COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 27.5.2015

on the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 27.5.2015

on the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action[1] and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002[2], and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1)   The Commission has adopted the Strategy Paper 2014-2020 and Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2014-2017 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace[3] identifying five priorities for actions in the areas of conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness as provided for in Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) No 230/2014: a) Promoting early warning and conflict-sensitive risk analysis in policy making and implementation; b) Facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions; c) Strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian stabilization missions; d) Improving post conflict recovery, as well as post disaster recovery with imminent threats to the political and security situation; e) Assistance to curb use of natural resources to finance conflicts and to support compliance by stakeholders with initiatives, such as the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, especially as regards implementation of efficient domestic controls on the production of, and trade in, natural resources.

(2)   The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace [4] are to support measures building and strengthening the capacity of the EU and its partners to prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close co-ordination with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, state and civil society actors.

(3)   Action entitled "Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building, crisis preparedness" aims to continue supporting in-country civil

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[1]   OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
[2]   OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.
[3]   Decision C(2014) 5607
[4]   Regulation EU No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace. OJ L77, 15.3.2014, p.1

society actors globally in their endeavours to prevent conflicts and build peace, and targets four priority areas: youth affected by conflict - young people as agents for peace; Children affected by conflict; Gender-responsive planning and financing for inclusive peace and security; Reducing electoral violence. The action will be implemented through direct management via sub-delegated calls for proposals managed by EU Delegations.

(4)   Action entitled "Enhancing EU's early warning capacities by bridging the warning-response gap" aims to enable policy-makers across the EU to identify and act upon conflict risks before they lead to violence by supporting the production and dissemination of independent expert early warning information and fostering forward-looking exchanges on early action options. The action will be implemented through direct management via call for proposals.

(5)   Action entitled "Strengthening Crisis Response Capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member Countries" aims in particular to enhance the technical and institutional capacity of the Secretariat of the LAS to respond to crisis, conflict and post-conflict situations, and to support the establishment of a Crisis Management Mechanism for member states in partnership with national crisis response entities of the Arab states. The action will be implemented through direct management via direct grant award to UNDP.

(6)   Action entitled "European Union Police Services Training Programme II (EUPST II)" aims to strengthen the capacity of police and gendarmerie services from EU Member States, non-EU CSDP contributing countries, and third countries, to participate in international crisis management missions and projects of the EU, the UN, the AU and other international organisations. The action will be implemented through direct management via direct grant award to the Royal Netherlands Maréchaussée.

(7)   Action entitled "Development of Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) capacities and tools" aims at further developing and testing common operational practices and tools with the UN, World Bank and regional organisations. The action will be implemented through direct management via procurement of services.

(8)   Action entitled "Data collection on Violence against Women in conflict-risk areas" aims to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe region by creating an evidence base on Violence against Women to be used in the long term for improved policymaking and programming by relevant national actors, such as those of security, executive and legislature and social sectors. The action will be implemented through direct management via direct grant award to the OSCE.

(9)   Action entitled "Support to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Regional Approach to Kimberley Process (KP) Compliance in the Mano River Union" aims to support compliance with the KP Certification Scheme, the international mechanism that aims to prevent trade in rough diamonds from fueling conflict, by providing support to a) the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Program (PRADD II) and b) the countries of the Mano River Union to tackle smuggling, foster law enforcement cooperation and safeguard revenues. It will be implemented through direct management via a) procurement of services and b) direct award of grant to Deutsche Gesellschaft fur international Zusammenarbeit (GiZ).

(10)   It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012[5].

(11)   It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annexes 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

(12)   The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.

(13)   It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

(14)   Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.

(15)   The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Stability and Peace Instrument Committee set up by Article 11 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2[6].

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4), as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

–   Annex 1: Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building, crisis preparedness;

–   Annex 2: Enhancing EU's early warning capacities by bridging the warning-response gap;

–   Annex 3: Strengthening Crisis Response Capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member Countries;

–   Annex 4: European Union Police Services Training Programme II (EUPST II);

–   Annex 5: Development of Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) capacities and tools;

–   Annex 6: Data collection on Violence against Women in conflict-risk areas;

–   Annex 7: Support to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Regional Approach to KP Compliance in the Mano River Union.

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[5]   Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

[6]   .   Regulation EU No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace. OJ L77, 15.3.2014, p.8

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 25,000,000 and shall be financed from budget line 19.0202 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section "Implementation" of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 27.5.2015

For the Commission
Federica MOGHERINI
Vice-President

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4)

Action Document for Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 11,625,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 9,300,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Calls for Proposals Direct management – Grants - Calls for Proposals/Direct Awards managed by European Union Delegations		
DAC-code	15220	Sector	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The proposed action aims to continue supporting in-country civil society actors globally in their endeavours to prevent conflicts, respond to crises and build peace. Through sub-delegated Calls for Proposals managed by EU Delegations, it is envisaged to support actions implemented by in-country civil society actors to strengthen their institutional, operational and networking capacity in 4 priority areas relating to both long-term and short-term conflict prevention and peacebuilding: Youth affected by conflict/young people as agents for peace; Children affected by conflict; Women Peace and Security/gender budgeting; Reducing electoral violence.

This Action refers to priority areas b) and d) of IcSP Regulation Article 4 as stated in the 2014-2020 Strategy Paper[1] : *b) Facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation, with particular regard to emerging inter-community tensions; d) improving post-conflict recovery, as well as post-disaster recovery with imminent threats to the political and security situation.*

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[1]   Decision C(2014) 5607. http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/key-documents/index_en.htm

2.2. Context

By targeting specifically in-country civil society actors, this Action is aligned with the general recommendation provided for in IcSP 2014-2020 Strategy Paper under Article 4 measures, whereby due attention should be given to contribute to building in-country capacities (particularly of civil society actors). It is also aligned with the 2012 European Commission's Communication 'The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations'[2] which identified priority areas for engagement with local civil society organizations (CSO) in partner countries, including the promotion of a conducive environment for the participation of CSOs in domestic policies and in international processes and the support to CSO capacity to perform their roles more effectively.

Taking into consideration that root causes driving violent conflicts are often very context-specific and should be addressed in a long-term perspective, it is crucial to support in-country civil society actors active in building peace and preventing violent conflicts in order to help vulnerable communities be better prepared for managing and defusing tensions and potential triggers for conflicts, including stability and security issues that may arise after a natural or man-made disaster. In this respect, since 2010, constant support has been provided to actions aiming at strengthening capacities of in-country civil society actors through the crisis preparedness component of the Instrument for Stability replaced as of 2014 by the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

Under this Action, it is proposed to continue engaging with in-country actors via locally managed calls for proposals for civil society-led actions on thematic and/or transversal issues, as already done under the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Action Programmes. Under these five rounds of locally managed calls for proposals, 30 EU Delegations[3] across five continents have or will have launched actions targeting peace-building related issues in the fields of: Mediation, Dialogue, Transitional Justice and Reconciliation; Media and Conflict; Accountability and Civilian Oversight; Women, Peace and Security; Children and Youth, Peace and Security; Fragility and Human Security; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); Natural Resources and Conflicts. This action will build on and takes into account lessons learned from these previous five rounds of actions supporting in-country civil society actors. It will target four priority areas as described in section 3.2.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Drawing upon the experience of the previous and on-going Instrument for Stability actions supporting in-country civil society actors to prevent and respond to crisis, and based upon recommendations of both 2009 stocktaking and scoping of the peace-

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[2]   COM(2012) 492 final:
       http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0492:FIN:EN:PDF

[3]   AAP 2010: Bolivia, Nicaragua (regional), Pakistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Timor-Leste; AAP 2011: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Jordan, Lebanon, Solomon Islands; AAP 2012: Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Kyrgyzstan and Nicaragua; AAP 2013: Zimbabwe, Senegal (regional), Somalia, Peru, Nepal, Tajikistan, Bosnia Herzegovina, El Salvador. AAP 2014: Afghanistan, Chad, Madagascar, Pakistan, Yemen. Responsibility to communicate on funding opportunities under these local calls (most or all of which remain to be launched) has been sub-delegated to the selected Delegations, which will take the relevant steps to announce them in due course.

