EU and Japanese leaders also acknowledged that the security of Europe and that of the Indo-Pacific are closely interlinked and agreed to establish

² Some activities may be carried out in the European Union or in the Indo-Pacific region.

a Strategic Dialogue at foreign ministerial level, and further develop their security partnership, which will promote increased cooperation on, inter alia: maritime security, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, including foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), counter-terrorism, disarmament, non-proliferation, and international peace cooperation.

During the last years, the EU and Japan successfully concluded some major agreements which together open up new possibilities for political, economic and security cooperation in support of peace, stability, pandemic recovery and sustainable development in the region, as well as opportunities to uphold the international rules-based order and promote effective multilateralism:

- The EU- Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)³ signed in 2019: the first-ever bilateral framework agreement between the EU and Japan, whose primary role is to serve as the charter defining and underpinning the overall relationship. The Agreement sets out an overarching framework for enhanced political and sectoral cooperation as well as joint actions on issues of common interest, including on regional and global challenges. At the core of the Strategic Partnership Agreement is a shared commitment to strengthen the rules-based global order and enhance global governance. The Agreement shows a strong joint commitment to defend multilateralism, the rule of law, democracy, respect for human rights, open markets, free and fair trade - key values which should form the basis of the international order. The Agreement will set the stage for increasing consultation and coordination in multilateral fora. The EU and Japan will work together to defend a rule-based multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organisation at its core, promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate action and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The Agreement is also a solid framework for strong bilateral cooperation to enrich the political dimension of the partnership, take forward security cooperation and promote the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Strategic Partnership Agreement covers all areas of existing sector cooperation, such as space, information and communication technologies, industrial policy, energy, transport, education, research and innovation. It also opens up the possibility for cooperation in new areas.
- The EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)⁴ signed in 2019: an ambitious, comprehensive pact to stimulate growth on both sides. During the first 2 years of implementation of the EPA, bilateral trade in goods increased significantly for key categories of European products despite the negative effect on bilateral trade flows caused by the COVID19 pandemic.
- The EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure⁵ signed in 2019, represents the EU's first ever partnership on connectivity with a third country. In the framework of the Global Gateway, the Partnership's approach is based on high standards of social and environmental protection, enabling countries to achieve higher levels of quality of life while guaranteeing respect for individual rights.
- The EU-Japan Green Alliance⁶ launched in 2021 marked a new phase of EU-Japan relations with a commitment to cooperate on climate change and other environmental issues. The five priority areas for the Alliance are: 1) pursuing a cost-effective, safe and sustainable energy transition by adopting low-carbon technologies, including renewable energy, renewable hydrogen, energy storage, and carbon capture, utilisation and storage; 2) strengthening environmental protection by promoting more sustainable, circular practices in production and consumption, and contributing to the global goal of protecting at least 30% of both land and sea in order to conserve biodiversity; 3) increased regulatory cooperation and business exchange to drive global uptake of low-carbon technologies and environmental solutions that will accelerate the global transition to climate-neutral economies; 4) consolidating existing collaboration on research and development in the areas of decarbonisation projects, renewable energy, and the bio-economy; and 5) maintaining both parties' leadership on international sustainable finance to help converge on a definition of sustainable investments and ensure consistency and transparency about sustainability-related disclosures.

³ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000381942.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000382106.pdf>

⁵ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/the_partnership_on_sustainable_connectivity_and_quality_infrastructure_between_the_european_union_and_japan.pdf

⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49932/eu-japan-green-alliance-may-2021.pdf>

