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### ANNEX

## **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe**

### **Exceptional Assistance Measure regarding Ukraine**

#### **1. IDENTIFICATION**

Action: Ukraine: Rapid response to persisting and emerging war-related challenges

Action Reference: NDICI CR 2026 / 01 / ACT-63516

Cost: EUR 20 000 000 (Union contribution).

Budget Line: 14 02 03 10

Duration: Maximum 18 months. The authorising officer responsible may decide to extend this period twice by a further period of up to six months, up to a total maximum duration of 30 months, under the conditions laid down in Article 23(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('the NDICI Regulation').

Lead service: FPI

#### **2. ACTION SUMMARY**

This 18-months measure will mobilise assistance to strengthen Ukraine's resilience in dealing with persisting and emerging challenges. A first component will put in place a procurement facility dedicated to Ukraine, in order to provide rapid equipment assistance (including hard- and software). A second component will support targeted urgent energy interventions, with a special view to frontline areas. A third component will enable rapid response to emerging societal challenges related to the war as well as possible new geopolitical dynamics and disruptions.

#### **3. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

##### **3.1 BACKGROUND**

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine continues inflicting major damage on civilian infrastructure and residential areas, straining the overall resilience of the population and the country's first response and civilian security resources. Energy facilities are targeted,

aggravating the already very difficult living conditions especially in frontline areas. Previous interventions have demonstrated that, while large-scale reconstruction and repair efforts are ongoing, rapid interventions through equipment support to first responders, civilian security actors and similar, as well as targeted energy decentralisation, winterisation and small-scale repairs can have a tangible stabilising impact in particularly war-affected areas.

At the same time, geopolitical processes around Ukraine are extremely dynamic, with a volatile outlook. While the outcomes of the current peace discussions are difficult to predict, it is evident that societal resilience needs to be strengthened through enhanced investments in inclusive dialogue as well as support for outreach and contingency planning for a spectrum of scenarios that range from a reliable ceasefire enabling certain political processes to a more hybrid setting with intensified disinformation and sabotage, to a continuation of the war with an ever increasing strain on societal resilience.

**3.2 RATIONALE FOR CRISIS RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDER THE RAPID RESPONSE PILLAR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT**

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine continues inflicting major damage on civilian infrastructure and residential areas, straining the overall resilience of the population and the country’s first response and civilian security resources, while geopolitical processes around Ukraine are extremely dynamic and volatile, constituting an exceptional and unforeseen situation in the sense of Article 4(4), point (a), of the NDICI Regulation. An adequate response cannot be provided under any other Union Instrument due to the urgency with which the funds are required and due to available resources already being firmly committed.

Annex IV, paragraph 1, second subparagraph, points (f), (g) and (q) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 specifically provides for the use of the NDICI rapid response pillar to support (f) [...] reinforcement of State capacity - in the face of significant pressures to rapidly build, maintain or restore its core functions, and basic social and political cohesion; (g) [...] measures necessary to start the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure, housing, public buildings and economic assets, and essential productive capacity, as well as other measures for the re-starting of economic activity, the generation of employment and the establishment of the minimum conditions necessary for sustainable social development and (q) [...] measures to promote the development and organisation of civil society and its participation in the political process, including measures to enhance the role of women in such processes and measures to promote independent, pluralist and professional media.

**3.3 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

Risks	Probability	Project response
The ongoing combat operations and Russian attacks throughout Ukraine might impact the ability of implementing partners and Ukrainian authorities to implement the planned activities.	<b>M</b>	The implementing partners to be selected will be required to have relevant experience and a clear protocol for operating in war affected areas with sufficient safeguarding and protective measures in place as well as a track

Risks	Probability	Project response
		record of being able to imminently start work in the affected areas.
The volatile global political situation might impact the action or parts of it in difficult to foresee ways.	M	The implementing partners will be chosen with special attention to flexibility and capability for anticipation and rapid adjustment.
Lack of coordination among donors resulting in duplication of efforts or inefficient allocation of resources.	M	Continued coordination among EU actors will be pursued based also on lessons learned from previous actions.

**4. OBJECTIVES**

**4.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective of the action is to strengthen Ukraine’s resilience in dealing with persisting and emerging challenges.

**4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- 4.2.1 Enhance Ukraine’s overall resilience notably through rapid access to essential equipment;
- 4.2.2 Enhance Ukraine’s energy security through targeted interventions, notably in frontline-adjacent areas;
- 4.2.3 Enable Ukraine and the European Union to react fast to a volatile geopolitical environment including through enhanced societal resilience.

**5. ACTION COMPONENTS AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

The main expected results/outcomes include:

**Component I: Rapid access to essential equipment**

**Expected Result (1):** Ukraine is provided with rapid access to essential equipment (including, as applicable, software, software licences or similar non-material goods), contributing to its resilience and public service delivery.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.1.1 Procurement of various types of equipment, notably for use by Ukrainian authorities in the context of resilience-relevant tasks, such as internal security, civilian protection, critical civilian infrastructure repairs and protection, etc.;
- 5.1.2 Provision of technical assistance as necessary in order to ensure the use of equipment in the most effective way;
- 5.1.3 Technical and logistical support in the context of delivering services as applicable.