building partnership, as well as 2014 evaluation of the Instrument for Stability crisis preparedness component[4], the key lessons learnt are the following:

- Continue building the capacities of in-country civil society actors active in building peace and preventing violent conflicts and promoting networking of partners to foster a concept of crisis preparedness network;

- Continue working with civil society actors (both international and national) as effective implementing partners able to ensure a strong co-relation between local needs and implemented projects and achieve tangible results at grassroots level;

- Sub-delegating the management of Calls for Proposals and grant contracts to EU Delegations is the most effective management mode for this kind of action, allowing greater local/regional focus, increased cooperation with in-country civil society actors and closer monitoring and follow-up of projects;

- Despite a limited budget, IfS Crisis Preparedness component contributes to fulfilling EU commitments related to Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Nevertheless the focus on WPS should be refined, specifying which specific sub-areas could be best addressed and produce greatest added value for the EU such as for example: Gender-sensitive transitional justice, Gender in crisis management, Women's leadership in conflict prone areas, Sexual and Gender Based Violence in conflict affected areas.

2.4. Complementary actions

Subsidiarity and complementarity with other geographic or thematic interventions at country level will be ensured by the respective EU Delegations in charge of identifying and selecting projects to be funded under this action.[5] The EU Delegations will also ensure complementarity and cross-fertilisation with other relevant activities under implementation at country level and in particular those funded by the EU (for example, under DCI 'Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities' programme and DCI Pan-African Programme, EIDHR and IcSP Articles 3 and 5). Full coordination with EU Country Road Maps for engagement with civil society, in selected countries, will be undertaken by the EU Delegations selected to implement the action.

2.5. Donor coordination

In line with "Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action" as well as the New Deal, EU Delegations will ensure complementarity and added value of selected projects with on-going and planned initiatives supported by EU Member States and other relevant donors. In line with the Busan Declaration and where a Compact exists, EU Delegations will also ensure alignment with the agreed priorities identified in the Compact.

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[4] http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/documents/pbp_evaluation_2014_report_en.pdf
[5] In accordance with Article 2(5) of the IcSP Regulation, activities falling within the scope of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 and Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council which are eligible for funding under those acts shall not be funded under this Regulation.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of this Action is to support (sub-)national and regional initiatives in countries[6] affected by/or emerging from conflict or whose peace and stability is at risk and build in-country sustainable capacities for effective conflict management and peace-building[7].

Activities under this action should create, restore or consolidate appropriate ways, tools and mechanisms at local, national and regional level to prevent conflicts and contribute to durable peace.

The selected initiatives should contribute, *inter alia*, to the following objectives:

a) Enhancement of the overall capacity of relevant in-country civil society actors to prevent conflicts, respond to crises and build peace;

b) Improvement of in-country civil society actors' networking and advocacy skills;

c) Fostering and facilitating dialogue between civil society actors and local, national, regional and international institutions.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The Action aims to achieve the following results:

a) Strengthened institutional and operational capacity of civil society actors with regard to the four priority areas mentioned below;

b) Improved in-country civil society actors networking and advocacy skills, including increased civil society involvement in the four thematic areas relating to both long-term and short-term conflict prevention and peace-building;

c) Established or enhanced dialogue between civil society actors and local, national, regional or international institutions on subjects related to the four priority areas.

In order to ensure effective participation from a wide range of stakeholders, to allow the voices of children, youth, and women to be heard in a powerful manner and to maximise the impact of the supported actions on target population, the potential of media and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for conflict prevention and peace-building, should be further explored across the 4 following priority areas. This relates in particular to **using media and ICTs** to promote connections and avoid divisions, to foster intercultural dialogue and share information on peace and reconciliation initiatives, to help children, youth and women raise their voices enabling them to play a role in conflict prevention and peace-building, to bring together different actors and to prevent and mitigate conflicts. Harnessing media and ICTs for peace should be framed as an opportunity

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[6] This also includes Kosovo under UN SC 1244
[7] The spectrum of conflict referred to includes (the risk of) genocide and crimes perpetrated on a massive scale.

to offset and stand in opposition to the use of communications technology to incite conflict and propagate messages of hate and destruction.

In addition, specific attention should be given to identifying opportunities to harness the role that **Culture and Arts** (e.g. music, theatre performances, art and photo exhibitions, and other cultural activities including online activities), can play in conflict prevention and resolution initiatives, conflict transformation programmes and post-conflict processes. This relates in particular to the role of culture in empowering local communities, including women and young people, to take a more prominent role in the analysis and transformation of their community conflicts, in supporting mediation and reconciliation processes and in facilitating post-conflict society rebuilding by relieving trauma, bringing communities together, increasing mutual understanding, confidence and well-being, promoting conciliation as well as intercultural and inter-ethnic religious tolerance and reducing social violence.

The following **priority areas** have been identified under the 2015 Annual Action Programme:

1. Youth[8] affected by Conflicts/: Young people as agents for peace

Children and youth represent the majority of the population in most countries affected by armed conflicts and are thus disproportionately affected by war. Also, because of their unique vulnerability to both voluntary and involuntary recruitment, young people are often significantly represented in the ranks of armed groups and para-state/paramilitary armies. However, youth are not only victims and perpetuators of violence and conflict, but more importantly, they are drivers of positive change and are positioned to play a key role in managing conflicts and navigating differences.

In order to break cycles of conflict and violence and to enable youth to create new peaceful alternatives while equipping them to positively engage in building peace in their own environments, it is proposed to support a twofold set of actions:

a. Actions aimed at preventing youth from joining violent movements and armed groups including extremist groups, focusing on the multi-dimensional factors underpinning youth enrolment, and actions aimed at rehabilitating and reintegrating youth formerly associated with para-state/paramilitary and non-state armed groups.

b. Actions aimed at enabling youth engagement and contribution in peacebuilding and post-conflict processes as key actors and active players in creating or re-establishing peaceful communities and supporting democratic transition; such actions should be informed by and aligned with the "Guiding principles on young people's participation in peacebuilding"[9].

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[8] The United Nations (UN) use the 15-24 age-based parameters to define the concept of "Youth". Under this Programme the concept of "Youth" should be intended as a transitional stage in life between childhood and adulthood, with no specific age range accompanying its definition.
[9] 2014 Guiding principles developed by the Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding of the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Youth Development. https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Guiding-Principles_EN.pdf

Specific attention should be placed on reaching out to young women and seeking their engagement while creating 'safe spaces' to raise their specific issues and concerns.

The following activities, *inter alia*, could be envisaged:

- formal and informal peace education actions targeting youth and their communities and aimed at providing young people with alternative models to violence, life-skills education, promoting peace culture, intercultural dialogue and cooperation, respect for diversity and tolerance, including cultural diversity, strengthening their skills in mediation, negotiation, conflict resolution, consensus building, positive social norms etc;

- outreach activities encouraging youth combatants to disengage, including youth-based media initiatives raising awareness on youth issues and youth rights;

- activities aimed at offering young people alternative livelihood opportunities and promoting youth economic engagement such as: vocational training linked to economic opportunities, cash for work, income generating activities etc. Such initiatives should be linked with peace-building, reconciliation and dialogue activities and life skills education;

- actions aimed at offering young people an alternative sense of purpose and belonging (*inclusive identity*), building youth confidence and self-esteem;

- inter-generational actions aimed at strengthening/rebuilding youth to community connections including activities aimed at building trust between youth and adults, putting youth at the centre of community-based conflict transformation activities and facilitating young people's civic engagement and volunteerism for peace;

- activities aimed at strengthening youth to youth connections (between former youth combatants and their peers who did not fight, between former conflicting groups, between young peace-builders and marginalized youth);

- actions aimed at supporting youth participation in decision making processes related to peacebuilding, including trust- building activities between youth and decision makers/governments (to give youth a voice that is listened in their country's recovery/reconstruction process) and between youth and police/security forces, as well as mainstreaming youth perspectives in peace processes including by facilitating networking between young peace-builders from different countries and regions;

- actions related to the rehabilitation, trauma healing of youth affected by conflict, including mental health and psychosocial support for former youth combatants;

- actions aimed at providing safe space for young people to participate in reconciliation and transitional justice processes, recount their experiences, have their grievances addressed and contribute to community healing.