- With the 2021 Communication on the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy⁷, the EU is also seeking cooperation from Japan as one of its closest allies in the region to contribute to stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific, fostering the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law.
- During the 2022 Summit, the leaders of the EU and Japan launched the EU-Japan Digital Partnership⁸ to advance cooperation on a wide range of digital issues and accelerate mutual cooperation on the digital transformation. The Digital Partnership facilitates regulatory and research cooperation on topics of semiconductors, 5G and beyond, high performance computing and quantum, artificial intelligence, digital connectivity, online platforms, data, digital trade, standardisation, as well as digital identity and trust services. Cooperation under the Digital Partnership contributes to our respective economic securities, allows us to promote a values-based and human-centric approach to digital technologies and to coordinate positions in multilateral fora.
- During the 2023 Summit, the leaders of the EU and Japan agreed to establish a Strategic Dialogue at foreign ministerial level.
- Other bilateral agreements include the “Administrative Arrangement on Cooperation of Copernicus” (January 2023) to further cooperate in the field of space and the “EU-Japan Horizontal Agreement for Air Services⁹” (February 2023) to further enhance air connectivity cooperation, as well as the Administrative Arrangement between the Commission (DG GROW) and the Japan Organisation for Metals and Energy Security (July 2023), the Memorandum of Cooperation on Hydrogen (December 2022), the Memorandum of Cooperation on semiconductors and a Memorandum of Cooperation to support secure and resilient submarine cable connectivity between the EU and Japan (both signed in July 2023).

Furthermore, the EU and Japan continue to hold regular dialogue meetings on a variety of policy areas such as energy, transport, climate, environment, education, development, information society, cyber-space, science & technology, trade, financial services, industrial policy, security and defence. Additionally, the EU and Japan have a regular dialogue on human rights and cooperate in various forums, such as the UN Human Rights Council and in the UN 3rd Committee.

2.2 Problem Analysis

At a time when domestic challenges invariably comprise an international dimension, the EU must seek like-minded global partners and encourage responsible global governance with a view to ensuring a fair and stable international order to achieve global peace, stability and prosperity of the world as well as human security. Relations with Japan have been increasingly important for the EU's foreign policy agenda during the last years, with numerous bilateral policy dialogues and regular annual Summits. These policy dialogues and the high level political outreach are very important, as both the EU and Japan consider further efforts to revive the global economy and boost bilateral trade and investments. Discussions have been focusing in many areas such as trade, connectivity, investment, energy, transport, climate, environment, migration, research, innovation, education, development, information society, cyber-space, science & technology, financial services, industrial policy, security and defence. Europe and Japan are often described as natural partners given their shared common values of democracy, the rule of law, social justice and human rights as well as a commitment to free and open markets. When acting on the global stage, both emphasise their ‘soft power’ tools of trade, aid and diplomacy which can be used to advance their respective agendas and gain influence in the global stage.

The EU recognises Japan as one of its strategic partners, but the two sides have still to make further efforts to translate their common concerns into a closer operational strategic partnership which would allow joint policies and initiatives to tackle global challenges or seek solutions to shared problems. Acting together, the EU and Japan could wield substantially more clout in influencing and setting international standards on issues like trade, peace, security, climate change and digital technologies. However, potential opportunities for joint action still abound, therefore the EU and Japan stand to gain immensely from strengthened dialogue and cooperation by injecting more dynamism and creative thinking into their partnership. While consolidating their already sound economic

⁷ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/jointcommunication_2021_24_1_en.pdf

⁸ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/56091/%E6%9C%80%E7%B5%82%E7%89%88-jp-eu-digital-partnership-clean-final-docx.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100476187.pdf>

relationship, more efforts can be done to mutually reinforce their global outreach and explore the potential for joint security initiatives, for example. Furthermore, both sides can reinforce cooperation at both the bilateral level and in multilateral fora to tackle global threats such as climate change, poverty, energy security and nuclear proliferation. Finally, the EU and Japan should work together and learn from each other as they strive to tackle common challenges posed by an ageing society and common concerns about immigration and artificial intelligence, for instance.

Strengthening relations between Europe and Japan require determination, hard work and imaginative thinking. An important export and investment market for Europe, Japan needs to expand its view of the EU as a political ally. On the other hand, the EU can benefit from Japan's insight, experience and expertise in many areas such as technology and demography as it seeks to expand relations with other Asian countries.

