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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the action plan on
Rapid Mechanism to support EU External Action
for 2023

Action Document for Rapid Mechanism to support EU External Action

ACTION 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

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Rapid Mechanism to support EU External Action OPSYS number: ACT-62345; JAD.1338628 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally
4. Programming document	NA
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	NA
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Multisector
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 17 – Partnerships to achieve the goal Other SDGs: n/a
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 - Multisector aid
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	61000 - Private sector in provider country

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/

	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14 02 03 30 Total estimated cost: EUR 9 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 9 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

This action aims to enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities and to respond to a dynamic and fast-changing foreign policy environment that the EU has been and remains confronted with.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

NDICI-Global Europe is designed to uphold and promote the European Union's values, principles and fundamental interests worldwide. Among its areas of intervention, the rapid response pillar addresses the specific foreign policy needs and priorities of the European Union, as described in Annex IV of the NDICI-Global Europe regulation. Such Foreign Policy actions span across political, economic and security issues, with the aim to enable the EU to act where there is an urgent or imperative foreign policy interest.

The Rapid Mechanism tool is the continuation of the 'Foreign Policy Support Facility', which has proven to provide support to pursue EU foreign policy priorities thus working for a "Stronger Europe in the World". By nature, it is placed under the geopolitical lead of the European External Action Service, with strong Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) drive and close coordination with Directorate General for International Partnership, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and relevant lead policy Directorate Generals to ensure that the actions implemented are pertinent, can show impact in advancing EU interests, and guarantee a synergic work among the pillars of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

2.2 Problem Analysis

In order to satisfy the ‘rapid response’ requirement and allow for responding to a dynamic and fast-changing foreign policy environment that the EU has been and remains confronted with, a specific Rapid Mechanism to support EU External Action is proposed.

Its areas of intervention are governed by the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and international Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, Annex IV area 3 - Actions addressing Union foreign policy needs and priorities

The Rapid Mechanism to support EU External Action is conceived as a rapid response tool enabling targeted, flexible and tailor-made short-term activities, meaning specific studies or giving support to specific events targeting mainly topics of EU/mutual interest in particular fields such as climate change, security, public and cultural diplomacy, digitalisation, deforestation etc.

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

Direct stakeholders and partners of the different activities within the Rapid Mechanism are partner country administrations involved in dialogues, together with the EEAS, the corresponding services of the European Commission and other partner country and European public and private institutions interested in the policy dialogues (regional and local governments, universities and research centres, business and socio-professional associations, NGOs, cultural institutions etc.).

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to bolster the EU’s worldwide soft power and enhance its capacity to pursue geopolitical objectives by promptly addressing foreign policy issues upholding and promoting fundamental values, principles and interests of the EU worldwide in a timely fashion.

The **Specific Objective** of this action is to support the EU’s foreign policy across political, economic and security areas. Rapid response actions shall enable the EU to act where there is an urgent or imperative foreign policy interest requiring a rapid reaction and which cannot or with difficulty be addressed by other means, i.e. by the geographic or thematic programmes under the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

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

- 1.1 Support EU’s bilateral, regional and inter-regional partnership frameworks and cooperation strategies with third countries, with a special focus on High Income Countries and Middle Income Countries;
- 1.2 Support EU’s political and policy engagement with third countries within an international contested and competitive geopolitical scenario, including in areas such as security, defence, digitalisation, fight against Disinformation, Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, support to the implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation;
- 1.3 Support EU’s capacity to build and strengthen partnerships and alliances with key countries of strategic interest, and other relevant actors, in the global governance agenda, international economy, and in multilateral fora.
- 1.4 Support to the EU’s trade policy and the negotiation, implementation and enforcement of trade agreements; improve access to partner country markets and boost trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies.
- 1.5 Contribute to the implementation of the international dimension of the internal EU policies.
- 1.6 Promote a broad understanding and visibility of the EU and of its role on the world scene.
- 1.7 Support the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission mandate in ensuring that the EU's overall external action

in the areas of development assistance, trade, humanitarian aid and crisis response is consistent and effective.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative non-exhaustive list of activities relating to above Outputs are:

- Legal analysis and advice;
- Expertise in relation to urgent issues and implementation problems relevant to EU foreign policy needs;
- Translations (both from and into language of partner country), especially of existing or draft legislative documents, standards, communication material;
- Collection and analysis of statistics and data;
- Monitoring of the business environment in particular in High Income Countries, including existing and planned legislation and standards;
- Organisation of expert seminars and workshops;
- Short to medium-term technical studies, such as feasibility studies, technical reports, baseline, benchmarking on issues relevant to policy dialogues;
- Study visits, exchange visits and exchange of experts including social partners;
- Expertise in relation to urgent issues and implementation problems relevant to EU policy.

3.3 Mainstreaming

This action mainstreams the following cross-cutting issues: Multilateralism (building alliances) contributing to a global order based on international law, EU principles and values (democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality, including gender equality, and solidarity), Resilience and Innovation.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
The activity overlaps with or duplicates activities carried out by other Commission services.	Risk 1	Low	Medium	As part of the approval process, all relevant European Commission services are consulted on the proposed activity.
Insufficient absorption capacity of the users (EEAS, European Commission services) to provide the technical and policy steer of the activity.	Risk 2	Low	Low	A proposed action has to be presented along with an endorsement letter at an appropriate level of hierarchy. The endorsement letter specifically appoints a focal person in charge of the technical and/or policy steer.
Lessons Learnt:				
Previous experiences with the ‘Foreign Policy Support Facility’ have shown the importance of increasing the flexibility and rapidity to respond to changing priorities or political commitments. Careful planning will be also essential to help manage the financial and logistic uncertainties derived from the demand-driven approach of the				

action. It is critical to ensure the political steering of the EEAS and proactive participation of relevant DGs responsible for each action in the follow-up of political engagements.

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 54 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 in duly justified cases.

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 measures¹.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The action will be implemented through procurement.

4.4 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (EUR)
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	9 000 000
Totals	9 000 000

4.5 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The use of the Rapid Mechanism to support EU External Action is managed by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI). Individual proposals will be consulted with the European External Action Service, with the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and the Directorate General for International Partnerships (+ other concerned Directorates General) on a no-objection basis before relevant activities are launched. Close upstream coordination will be ensured to so that the Rapid Mechanism is mobilised in full complementarity with actions under the geographic and thematic pillars.

The action shall be implemented under direct management. A strong policy steering and monitoring of the action will be ensured by the EEAS and FPI in coordination with other relevant Commission services. The EU delegations in the region will also ensure direct contacts with the implementing partners and monitoring of the activities.

Dedicated steering committees may be established to act as advisory and reporting mechanism in order to provide the strategic and policy guidance needed to ensure smooth project implementation. Steering committees will define the priority work streams to be addressed. Steering committees will review and endorse annual work plans, monitor project outputs and achievements, and not least provide advice on how to address obstacles and challenges identified during implementation. Steering Committees, whose

¹ 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.

composition will be further detailed in the legal commitments, will comprise representatives of the European Commission services, the 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 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).

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). The Commission shall inform the implementing partners/contractors at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners/contractors 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 dissemination². 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

² See best practice of [evaluation dissemination](#)

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.

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:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single contract	Total envelope under section 4.3.1