2. Children[10] affected by conflicts

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[10] The 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as "every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier".

Despite considerable advances made during the last decade in addressing the plight of war-affected children, armed conflicts continue to have a disproportionate impact on children.

Children represent the majority of civilians directly or indirectly affected by armed conflicts suffering most from the devastating consequences of war and its aftermath including unlawful recruitment and use in conflict, gender based violence, killing and maiming, separation from families, trafficking and illegal detention, material and emotional deprivation, psychological trauma, disruption of learning processes etc. In most conflict situations, child rights are violated with impunity, further exacerbating their vulnerability.

As they are still in the formative stages of personal development and are socially and emotionally dependent, long-lasting conflicts have serious impact on children who grow up knowing only violence, resorting naturally to violence as the only problem-solving response with the increased risk of escalation or relapse into armed conflicts. In addition, children are often not given a proper voice or opportunities to contribute to shaping their societies.

Therefore, a holistic approach to the plight of children affected by conflicts is needed. It is proposed to support a twofold approach:

a. actions targeting children associated with armed forces and groups

b. actions targeting children as victims of armed violence and children as potential agents for peace.

The following activities *inter alia* could be envisaged:

- actions aimed at preventing the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts with a particular attention to the multiple causes linked to child involvement in armed groups; such actions should target children in their environment, with their families and communities. Activities could include: awareness-raising about the realities of children in conflict, resilience building, behavioural change, positive parenting/role models, intra-generational dialogue etc;

- actions aimed at protecting and restoring the well-being of children including mental health and psychosocial support and care, accountability and redress measures, involvement of children in reconciliation and transitional justice processes;

- inter-generational actions that engage children and youth in community-based activities aimed at promoting a culture of peace and non-violence based on the principles of tolerance, rights, responsibilities, reconciliation, mutual respect and co-existence;

- actions aimed at supporting a sustainable reintegration of children in their families and communities including community-based peace education, formal and informal education and recreational /reconciliation activities;

- training/awareness raising activities on children rights, parental care, non-violent conflict targeting parents and adults in the presence of children;

- actions aimed at offering safe spaces and genuine opportunities for children's voices to be heard and taken seriously, mainstreaming their concerns into

conflict prevention and peace-building processes and harnessing the potential of children as peace-builders.

Specific attention is needed to address the different needs, experiences and challenges faced by girls and boys, refugee and internally displaced children, children orphaned by war, children with disabilities and children from minority groups.

All funded actions should underpin international instruments, as well as internationally agreed norms and principles specifically addressing the protection of children[11]. In addition, they should contribute to the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict and the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child[12].

3. Gender-responsive planning and financing for inclusive peace and security

Gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is a useful tool for understanding how resources are spent and the impact that they have on different parts of the population. In fragile and conflict-affected situations, planning processes can act as entry points for applying GRB tools and for changing the pattern of resource distribution amongst and between different levels of public governance including local governance systems, national ministries and government departments and agencies.

Research by OECD and UN Women finds that to date donors have spent minimal funds on addressing gender-specific issues or in support of gender equality in statebuilding contexts. In 2010, the OECD-DAC found that overall only 20% of aid allocated for peace and security in fragile states integrates a gender equality dimension. The figure falls to 10% in the case of security system management and reform initiatives[13].

Although in the last decade GRB has witnessed buy-in from governments and civil society, efforts in this area do not always translate into significant improvements in women's, men's, boys' and girls' lives.

The limited governments and donors' efforts to integrate gender priorities in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction processes, and the lack of harmonization and coordination of efforts, do not enable initiatives to integrate women's, men's, boys' and girls' specific security and peace-building needs in a more intentional and meaningful manner.

In order to increase the potential of GRB to significantly impact the lives of grassroots population according to their specific needs in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, it is proposed to support a two-fold approach:

a. Enhance the accountability mechanisms and funding available to support gender-sensitive efforts in conflict-affected situations, including by promoting the co-ordination of in-country funding allocations to support gender-related peace-building, conflict prevention and crisis preparedness activities.

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[11] These include: the 1959 U.N. Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the 2000 UN Optional protocols to the CRC: the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (Sex Trafficking Protocol) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (Child Soldiers Protocol)

[12] General Affairs Council of 16 June 2008

[13] http://www.oecd.org/investment/stats/46206455.pdf

b. Foster linkages with local women's, youth's and children's organisations and grassroots networks and facilitate their access to funding and programming opportunities, including by establishing quick-disbursing, smaller-scale funding streams that are accessible to community-based and grassroots organisations[14].

The following activities, among others, could be envisaged:

- Advocacy actions aimed to foster the governments' and donors' adoption of sound and transparent financial management by using gender responsive budgeting to inform resource allocations and decision making;

- Awareness raising and direct involvement of local populations in GRB, e.g. soliciting the views of women and youth around how government budgets and resources should be spent to ensure that different perspectives and (development) needs are taken into account;

- Support community-based service-delivery mechanisms, and focus not only on the state.

- Provide technical assistance to governments to enhance capacity in gender budgeting and provide capacity-building activities to ensure sustainability of acquired skills; including assisting governments/line ministries in the development of plans for multi-annual GRB initiatives;

- Activities facilitating sustainability of Gender Responsive Budgeting initiatives after end of donors supported programmes or following government restructuring including establishing new accountability measures;

- Support advocacy, monitoring and watchdog activities;

- Studies that will support the proper accounting for funds dedicated to UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security, with view to developing systematic approaches to mainstream gender in planning frameworks. The studies may include different approaches at national and/or regional levels, provide analysing mobilization of domestic and international financial resources to advance the WPS agenda and highlight good practices and lessons learned.

- Activities supporting a systematic inclusion of gender-responsive budgeting approaches in all scenarios from conclusion of peace agreements to donors recovery responses, e.g. ensuring that post-conflict/disaster recovery and reconstruction initiatives allocate sufficient resources to address women, children and youth needs, including their involvement in decision-making on strategies and related resource allocations.

4. Reducing electoral violence

Of themselves elections are not typically the root cause of violence but their conduct can reveal underlying conflicts, exacerbate tensions, lead to violence and ultimately undermine the legitimacy of a democratic process. Several recent elections in Africa, Asia and the Americas gave rise to widespread violence with immediate risks of serious political and social destabilisation.

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[14] OECD (2013). Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States. Conflict and Fragility, OECD Publishing.

Election-related violence is most likely to emerge in post-conflict situations when a country transitions to democracy or where elections form a critical component of a peace agreement, or where democracy and democratic culture remains weak and fragile. It is proposed to support civil society actors in their endeavours to::

a. ensure transparency surrounding the electoral process,

b. facilitate dialogue and provide platforms for discussion as well as identify areas of potential risks of violence.