Given the breadth and scope of the relationship, the EU and Japan are expected to benefit from this Facility to advance bilateral priorities over the coming years, positively reinforce the partnership and implement the different commitments derived from the EU-Japan bilateral strategic framework. While the bilateral relationship encompasses almost all areas of cooperation, some priority areas of engagement can be distilled from existing agreements or summit declarations. In that sense, a number of ongoing actions are already instrumental in the implementation of main political priorities stemming out of bilateral engagements. Overall, activities are expected to bring more added value when appropriately framed inside the EU strategic framework towards Japan, limiting the number of isolated events. Finally, it is paramount to ensure adequate buy-in from the Japanese counterparts, their early involvement and contribution to the actions. To maximise the benefits of our partnership, the Facility will enable EU services to give more attention to the bilateral relationship, developing a positive agenda where possible (particularly in areas where convergence seems feasible), exploring new areas of cooperation of EU and mutual interest but also helping address potential thornier issues. Further strategic thinking would be needed along these lines for the Facility to continue fostering bilateral cooperation and play its instrumental role in underpinning the EU's external action through the promotion of EU and mutual interests.

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

Relevant services of the European Commission, other EU institutions and agencies, EU Member States and their relevant institutions, Japanese government and administration, European and Japanese private sector, academia, think tanks, research entities, trade and industry associations, NGOs, EU social partners, members of the media.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of the EU-Japan Policy Support Facility (EJPSF – the “Facility”) is to contribute to the advancement of EU-Japan relations in key priority areas in line with the strategic framework represented by the SPA and other relevant bilateral agreements.

The Specific Objective of this action is to help develop the EU-Japan strategic framework through enhancing bilateral dialogues in specific priority areas of EU and mutual interest.

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

1. Output 1: The external dimension of EU policies in priority areas is promoted in Japan.
2. Output 2: Cooperation in priority areas is reinforced and concrete follow-up measures to sector dialogues are put in place and implemented.
3. Output 3: Regulatory convergence in selected areas is promoted.

4. Output 4: New areas of mutual interest for dialogue and partnership are identified and pilot initiatives undertaken.

3.2 Indicative Activities

- Related to Output 1: organisation and promotion of outreach events such as workshops, dissemination workshops and seminars, networking events, media campaigns;
- Related to Output 2: organisation and promotion of conferences, seminars, missions, technical visits, study tours and research activities;
- Related to Output 3: business missions from the EU to Japan; organisation and promotion of workshops/seminars; training and study visits to advance mutual understanding on EU standards, regulations and best practices;
- Related to Output 4: organisation and provision of pilot initiatives, including research and policy reports, sectorial surveys and studies, dissemination workshops and seminars, networking events, media campaigns.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The EU-Japan strategic bilateral framework, and more concretely the SPA, puts the EU and Japan in the forefront of environmental protection, which includes energy and climate change, emphasising joint cooperation in the framework of relevant international agreements and instruments. With the EU-Japan Green Alliance, signed in 2021, the EU and Japan are taking the lead and working in close coordination in the international fora in combating climate change and its adverse effects, including discussions on topics such as clean energy, circular economy and other sectors. Climate change mitigation and environmental protection ('aid to environment' DAC marker), as well as protection of biological diversity, are among the principal objectives of the Green Alliance as well. Strong interlinkages between the different EU-Japan bilateral dialogues and its policy priorities require an integrated approach, which will be mutually reinforcing. Activities promoting discussions on the use of clean energy and the adoption of more circular economy models were prioritized during the implementation period of the previous SPA Facility and will continue to be prioritized by this action.

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 will be at the centre of mainstreaming efforts, with a special interest on specific activities focusing on gender equality and empowerment of women whenever possible (as this was the case during the implementation of the previous SPA Facility). Despite many achievements over the past decades in terms of gender equality, Japan still lags behind most other OECD members in many aspects. Japan's gender wage gap is particularly striking (the highest among OECD members) with women's earnings averaging only 78 per cent of men's, compared with an 88 per cent median among all OECD countries. As part of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's New Capitalism plans, the government requires companies with more than 300 employees to disclose the wage gap between male and female workers since July 2022. The change is the latest in a series of attempts by the government to encourage women to enter and remain in the workplace.