## **Component II: Targeted energy infrastructure support notably in frontline-adjacent areas**

**Expected Result (2):** Ukraine's energy infrastructure resilience is strengthened through targeted interventions, notably in frontline-adjacent areas.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.2.1 Support to rehabilitation of critical energy/heating infrastructure, notably where it was damaged through warfare;
- 5.2.2 Provision and installation of back-up and sustainable energy systems as relevant;
- 5.2.3 Other targeted measures in the energy sector as applicable.

## **Component III: Fast reaction capacity to geopolitical volatility including through enhanced societal resilience**

**Expected Result (3):** Ukraine and the EU have capacity for fast reaction to geopolitical volatility including through enhanced societal resilience.

Activities (indicative):

- 5.3.1 Enhancing civilian protection and resilience in response to evolving kinetic and hybrid warfare threats;
- 5.3.2 Support to promotion and/or protection, as applicable, of joint Ukraine-EU interests globally;
- 5.3.3 Reinforcing national resilience, as applicable and relevant, during particularly volatile periods.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **6.1 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES**

The Commission will ensure that the appropriate Union 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<sup>1</sup>.

#### 6.1.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)

##### (a) Purpose of the grant

Grants will be awarded for the implementation of activities under Components II and III, Expected Results (2) and (3).

##### (b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted are non-profit organisations and private companies with relevant expertise in the intervention area and the ability to roll out activities with immediate effect.

##### (c) Justification of a direct grant

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

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 entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 198, point (a), and as defined in Article 2(22) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision.

#### 6.1.2 Indirect management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: operational capacity to implement relevant activities including relevant outreach with immediate effect; track record of implementing EU rapid response, notably in Ukraine.

The implementation by this entity entails activities under Component I, Expected Result (1).

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

If the preferred modality for Component I, including partly, cannot be implemented in indirect management, including partly, due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, these parts of the action may instead be implemented in direct management as per section 6.1.1 with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: operational capacity, thematic and national expertise.

##### (a) Purpose of the grant

Grants will be awarded for the implementation of Component I, Expected Result (1).

##### (b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted are non-profit organisations and private companies with relevant expertise in the intervention area and the ability to roll out activities with immediate effect.

##### (c) Justification of a direct grant

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 entails crisis management aid as referred to in Article 198, point (a), and as defined in Article 2(22) of the Financial Regulation** at the date of the Financing Decision.

If the preferred modality for Components II and III, including partly, cannot be implemented in direct management due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the whole or part of this action may instead be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: operational capacity, thematic and regional expertise.

## 6.2 INDICATIVE BUDGET

The total Union contribution under this Financing Decision **will not exceed EUR 20 000 000**. A breakdown among components is provided hereunder, and is indicative.

### Indicative budget breakdown

Components	Union contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Component I: <b>Rapid access to essential equipment</b> composed of:	<b>15 000 000</b>	
6.1.2 – Indirect management with pillar-assessed entity	15 000 000	N.A.
Component II: <b>Targeted energy infrastructure support notably in frontline-adjacent areas</b> composed of:	<b>1 500 000</b>	
6.1.1 – Direct grants (direct management)	1 500 000	N.A.
Component III: <b>Fast reaction capacity to geopolitical volatility including through enhanced societal resilience</b> composed of:	3 500 000	N.A.
6.1.1 – Direct grants (direct management)	<b>3 500 000</b>	N.A.
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 000 000</b>	N.A.

### **6.3 ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The action shall be implemented under direct management for Component II/Specific Objective 4.2.2 and Component III/Specific Objective 4.2.3 and indirect management for Component I/Specific Objective 4.2.1. It will be managed by the Commission, with the support of the Union Delegation to Ukraine for the monitoring of the action.

### **6.4 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS 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 report. Each 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 outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

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).

## **6.5 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 financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## **6.6 AUDIT**

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## **6.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

The 2021-2027 programming cycle adopted 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 Union-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the Union 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 Union Member States.

## **7. COMPLEMENTARITY, COORDINATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Activities under this measure will draw on lessons learned from previous similar actions implemented since 2022 (“Ukraine – Rapid response to locally identified needs” and “Ukraine – Further Support to Rapid Response to Locally Identified Needs as well as “Ukraine – Targeted support to improve the wellbeing and mental health of vulnerable communities, including veterans, and geospatial intelligence for civilian conflict monitoring”). Coordination will be ensured with projects in relevant areas managed notably by DG ENEST, activities of CFSP/CSDP missions and of other donors.

Coordination and complementarity will also be ensured between the proposed measure under its Component II and relevant initiatives undertaken by DG ECHO on energy support, both under civil protection and humanitarian assistance.