Under this priority, the following activities could be envisaged:

- Mediation and dialogue facilitation at community level where platforms for discussion between opposing election parties or points of view may be convened including through community radios or locally-convened round-tables, "peace" committees or other inclusive processes particularly in high-risk conflict regions or areas;

- Violence monitoring directed at detecting first signs or risk factors of potential violence with view to developing remedial early actions to prevent and/or mitigate their impact or potential impact. Providing credible information on electoral violence cases may also serve to distinguish between real facts and rumours that too often influence an already charged atmosphere and/or provoke violent reactions or recourse to violence;

- Civic education campaigns to encourage peaceful participation in elections and to prevent violence, including campaigns advocating peaceful conduct and/or discussions of elections as well as mobilizing citizens to proactively stand against violence. Activities may also include support for "direct communication" activities such as public discussions, civic engagement including street theatre to pass non-violence related messages. Use of social media to amplify in an innovative way conflict prevention and pro peace messages may also be considered as they could act as complementary measures to public voter education or information campaigns. Specific attention may need to be given to the role of youth in electoral violence, including those propagating it as well as those working to combat it. Other groups may also be specifically targeted depending on the local context;

- Promoting the role of independent media in preventing and mitigating risks of political and electoral violence including provision of training for journalists and editors on conflict-sensitive reporting and coverage of political debates and issues surrounding elections. Development and promotion of media codes of conduct may also prove useful mechanisms to encourage media outlets to avoid exacerbating conflicts and to play a constructive role in reporting on elections and electoral processes. These codes may be initiated by journalist associations as a means of self-regulation and as a practical contribution to conflict prevention and peace-building.

All funded actions, under any priority, shall be **gender sensitive** recognizing that the experiences, grievances, vulnerabilities and needs of girls, boys, young women, young men, women and men as a result of conflict and violence as well as their roles and aspirations in conflict are often "gendered" namely affecting them differently according to sex and age.

Actions aiming at developing mechanisms to enhance coordination and operational cooperation between separate entities and organisations will be particularly encouraged.

In particular, ensure any action includes some of the following:

a) Women's participation in decision-making at all levels;

b) Elimination of violence against women and children;

c) Equality of women and men under the law; protection of women, girls and boys through the rule of law;

d) Link with SSR projects to protect women, girls and boys from systematic gender-based violence;

e) Ensure that women's experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into the political, legal and social decisions that determine any peace agreements.

In addition to the priority areas listed above, further (or alternative) priority areas may be selected on a case-by-case basis with a view to optimising the contribution of civil society in a specific country and following discussion with the selected EU Delegations.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risks and assumptions linked to this action relate to:

The existence of a reasonable pool of in-country civil society actors working on gender, peace-building and conflict prevention issues and capable of effectively implementing projects. As a mitigation measure, partnership between international and national civil society actors should be encouraged;

An enabling political climate leaving enough space and opportunity at country level for civil society actors to engage on conflict prevention and peace issues;

A conducive environment whereby the crisis contexts within selected countries/regions do not deteriorate to such a point where it would be impossible or extremely dangerous for implementing partners and final beneficiaries to conduct or take part into the planned activities with the risk of an excessive concentration in safer areas, leaving large parts of a country behind;

A sufficient response from civil society organizations in relation to peace-building and conflict prevention actions involving children and youth and reducing the risks of electoral violence;

Acceptance by different levels of governance in third countries of the validity and relevance of gender-responsive budgeting in relation to development, conflict prevention and peace-building.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The following cross-cutting issues will be considered in the programming and selection of interventions: the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights and humanitarian law, including women and children's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples; non-discrimination; cultural and religious diversity; intercultural dialogue; gender equality and women empowerment; conflict sensitivity and climate change.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders are on the one hand: international and national civil society organizations as funding beneficiaries; and on the other hand: national and local civil society actors, national and local authorities, conflict affected communities, community structures including a range of actors such as media, traditional leaders, local governments, trade, youth, children and women's associations, private sector organizations, cultural operators (both formal and informal) as well as community individuals and in particular children, women and youth.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Grants: call for proposal - Sub-delegated Calls for Proposals/ for In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building (direct management)

The responsible Authorizing Officer may decide to award grants directly before launching the Call for Proposals if justified in accordance with Article 190 (1) (a) or (b) of RAP.

    (a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The specific objectives and actions to be supported at country and/or regional level, will be those indicated under section 3.2.

    (b) Eligibility conditions

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

The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) has provisionally identified five countries[15] (see below table) where calls for proposals will be launched in order to ensure optimal capitalisation on the results of previous actions funded under IcSP to support civil society-based conflict prevention and peace-building activities.

This list is informed by the 6-monthly results of the EU Conflict Early Warning System[16] as well as Delegations' interest and capacity to manage calls for proposals and can be adapted pending completion of the next EU Conflict EWS cycle.

The EU Conflict Early Warning System enables staff across the EU to identify long-term risks for violent conflict and deterioration in a country or region and to stimulate early preventive actions.

Final choice of countries where Calls for Proposals will be launched will also have taken into consideration the following considerations:

  o complementarity with other EU financing instruments

  o alignment with EU Country Road Maps for engagement with civil society

  o implementation capacity within the EU Delegation;

  o equitable geographic distribution of funds and;

  o degree of coordination envisaged with EU Member States present on the ground as well as with other international donors.

Calls for Proposals launched may have a national or regional scope.

Indicative list of countries:

Countries	**Indicative financial allocations (in EUR thousands)**
Bangladesh	1,000
Burundi	1,300
Colombia	2,500
DRC	2,500
Kyrgyzstan	2,000

Eligibility criteria for applicants: civil society actors as defined in Article 1.3 of the IcSP Regulation No 230/2014 are considered eligible under this Action

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

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[15]. In exceptional circumstances, countries other than those cited immediately above, may be identified using the EU Conflict Early Warning System.

[16] http://www.eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict_prevention/docs/201409_factsheet_conflict_earth_warning_en.pdf

The essential award criteria are the relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call, as well as the design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under these calls is **80%** of the eligible costs of the action.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to launch the call

Local calls for proposals are expected to be published as from the last quarter of 2015.

(f) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Not applicable.

4.3.2. *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Support Measures (CfP related awareness raising, information, publication costs etc.)	Services	12	As of last quarter 2015

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 articles 8 and 11 of the Common Implementation Regulation (CIR) shall apply.

4.5. Indicative budget

The EU contribution to this Action amounts to: **EUR 9,300,000**.

A maximum of 3% of this amount, to be divided between the selected EU Delegations, may be dedicated to support measures accompanying the implementation of this Action, in particular activities related to the launch and management of the sub-delegated Call for Proposals, such as publication of the Calls, information sessions for

potential applicants, monitoring missions, use of external evaluators, training sessions for civil society actors, etc.

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.1. – Call for proposals "Sub-delegated Calls for Proposals for In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building"/Direct Award (direct management)	9,021	
4.3.2. Support Measures (CfP related awareness raising, information, publication costs etc.)	279	
4.7. – Evaluation and audit	N.A.	
4.8. – Communication and visibility	N.A.	
Contingencies	N.A.	
Totals	9,300	

4.6.   Performance monitoring

As a continuous and inner process of project implementation, technical and financial monitoring of individual projects funded under this action will be undertaken by the respective grant beneficiaries based on a set of performance indicators identified in each project's Logical Framework to be annexed to grant contracts.

In addition, it is expected that monitoring and follow-up missions be conducted regularly by EU Delegations staff and/or external consultants.

4.7.   Evaluation and audit

At project level, grants' beneficiaries will be responsible for undertaking/commissioning any evaluation (mid-term, final) deemed necessary, as well as compulsory expenditure verifications foreseen in their respective grant contracts and whose costs shall be covered by projects' budgets.

If deemed necessary, external audits of projects and external evaluations of the overall Action will be commissioned by the European Commission – FPI service, and financed under IcSP Administrative Budget Line N. 19.010401

4.8.   Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) – conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4)

Action Document for Enhancing EU's early warning capacities by bridging the warning-response gap

1. **IDENTIFICATION**

Title/Number	Enhancing EU's early warning capacities by bridging the warning-response gap CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 2,500,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 2,500,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project approach Direct management – grants - Call for proposals		
DAC-code	15220	Sector	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution

2. **RATIONALE AND CONTEXT**

2.1. **Summary of the action and its objectives**

The proposed action aims to enhance the European Union's conflict prevention capacities by enabling policy-making actors across the EU to identify and act upon conflict risks before they lead to violence. This will be achieved by facilitating access to independent expert early warning information as a complement to the Conflict Early Warning System (EWS) developed by the European External Action Service, as well as fostering forward-looking exchanges on early action options.