Human Rights

As per Article 2 of the EU-Japan SPA, the EU and Japan are committed to the defense and promotion of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. This action will give priority to those activities seeking greater EU-Japan cooperation and coordination in promoting and realising those values and principles, including with or in third countries.

Disability

This Action does not target the promotion of social, economic or political inclusion of persons with disabilities. However, the European Union recognises and respects the right of persons with disabilities. The Commission is committed to making project information and activities as accessible as possible to the largest possible number of users and participants including those with visual, auditory, cognitive or physical disabilities.

Reduction of inequalities

The action is not considered relevant for inequality reduction.

Democracy

As per Article 2 of the EU-Japan SPA, the EU and Japan are committed to the defense and promotion of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. This action will give priority to those activities seeking greater EU-Japan cooperation and coordination in promoting and realising those values and principles, including with or in third countries.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Articles 3 and 4 of the EU-Japan SPA make references to the joint commitment when it comes to the promotion of international and regional peace and security, crisis management and peace-building, including by promoting common positions, cooperating with regard to resolutions and decisions in international organisations and fora, supporting national efforts of countries emerging from conflict to achieve sustainable peace and cooperating on crisis management operations and other relevant programmes and projects.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Articles 9 and 12 of the EU-Japan SPA refer to joint efforts to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risk mitigation, disaster management and humanitarian action. Both the EU and Japan have established a framework to enhance cooperation and, where appropriate, promote coordination at the bilateral, regional and international levels in the prevention of, mitigation of, preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters in order to reduce the risk of disasters and to increase resilience in this field, with a view to providing effective coordinated responses.

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	GoJ may have different priority areas than those in the EU-Japan strategic bilateral framework.	L	M	Decisions regarding the specific activities to be implemented will reflect discussions and joint activities identified in the EU-Japan dialogues or by the Joint Committees established (i.e. the SPA); Ensure that the specific activities approved reflect the interest of Japan as well as the EU.
2-to planning, processes and systems	The selection of priority policy areas does not fully reflect the EU's political objectives	L	L	Ensure involvement and/or endorsement at the highest level. Priorities will also be taken from EU-Japan Summit declarations.

3-to people and the organisation	Lack/poor involvement of EU institutions, including the necessary provision of human resources needed to steer the action.	M	M	Careful planning of specific activities in Japan in line with the availability of EU Headquarter colleagues, identification and agreement of priority policy areas before the project start. Approval of specific activities in a wide range of high priority policy areas. Strategic selection of the areas of intervention, in line with EU's interests and policy priorities. Extensive internal coordination among EU services.
5-to communication and information	Delays in the implementation of the activities, poor expertise/project management, etc..	M	M	Close monitoring of the action. Selection of a tenderer with a solid track record regarding similar actions/projects; recruitment of experts with experience working with Japan.
5-to communication and information	Overlaps with activities from other Directorate Generals or EU Member States (MS) Overlaps with existing EU – funded projects at global and regional level.	M	M	Internal monitoring and coordination with MS through the EU Delegation. Regular coordination with the Foreign Policy Needs service of the EU (FPI) and FPI Regional Team in Bangkok. Ensure enough flexibility to avoid overlaps.

Lessons learnt:

The proposed action builds on the experience of previous Japan-specific policy-support and trade-related facilities funded by the EU such as the SPA Support Facility (2019-2024) and the EPA Support Facility (2019-2023) and points to the importance of identifying priority areas for enhancing the EU-Japan strategic bilateral framework, allowing the Facility's efforts to be concentrated in sectors with clear strategic interest, leading to specific engagements that will yield concrete results. Whenever possible, it will be critical to ensure the active participation of relevant EU and Japanese services responsible for each dialogue in the very labour-intensive follow-up of political engagements. An internal mechanism to establish priorities and links between the political agreements or sector dialogues and activities was developed and implemented as part of the previous action's implementation, taking into account overall evolving priorities and the policy framework for EU engagement with Japan. Therefore, it can be said that there is a well established mechanism inside the EU Delegation in Japan related to the use of similar facilities, which means effective coordination with Commission services and the EEAS in order to identify and implement relevant activities. Previous projects have also shown the importance of maintaining a high degree of flexibility to respond to changing priorities or political commitments, while planning and ensuring continuity of activities in a number of key priority areas, including emerging areas or those where a more careful approach is needed. Effective monitoring of the action from the FPI is essential to manage the financial and logistic uncertainties derived from the demand-driven approach of the Facility.

An evaluation of the Policy Support Facilities worldwide, for which the EU-Japan SPA Facility was considered, was carried out in 2023. This evaluation confirmed the relevance of facilities in supporting EU Delegations in advancing EU priorities and Foreign Policy. The built-in flexibility of the facilities, which allows for a short timeframe from planning to implementation, was also considered to be a key feature of the facilities, allowing EU Delegations like the one in Japan, to respond to emerging priorities and/or evolving contexts, i.e. COVID-19, and changing political

environments. There was consensus among EU Delegations about the value of the services provided by the facilities, which mainly consisted of the preparation of studies and reports, the provision of technical advice and assistance, and the logistical support for events and technical missions, including visibility. These tools were significantly valued for reinforcing and/or reactivating dialogues, as well as to initiate new dialogues in emerging areas, thus facilitating the development of new engagement strategies that are often difficult to initiate in sensitive political contexts.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is to support the EU-Japan partnership. The EU and Japan are strategic partners with a shared commitment to implement the different bilateral dialogues, partnerships and agreements with a view to ensuring a just and stable international order to achieve global peace, stability and prosperity of the world as well as human security. The EU-Japan strategic framework is a far-reaching bilateral set of commitments, which will enable the parties to work closely to address bilateral and major global challenges, such as climate change, digitalisation, peace and security, poverty, health and infectious diseases, demographic changes, outer space, etc.

The Facility will contribute to enable the EU to both expand and deepen its relations with Japan, currently characterised by a culture of dialogue and cooperation, and move towards a culture of an even deeper engagement through joint activities including with other European and Japanese stakeholders.

The already extensive and numerous dialogues will be strengthened and an inclusive approach will contribute to increase awareness of the EU and its potential to cooperate with Japan beyond the main Japanese stakeholders, namely the Ministries and the Diet. Such an approach will also help to provide local stakeholders, at times critical of EU policies and policy approaches, with information and opportunities to directly interact with EU representatives. Existing dialogues will be followed by more concrete actions with scope to launch pilot activities in new areas, as necessary. Through the implementation of different activities such as outreach events, conferences, seminars, meetings, missions, technical visits, social media campaigns, studies, etc., this action will be supporting the core of the EEAS and the Commission's work, namely its dialogues with Japan's ministries and agencies.

The Facility will also complement the numerous other Partnership Instrument and NDICI-Global Europe funded projects managed by the EU Delegation to Japan, FPI and the FPI Regional Team in Bangkok, both on-going and in the pipeline. Particular attention will be paid to ensure coordination with the on-going EPA Support Facility project (with its core focus on market access issues), the Support to the Implementation of the EU-Japan Connectivity Partnership Project, the Green Alliance Project, the Public and Cultural Diplomacy Project and other actions. The Facility will also be in line with the activities of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, which in its more than 30 years of existence has developed a wide range of activities from managerial training to information support to policy analysis to logistics support and Research and Development cooperation.

Complementarities will also be explored with EU institutions and Commission services / DGs' ongoing projects and/or initiatives, as well as with the relevant interventions developed by other partners (especially EU Member States and International Organisations) and by the Japanese Government and institutions. It will be important to continuously monitor ongoing actions relevant to the identified priority areas, in particular those undertaken by EU Member States, in order to ensure complementarity, build on good experiences and avoid duplications.