Taking into consideration that early warning must be grounded on the reality of conflictual dynamics in the field, and that much early warning capacity lies with grassroots organizations, it is envisaged to harness civil society organizations' technical expertise and presence/networks at field level, to support the production and dissemination of high quality independent conflict analysis and early warning information, develop targeted and actionable policy options for early response, and facilitate exchanges among EU institutional actors and with civil society actors on early warning and early action.

The action is intended to have a global scope and will focus specifically on countries at risk of emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict.

2.2. Context

Building on the Treaty of Lisbon that explicitly enshrined as one of the objectives of EU's external action "to preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security", the 2011 Council Conclusions on Conflict Prevention recommended that "early warning be further strengthened within the EU" including by "drawing more extensively upon field based information from EU Delegations and civil society actors, in order to provide a more solid foundation for conflict risk analysis" and that "more emphasis be put on taking early action".

In response to this shift in emphasis away from reacting to crisis towards preventive action, the European External Action Service, together with the European Commission, developed tools and a methodology to promote an EU-wide and timely understanding of conflict risk, and of ways in which these risks could be addressed. Using a mix of both internal and open sources the Conflict Early Warning System (EWS) focuses on assessing factors driving conflict risk and identifying early action to address the risks of violent conflict breaking out in the short or long term.

Early warning is about systematically providing the right information to the right people at the right time – connecting the dots across relevant actors. The EU approach to early warning seeks to address the warning-response gap that is often observed, placing the emphasis on operationalizing analysis for more effective preventive responses. The EWS' purpose it to identify the risks of conflict early and to provide the EU with a basis for cross institutional decision making, leading to joint action to mitigate those risks in light of EU's strategic interests and leverage. It is not designed to provide warning of imminent risks of violent outbreak such as riots at polling stations, but rather focuses on the underlying structural drivers for conflict. There are other EU mechanisms such as the Situation Room, INTCEN, Emergency Response Centre, that are already in place to monitor such short-term risks and events.

Parallel to this is the recognition of international law that underscores mainstreaming of gender and women's equal participation in responding to conflict including early warning systems: women and women's civil society organisations as sources of information and analysis. The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the European Union Comprehensive Approach to Women, Peace and Security (WPS) stress the importance of "women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution".

"Promoting early warning and conflict-sensitive risk-analysis in policy-making and implementation" is one of the five priority areas identified in IcSP Strategy Paper 2014-2020[1] for measures to be supported under the conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4). The Strategy Paper defines a "well-functioning early warning system - underpinning the discussion of risk mitigation efforts and putting forward options for action" as one that "enables a culture of responsible risk management and provides greater situational awareness in

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[1] Decision C(2014) 5607. http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/key-documents/index_en.htm

terms of latent/emerging conflicts and/or crises". It also provides for examples of specific measures to be funded including actions aimed at "ensuring that relevant early warning information from relevant sources is available for early warning tools, including from field based civil society actors and social media".

2.3. **Lessons learnt**

For conflict analysis and early warning to have an impact on conflict prevention and peace-building, focus should be placed on potential solutions and formulating actionable recommendations directed at targeted audience whether governments, international actors or civil society. Conflict-related early warning information should also inform and translate into effective responses, conflict-sensitive policies and programmes that seek to address the root causes of tension and conflict.

While no formal external evaluation was undertaken for the projects funded under the 2012 Annual Action Programme (AAP) for the Instrument for Stability Article 4.3 to enhance the civil society actors' early warning capacities, the following elements of findings and suggestions can be discerned from the first year of implementation of "Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilizing Early Action" project. Information provided to policy makers was instructive in orienting their work with highly valued conflict analysis and policy options developed feeding into the early warning responses. Moreover, feedback received from EU staff indicated that the information produced (alerts, policy briefs) proved indispensable in terms of crafting and further developing the EU's early warning capacities, thereby adding to its credibility. A balance between providing independently determined early warning information and responding punctually to on-going crisis related analysis would need to be maintained for future actions of this nature. In this regard, the analysis should be independent drawing attention to areas of risk that may be overlooked by media or EU actors and also offer tailor-made and evidence-based analysis focussing particularly on areas where the EU is involved or could usefully play a role in conflict prevention or response.

Gender perspectives and analysis remain largely absent in pre-conflict contexts and early warning activities, including development of responses. The process and benefits of mainstreaming gender in Early Warning Systems (EWS) have yet to be fully understood even when the contribution and participation of women and women's organisations to conflict resolution, management and peace building have been well demonstrated and have gained recognition. It is argued that since women and men experience and interpret threats and violence differently, integrating gender into EWS is key to making it effective. This also means that both women and men have the equal opportunity to report and formulate responses to their security situation.

A sufficient margin of flexibility should also be created to respond to specific analysis requests from the EU. In addition, for conflict analysis to continue attracting interest and be useful to EU policy makers and civil society actors, analysis should be regularly updated, timed to decision-making opportunities and include actionable (and creative) policy recommendations specific to the EU and where appropriate to civil society.

2.4. Complementary actions

By bringing independent and field-based conflict analysis from civil society experts into the EWS, the action will complement the on-going work of the Joint Research Centre funded under the IcSP which focuses on the development and roll-out of a Global Conflict Risk Index - a tool that provides a first quantitative analysis of the levels of risk of violent conflict that feeds into the EU Early Warning System.

The action will take into account the overall support provided by the EU in relation to early warning and crisis response and in particular actions funded under the IcSP including:

- the two projects funded under the 2012 AAP supporting early warning capacities of civil society actors, namely: "*Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action"* and *"Capacities for Peace"* that will run until 2016;

- EU support to regional partners on the development of crisis response and early warning capabilities, including the on-going support to ASEAN (AAP 2012, IfS Article 4.3), CARICOM and OAS (AAP 2013, IfS Article 4.3), as well as the proposed action document 3 under the 2015 AAP "*Strengthening the Crisis Response Capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member Countries";*

- the on-going "*Civil Society Dialogue Network"* project which provides a platform for dialogue between civil society organisations active on conflict prevention and peacebuilding issues and EU policy makers, including on early warning topics.

Complementarity and reciprocal nurturing will also be ensured with the new proposed action document 6 of the 2015 AAP related to *"Data collection on Violence against Women in conflict-risk areas".*

2.5. Donor coordination

This action will ensure coordination of efforts and sharing of knowledge and good practices with the early warning international community, in particular with EU Member States (e.g. DE, FR, UK), International Organizations (e.g. UNOCHA, UNDP, UN Women, WB, WFP) and Regional Organizations (e.g; AU, CARICOM, LAS, OSCE, REDLAC, ASEAN) that have developed Early Warning Systems and crisis response mechanism and carried out actions related to conflict risks analysis.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

Anticipating the risk for violent conflict is a key component of early response and constitutes the foundation for informed conflict management. In this line, the overall objective of the action is to enhance the EU policy-makers capacity to prevent the emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict by strengthening the translation of conflict analysis into early action and response. Specifically, this will involve enhancing EU policy-makers understanding of conflict dynamics and ability to anticipate conflict risks, as well as facilitating timely responses to conflict risks by the EU.

This will be achieved mainly by:

- Increasing local and global awareness of conflict risks and mainstreaming of conflict sensitive approaches into policy-making, resulting in strengthened links between early warning, conflict analysis and early response;
- Providing EU policy-makers with access to targeted, up-to date independent field-based political analysis and early warning information on a country's/region's proneness to civil war and large-scale violence;
- Supporting the development and channelling of targeted and timely actionable policy recommendations for conflict prevention and early response into relevant EU policy-making and facilitating exchanges among EU institutional actors and with the civil society actors on early warning and early action;
- Systematically paying attention to incorporating gender analysis and perspectives in conflict analysis and early warning to ensure that responses at the field and high political levels not only address the vulnerabilities specific to women and men but ensure equal opportunities for women and men to fully participate and benefit from early warning system efforts including information collection and analysis and planning for conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.

3.2. **Expected results and main activities**

The main expected results for this action are:

- The EU is better informed and equipped for managing risks of violent conflicts, leading to timely prioritisation of resources and preventive responses;

- Independent and high quality conflict analysis and early warning on countries in conflict-prone, conflict-affected and/or unstable contexts, linked to effective and targeted policy options for possible mitigating responses and early action are timely channelled to EU policy-makers;

- More systematic exchanges of information and analysis between EU policy-makers and civil society organisations and among EU staff on early warning and early actions, resulting in increased input of non-state actors' field-based information to policy-makers;

- More coherent, rational, structured and systematic use of early warning information by the EU in developing options for concrete early action/response.

The following indicative activities are envisaged in line with the indicative results above:

- Conduct of gender responsive and inclusive field-based analysis of long-term/structural conflict risks, short term risks/potential triggers, and resilience factors on a global scale, at national and regional level; Analysis should make maximum use of local sources of information and of existing local or regional early warning systems;

- Production and dissemination of high quality independent policy analysis and early warning information targeting local and international actors engaged in providing responses to conflict. A specific focus should be placed on EU un-

met needs, in particular, those which are not adequately or sufficiently covered by publicly available sources of conflict risk;

- Identification of options for early response and formulation of policy recommendations and/or advice on practical response options tailored specifically to EU policy makers;

- Facilitation of dialogue among EU policy makers and between the EU and civil society organisations to facilitate understanding of local field-based assessments of risks and resilience factors in countries or regions and to foster discussions on potential early action and policy strategies;

- Attention shall be placed in incorporating gender analysis and perspectives into the analytical process of risk assessments and in identifying response options. In particular, sex-disaggregated data shall be collected and gender indicators shall be developed;

- Attention should also be paid to integrating relevant cultural and societal aspects into the country analyses, as these may often include signs of potential conflict risks/outbreaks.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risks and assumptions linked to this action relate to:
- A conducive environment whereby the crisis contexts within selected countries/regions do not deteriorate to such a point where it would be impossible or extremely dangerous for the contractor staff and their local partners to conduct the planned activities;
- Continuous political buy-in and engagement of local, national and international stakeholders, in particular EU policy-makers, in conflict early warning related activities;
- The existence of a pool of civil society actors with demonstrated expert capacity and global reach – be it through extended presence or networks of local partners in country – to develop quality up-to date risks assessment analysis and cover field-based analysis of emerging and existing conflicts on a global scale.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The following cross-cutting issues will be considered in the formulation of this action: conflict prevention, mediation, the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights and humanitarian law, including children's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples; non-discrimination; cultural and religious diversity; cultural aspects of conflict and conflict prevention; gender equality and women empowerment; water diplomacy, conflict minerals and climate change.

3.5. Stakeholders

Stakeholders of the action include national and local civil society actors, national and local authorities, conflict-affected communities and individuals, as well as International Organizations, Regional Organizations and International Non-Governmental Organizations. The action will also target EU policy-makers and institutions including the European Commission, European Parliament, EEAS,

European Union Member States in particular through the Council of the European Union.

By supporting the dissemination of open-source information, the action will contribute to strengthen the global risk awareness benefiting the entire international community engaged in issues related to conflict prevention and peace, including those EU Member States that have limited capacities to engage in early warning work.

The main intended final beneficiaries of the action are the civilians who live in conflict-affected areas and fragile countries, in particular the vulnerable populations including children, women and minority groups.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. *Grants: call for proposal "Harnessing independent early warning expertise to bridge the warning-response gap and enhance conflict prevention" (direct management)*

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The actions to be funded under this call for proposals will aim at enhancing the EU policy-makers capacity to prevent the emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict by strengthening the translation of conflict analysis into early action and response. The specific objectives that will be pursued, as indicated under sections 3.1 and 3.2, are mainly to: i) increase local and global awareness of conflict risks and mainstream conflict sensitive approaches into policy-making; ii) provide EU policy-makers with access to targeted, up-to date independent field-based political analysis and early warning information on a global scale; iii) support the development and channelling of targeted and timely actionable policy recommendations for conflict prevention and early response into relevant EU policy-making.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants must be legal persons and be non-profit making 'civil society actors' as defined in Article 1.3 of the IcSP Regulation No 230/2014[2].

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is **80%** of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

First trimester of 2016

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 shall apply.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.1 – Call for Proposals "Harnessing independent early warning expertise to bridge the warning-response gap and enhance conflict prevention"	2,500	N.A.

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[2] The term 'Civil society actors' includes non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, local citizens' groups and traders' associations, cooperatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and private and public foundations likely to contribute to the development or to the external dimension of internal policies. Other bodies or actors not listed in this paragraph may be financed when necessary in order to achieve the objectives of this Regulation.

(direct management)		
4.7. – Evaluation and audit	N.A.	N.A.
4.8. – Communication and visibility	N.A.	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	2,500	N.A.

4.6.   Performance monitoring

Performance monitoring will be carried out through regular progress reports and the use of performance indicators. As part of their offers, the applicants will be requested to define a proper Monitoring and Evaluation system as well as progress review mechanisms involving both the contractor and FPI. These will be subject to review during the implementation of the project.

4.7.   Evaluation and audit

If deemed necessary, external evaluation and/or audit can be commissioned by the European Commission – FPI, and financed under IcSP Administrative budget line 19.010401.

4.8.   Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4)

Action Document for Strengthening the Crisis Response Capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member Countries

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Strengthening Crisis Response Capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member Countries CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 3,800,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 2,500,000. This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: - UNDP for an amount of EUR 435,000; - League of Arab States for an amount of EUR 865,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Direct management – grants – direct award		
DAC-code	15220	Sector	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capability in the League of Arab States and among its member states to provide early warning and effective responses to impending regional crises, conflicts and post-conflict situations. This will involve enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of the General Secretariat of the League to respond to crisis, conflict and post-conflict situations as well as supporting the establishment of a Crisis Response Capacity Initiative in partnership with national crisis response entities of the Arab states.

Building upon the results of a first phase of cooperation under AAP 2009 of the Instrument for Stability, project activities will focus on improving the operational capacity and technical expertise of Secretariat departments and of member states in areas such as analysis and early warning; peace-building operations, mediation, gender mainstreaming and post-conflict disaster needs assessment alongside support for the establishment of a regional Crisis Response Capacity Initiative to channel the responses and resources of the League and its member states to better manage crisis and conflict situations. Natural disasters and man-made disasters under the scope of the the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the PPRD are not included in this support.

The establishment of an EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue including exchanges on political and security matters under the auspices of the 3rd EU-LAS Foreign Ministerial Meeting of June 2014 alongside renewed confidence in Euro-Arab cooperation to provide an integrated regional response to strategic challenges create the necessary dynamic to engage in a second phase of cooperation with the League in the area of crisis response, crisis preparedness and early warning.

2.2. Context

The world is facing more and more complex, multidimensional crises that have political, economic, diplomatic, security and humanitarian dimensions. Developments in the wider Arab region since 2011, particularly the events of the so-called 'Arab Spring' have highlighted the need to reflect on the handling of international crises as well as to enhance regional cooperation in information sharing, situation awareness and early warning systems.

The Middle East and North Africa region has been heavily marked by multiple crises and conflicts over the past three years which have been sustained by growing tensions, inequalities and divisions within individual countries and further exacerbated by the emergence of new radicalised conflict-actors across several countries. Cumulatively, the major regional conflicts in Syria, Somalia, Libya, Iraq and Yemen have created a sequence of inter-linked humanitarian and political crises which have placed increasing strains on Arab governments as the complex dimensions of these crises go beyond the capacity of any individual country to effectively respond. Greater border insecurity alongside the impact of natural disasters only serves to further underpin the political importance of investing in regional cooperation on crisis response, crisis preparedness and early warning.