The multi-stakeholder approach and the broad thematic scope of the Facility will enable a swift adaptation to evolving policy priorities and constraints. Gender equality will be the action's priority in terms of mainstreaming. In order to maximise visibility and impact, a Team Europe approach will be sought wherever feasible.

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 (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to the advancement of EU-Japan relations in key priority areas in line with the strategic framework represented by the SPA and other relevant bilateral agreements.	(1) Number of EU bilateral, regional, inter-regional and multi-lateral cooperation partnership strategies which have been enhanced (2) Number of collective approaches and/or practices to challenges of global and/or mutual concern which have been developed/adopted/implemented	(1) 2024: 0 The EU and Japan hold high-level dialogues to cooperate in strategic sectors of common interest, involving regular meetings to explore and strengthen new cooperation formulas. (2) 2024 : 0 As global players, the EU and Japan face common challenges in multiple fields: environment, security, human rights, etc. The EU-Japan SPA and other bilateral agreements provides a framework for developing agreement and common statements on how to face these global challenges.	(1) 2026: 3 Only the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership Agreement foresee to boost collaboration in 40 strategic areas, providing a framework to positively influence the partnership strategies and existing policy dialogues, and boosting new cooperation strategies and policy dialogues. This indicator is understood as the number of partnership strategies that have been influenced, through the preparation, implementation of follow up actions by the facility (2) 2026 :3 This is understood as the number of common approaches or practices between the EU and Japan that are developed, adopted or implemented, under the framework of the SPA and other agreements.	Joint Statements of EU-Japan Summits / Minutes of meeting of the EU-Japan SPA Joint Committee and other bilateral agreements	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	To help develop the EU-Japan strategic framework through enhancing bilateral dialogues in specific priority areas of EU and mutual interest.	(1.1) Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced (1.2) Number of processes related to partner country	(1.1) 2024: 0 The EU and Japan collaborate bilaterally in many areas of common interest. The EU-Japan SPA and other bilateral agreements provide a framework for aligning and leveraging these collaborative	(1.1) 2026: 4 This indicator is understood as the number of policy dialogues and partnership strategies between the EU and Japan that has been enhanced through the implementation of the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership	Joint positions/Communications Minutes of meetings of the EU-Japan SPA Joint Committee / High Level Sector Dialogues Meetings and other bilateral meetings.	Decisions regarding the specific activities to be implemented reflect discussions and joint activities identified in the EU-Japan dialogues or by

		<p>practices on challenges of global concern which have been influenced</p> <p>(1.3) Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up to or during regional/international fora which have been influenced</p>	<p>strategies and dialogues from a state and sub-state perspective.</p> <p>(1.2) 2024:0</p> <p>As global players, the EU and Japan face common challenges in multiple fields: environment, security, human rights, etc. The EU-Japan SPA and other bilateral agreements provides a framework for the EU practices and policies to influence the Japanese approaches to global challenges.</p> <p>(1.3) 2024:0</p> <p>Japanese and EU public organisations participate in general and sector-specific international fora, in order to discuss and explore ways to reach cooperation agreements in strategic affairs. The EU-Japan SPA and other bilateral agreements provide a framework to align interests and positions between the EU and Japan</p>	<p>Agreement and other bilateral agreements.</p> <p>(1.2) 2026: 3</p> <p>This is understood as the Japanese public policy practices related to global challenges (environment, human rights, security, digitalisation, etc.) that are influenced by the EU policies within these areas.</p> <p>(1.3) 2026: 3</p> <p>EU and Japanese approaches to strategic global challenges are aligned through joint positions in international summits and fora.</p>		<p>the Joint Committees established (i.e. the SPA)</p>
Output 1	<p>The external dimension of EU policies in priority areas is promoted in Japan</p>	<p>(1.1.1) Number of events organised or supported</p> <p>(1.1.2) Number of participants in the events organised/supported</p> <p>(1.1.3) Number of knowledge-based products developed</p> <p>(1.1.4) Number of public/media/communication campaigns designed and implemented</p>	<p>(1.1.1) 2024: 0</p> <p>(1.1.2) 2024: 0</p> <p>(1.1.3) 2024: 0</p> <p>(1.1.4) 2024: 0</p>	<p>(1.1.1) 2026: 3</p> <p>(1.1.2) 2026: 750</p> <p>(1.1.3) 2026: 2</p> <p>(1.1.4) 2026: 3</p>	<p>Minutes of meeting of the EU-Japan SPA Joint Committee</p> <p>High Level Sector Dialogues Meetings (minutes and other relevant documentation)</p>	<p>Priorities are based on the highest possible level of bilateral involvement (EU-Japan Summit declarations).</p>