Further engagement with the League of Arab States (LAS) in this area remains critical as the former is the only multi-lateral 'entry point' into further structural dialogue with Arab governments on addressing the region's multiple challenges. Moreover, investment in improved crisis response, crisis preparedness and early warning will reinforce Arab co-ownership of this area of cooperation while further underpinning the legitimacy of EU policy dialogue with LAS governments. In addition, on the basis of a first Phase of cooperation 'Strengthening the crisis response capacities of the League of Arab States' financed under the 2009 Annual Action Programme of the Instrument for Stability (IfS), the League has demonstrated the capacity and potential to greatly contribute to addressing future regional crises and conflicts.

The Declaration of the 3rd EU-LAS Foreign Ministerial Meeting of June 2014 identified Euro-Arab cooperation as a means to provide an integrated regional response to strategic challenges as well as to ensure further capacity building within the LAS institutional architecture. The Declaration also established an EU–LAS Strategic Dialogue including exchanges on political

and security matters while commending progress made in the field of early warning and crisis response[1]. The latter Declaration, in conjunction with the Council Conclusions on Conflict Prevention of June 2011 emphasising the need to further strengthen mutually re-enforcing partnerships with key regional and international actors to enable the EU to operate successfully in long-term structural conflict prevention, provide the necessary dynamic to pursue a second phase of cooperation with the League in the area of crisis response, crisis preparedness and early warning.

2.2.1. Regional Sector context: policies and challenges

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Commission and the League of Arab States on cooperation in the field of early warning and crisis response of September 2009 established the basis for long-term institutional cooperation and dialogue in the field of conflict prevention, risk assessment, crisis response and peace-building. A first phase of cooperation commenced in 2010 under the EUR 1.9 million project 'Strengthening the crisis response capacities of the League of Arab States' (see above) which was implemented by UNDP. Specifically, it aimed to re-enforce the capacity of the League - via its Secretariat - to respond to political, social, economic and environmental crises, through a joint capacity development programme; to operationalize LAS capacity for gathering and channelling early warning signals and their analysis in support of early action and to systematize a long-term dialogue between the LAS and the EU in the fields of risk analysis, crisis response, conflict prevention and peace-building. The project contributed directly to the establishment and equipment of a Regional Crisis Centre (RCC), which was inaugurated in November 2012, allowing the LAS Secretariat to create the necessary rolling capacity to perform effective crisis-related early warning. Moreover, 665 staff from different LAS departments and member states participated in more than 15 training courses and 25 workshops covering various themes *inter alia*: Scenario Analysis, Crisis Communication, Conflict Management & Peace-building, Knowledge Management and Mind Mapping. In cooperation with the UN and other organizations, institutional dialogue and networking was further enhanced through the organisation of a series technical training seminars including Disaster Risk-Reduction; Humanitarian action in the Arab Region; Post-Conflict Needs Assessment (PCNA); Preventive Diplomacy and Mediation, Gender and Conflict and establishing a crisis response network in the Arab Region. All project activities over 42 months of implementation[2] directly related to or underpinned EU regional policy of strengthening dialogue with the Arab world. Developments over the past three years demonstrate the necessity to further support and build a regional capacity within the LAS Secretariat, to help Arab countries address multiple regional political and security challenges (see above). Acting to support the crisis response, early warning and emerging crisis management capacity of LAS in the long term, will be also as much in the interest of the former as in the interest of the EU.

Building capacity for future joint crisis response action is likely to contribute towards the promotion and establishment of a Crisis Response Capacity Initiative (CRCI) between the LAS Secretariat and member states. However, this will be a political process requiring negotiation between individual LAS Member States via a Protocol in order to ensure that the

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[1] The Declaration refers *inter alia* to cooperation in the areas of crisis management, humanitarian assistance, counter-terrorism, the fight against organized crime and weapons of mass destruction.

[2] The Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and UNDP for implementation of Phase I was signed on 20 November 2010.

CRCI remains embedded within LAS institutional structures. In addition, process and capacity weaknesses identified during Phase I (see under 2.3 below) will also need to be addressed before joint crisis response activities could be realistically undertaken. Furthermore, the networking of existing crisis systems across the region upon which the CRCI is predicated, will, over time, assist in the identification of resources and capacities for mobilization in cases of crises, particularly those affecting multiple countries. The roll-out of targeted capacity building programmes for government officials and provision of joint training programmes involving various organizations including civil society will also contribute to developing an Arab 'owned' approach to crisis response and crisis preparedness as well as encourage the sharing of best practices in crisis management and familiarization with new methodologies and technology.

In 2013, a specific civil society secretariat was established within the LAS Secretariat with view to improving its institutional framework for civil society inclusion and to develop a Joint Work Programme with international and regional partners and to launch an LAS Decade for Civil Society 2014-2024. The overall aim of this new approach is to support the role and engagement of Arab civil society with governments and to facilitate dialogue and partnership with the former through training and technical support as well as to establish regular strategic consultation on different policy areas. On the basis of the activities and resource investment of Phase I, it is clear that an institutional capacity within the LAS Secretariat in the area of crisis response, crisis preparedness and early warning has emerged and this process should be further sustained. The League of Arab States - Secretariat and individual member states - will be the ultimate beneficiaries of project activities and developed capacity. The League remains firmly committed to cooperation with the EU on crisis response and early warning as evidenced by the Declaration of the 3rd EU-LAS Foreign Ministerial Meeting in Athens in June 2014 and further confirmed during the EU-LAS Senior Officials meeting in Cairo in November 2014.

2.3.   Lessons learnt

An independent external Results Oriented Monitoring of Phase I in April 2012 confirmed the project's high relevance as responding to the League's vision of creating regional capacities to develop approaches to crisis response and prevention. The League contributed significantly from its own funds, human resources and physical assets to realising project objectives, thereby confirming ownership. In addition, the establishment of the RCC in November 2012 facilitated more direct and efficient communication between the League and EU services in terms of broader policy dialogue. However, the RCC would need to improve the delivery of customised staff training to add value to LAS work in responding to crisis situations. In addition, training on capacity development and peace-building issues needs to be extended to LAS member state diplomats at all levels to ensure an appropriate level of awareness and knowledge-sharing across the region. Subsequent work will need to ensure adequate mechanisms for skills and knowledge-transfer beyond the core group trained during Phase I. In context of the growing importance given to engagement with civil society since 2013 (see Section 2.2 above), additional attention will also need to be given to creating appropriate mechanisms to involve Arab civil society organizations as participants in training activities in areas such as PDNA/PCNA assessments as well to organise regular consultations on areas of specific interest.

A UNDP-commissioned assessment in March 2014 underlined the need to take account of the political context in which the LAS Secretariat operates and it relations with member States

alongside ensuring realistic expectations and a shared understanding of terminology. Customised 'Arab content' training also needs to be rolled-out to a broad audience of Secretariat and member states officials while prioritizing crisis management capacity and procedures. A robust system of results-based monitoring needs to be embedded into a Phase II design to adequately measure the impact of all planned activities.

Finally, expectations in relation to the establishment of a Crisis Response Capacity Initiative under Phase II need to be attenuated by consideration of the political context in the LAS Secretariat and Member states must operate.

2.4.   Complementary actions

Activities under the present action will duly take into account the general framework of cooperation between the EU and the Arab Region as established under the agenda for a Strategic Dialogue confirmed during the EU-LAS Senior Officials meeting in Cairo in November 2014, including the cognate areas of humanitarian assistance and crisis management. It will also take due account of the complementary actions implemented by the EU in particular:

-    "Development of Post-Conflicts and Post-Disasters Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) capacity and tools" under IcSP Article 4 (see Action Document 5) increasing EU engagement on PCNA/PDNA within the tripartite (EU/WB/UN) Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning of 2008;

-    ENI actions in support of regional cooperation with the League of Arab States under Euro-Arab diplomatic training covering *inter alia* languages and terminology;

-    ENI regional cooperation activities in the Southern Neighbourhood on strengthening political and democratic reform processes in cooperation with the Council of Europe as well as the empowerment of women in cooperation with UN Women and regional communication/media training;

-    Union Civil Protection Mechanism (managed by ECHO) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument funded regional cooperation initiative PPRD South (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to natural and human Disasters);

-    the EU "Centres of Excellence" in the field of CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks) financed under Article 5 of IcSP;

-    ECHO-LAS cooperation on multilateral humanitarian issues as well as relevant aspects of the DIPECHO programme;

-    EU-LAS cooperation on electoral observation including electoral processes and democratic consolidation (EODS) financed under EIDHR.