Output 2	Cooperation in priority areas is reinforced and concrete follow-up measures to sector dialogues are put in place and implemented.	(1.2.1) Number of events organised or supported (1.2.2) Number of participants in the events organised/supported (1.2.3) Number of knowledge-based products developed	(1.2.1) 2024: 0 (1.2.2) 2024: 0 (1.2.3) 2024: 0	(1.2.1) 2026: 4 (1.2.2) 2026: 1000 (1.2.3) 2026: 3	Sector Dialogues Minutes of Meetings and documentation ToR and activities' reports	Strategic selection of the areas of intervention, in line with EU's interests and policy priorities. Extensive internal coordination among EU services.
Output 3	Regulatory convergence in selected areas is promoted	(1.3.1) Number of events organised or supported (1.3.2) Number of participants in the events organised/supported (1.3.3) Number of knowledge-based products developed	(1.3.1) 2024: 0 (1.3.2) 2024: 0 (1.3.3.) 2024:0	(1.3.1) 2026: 2 (1.3.2) 2026: 500 (1.3.3.) 2026: 2	Minutes of meeting of the EU-Japan SPA Joint Committee High Level Sector Dialogues Meetings (Minutes and other relevant documentation) Final reports of activities	Policies and policy approaches on global challenges in international fora that are increasingly aligned between the EU and Japan.
Output 4	New areas of mutual interest for dialogue and partnership are identified and pilot initiatives undertaken.	(1.4.1) Number of events organised or supported (1.4.2) Number of participants in the events organised/supported	(1.4.1) 2024: 0 (1.4.2) 2024: 0	(1.4.1) 2026: 2 (1.4.2) 2026: 500	Joint positions/communications	Strategic selection of the areas of intervention, in line with EU and Japan's mutual interests and policy priorities.

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 months¹⁰ 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 measures¹¹.

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	1 200 000
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	
Totals	1 200 000

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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 day-to-day management of the project will be the responsibility of the European Commission, through the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) staff in the EU Delegation (EUD) in Japan. A Project Manager will be appointed to ensure close follow-up of implementation. The political, operational and technical aspects of the project will be steered, managed and implemented by the following bodies in accordance with their respective competences:

The management structure will consist of 1) a Steering Group (SG) which will provide strategic guidance to the project, in compliance with the decisions taken and agreements made at high political level, and will ensure the regular monitoring of the project and appraise the results achieved. It will consist of EUD Japan representatives of FPI, EEAS and relevant DGs; 2) a Project Manager from the FPI staff which will ensure the regular follow up of the project and 3) a Project team (PT) provided by the implementing partner consisting of a technical core team, including a key expert acting as Team Leader, plus relevant non-key senior and/or juniorexperts and the support staff required for the implementation of this project. The PT shall be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of all components and the specific actions and tasks of the project; this includes the technical, administrative, operational and organisational aspects related to project coordination, implementation, reporting and management of all components and tasks of the project, including communication and visibility activities.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

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

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring: the implementing partner will bear primary responsibility for the data collection, analysis and monitoring. The European Commission may undertake monitoring activities, as needed.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and/or final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants through a joint mission contracted by the Commission via an implementing partner.

A mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to identifying opportunities for improving the project relevance and implementation performance.

A final evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the evolving EU-Japan cooperation priorities.

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.

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		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: single contract in the present action