-    African Peace Facility actions in support to the African Peace and Security Architecture

In addition, the EU has a number of tools and systems that are involved in emergencies - each with its own specific purpose and function. These include tools under the aegis of the Commission's services, such as the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) under

DG ECHO and sector centers (e.g., the Strategic Analysis and Response Capability (DG HOME), the Health Emergency Operations Facility (DG SANCO), the Emergency Operations Centre within the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the Frontex Situation Centre), as well as those inside the EEAS, such as the Situation Room.

Finally activities under the present action will take into account the cooperation of the EU with its southern neighbourhood partners, the European Neighborhood Policy, currently under revision.

2.5. Donor coordination

Activities under the present action will aim to ensure maximum coordination with UN activities in the Arab region in particular in the areas of gender, institutional capacity building and the empowerment of women particularly in the context of the EU-funded 'Spring Forward for Women' programme. In 2012, an MoU was concluded between UN Women and LAS to facilitate the latter's participation in regional activities under the above programme while in the same year, UNDP also concluded a separate Cooperation Agreement with LAS covering human security development including *inter alia* governance, rule of law and conflict prevention and recovery. In addition, coordination with the African Union's Continental Early Warning System (of whose first three phases of development in Addis Ababa were supported by the IfS) will be ensured in order to maximise the scope of risk analysis and early warning work within the LAS. Moreover, in the context of the agenda for an EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue (see under 2.2 above) broader donor coordination will be ensured by UNDP in coordination with the EU Delegation in Cairo and EU Member States.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capability in the League of Arab States and among its Member States to provide early warning and effective responses to impending regional crises, conflicts and post-conflict situations.

Specifically, this will involve enhancing the League of Arab States Secretariat's and LAS Member States' technical and institutional crisis management capacity for response to crisis, conflict, and post-conflict situations and supporting the establishment of a Crisis Response Capacity Initiative in partnership with national crisis response entities of the Arab States.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

Activities under Phase II will aim to support this process in a facilitating role by, for example, establishing decision-making chains in case of crises linking the Secretariat with involved Member States.

The following five indicative results are envisaged:

Result 1: Existing capabilities in crisis response, risk analysis and early warning consolidated and extended to relevant LAS sectors/departments and LAS member states.

Result 2: Task Forces on peace support operations, disaster management[3], and field missions established and operational between the LAS Secretariat and LAS member states.

Result 3: A network of 200 well-trained analysts and practitioners (men and women) from LAS sectors/departments (50) and member states (according to Task Forces) (150) available and resourced to deliver training to others.

Result 4: Policy dialogue and increased policy coordination between the LAS Secretariat and LAS Member States alongside reinforced strategic Dialogue between the EU and the LAS as well as with other regional/international bodies on crisis issues of mutual interest.

Building additional capacities within the LAS Secretariat in the field of crisis response would enable the latter and LAS member states to deal effectively with current conflict and crises in the Arab region and to move from purely monitoring activities to analysis preparation, active early-warning and crisis response. Establishing gender-sensitive, qualified and well-trained Task Forces within LAS in the fields of peace-support operations, disaster management[4] and field missions will be particularly targeted as a first step towards establishing an operational capability that will enable the League to respond to the needs of its member states. Sensitization to the concerns and needs of Arab civil society in this context will also be of particular importance

The following indicative activities are envisaged in line with the indicative results above:

Activity 1: Improve and extend LAS capacity in media monitoring as well as in preparation of analysis and early-warning reports for information of relevant LAS departments and of member states;

Activity 2: Improve operational capacity and technical expertise of Task Forces on peace operations, disaster management[4] and field missions in areas such as mediation, gender, post-conflict/disaster needs assessment (PCNA/PDNA), logistics, mission support and communication;

Activity 3: Provision of customised and intensive training and training of trainers (ToT) programme for Analyst and Practitioners Network covering *inter alia* development of good practice benchmarks; crisis response/management simulation exercises; peace-support operations; gender and conflict, including development of an Arab agenda on Women, Peace and Security (WPS);

Activity 4: Improve the crisis response capacities of LAS Member States and contribute to the establishment and functioning ofa Crisis Response Capacity Initiative ;

Activity 5: Support delivery of products and training to improve policy coordination between LAS Secretariat and LAS member states and civil society on regional crises and post-conflict issues thereby adding value to implementation of EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue including issues of crisis management, crisis preparedness, conflict prevention and peace-building, but also promotion of possible synergies of this project with other fields included in the Strategic

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[3] Natural disasters and man-made disasters under the scope of the the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the PPRD are not included in this support

[4] Natural disasters and man-made disasters under the scope of the the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the PPRD are not included in this support

Dialogue (humanitarian assistance, counter-terrorism, fight against organised weapons of mass destruction).

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main preconditions and assumptions include that the LAS Secretariat and member states remain committed to the project for its entire duration and the internal negotiation of the extension of the CRCI beyond the initial 5 pilot countries to encompass all LAS member states will be successful. It is also assumed that staff participating in training, particularly analysts and practitioners will be selected on the basis of their technical and linguistic skills, gender and that the process will be actively supported and facilitated by the respective departments of the LAS Secretariat and member state Ministries.

The related risks of 'passive resistance' to a Phase II and that the CRCI may not be embraced by all LAS member states will be mitigated by adopting a careful process of explanation and promotion of the practical benefits of joint capacity building. The impact of high staff turnover on overall training effectiveness and lack of adequate pre-screening of trainees will be offset by the adoption of a common training and human resource development policy underpinning the roll-out of all project activities. In addition, reluctance to engage in active 'information-sharing' on crisis-related issues can be mitigated by adapting activities to the range of sensitivities surrounding 'political crises' across the region and engaging in internal awareness-raising on the added-value of pragmatic and incremental cooperation. The political process surrounding the establishment of a CRCI needs to be led by LAS member states and the project will only play a clarifying and facilitating role towards this goal.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

In addition to the substantial content of activities outlined above, the project will address the following cross-cutting issues: gender, peace and security in line with the EU Comprehensive Approach to Implementation of UNSC resolutions on Women Peace and Security; human rights and humanitarian law, promotion of good governance and civic participation, cultural aspects of conflict and conflict prevention, children's rights and the rights of indigenous people, environmental protection and the empowerment of women. Many of these issues will also be covered in the training and materials to be delivered particularly in the context of PCNA and PDNA.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main project stakeholders are the Secretariat and the member States of the League of Arab States who will directly benefit from the training, materials and other capacity-building actions to be developed. Staff officials from within the Secretariat as well as officials and diplomats from across the Arab world will be directly involved. EU officials dealing with the development of the EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue (see point 2.2 above) will also indirectly benefit.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3.   Implementation components and modules

4.3.2. Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grant is to strengthen the capacity in the League of Arab States and among its member states to provide early warning and effective responses to impending regional crises, conflicts and post-conflict situations. This will involve enhancing the League of Arab States Secretariat's technical and institutional crisis management capacity for response to crisis, conflict, and post-conflict situations and supporting the establishment of a Crisis Response Capacity Initiative for member states in partnership with national crisis response entities of the Arab States. The results will include consolidation and extension of existing capabilities in crisis response, risk analysis and early warning within and across relevant LAS sectors/departments and LAS member states; establishment and operation of Task Forces on peace support operations, disaster management[5], and field missions between the LAS Secretariat and member states; a network of 200 well-trained analysts and practitioners from LAS sectors/departments and member states available and resourced to deliver training to others; active collaboration among pilot countries in the Crisis Response Capacity Initiative in the area of crisis response capacity development and increased policy coordination between the LAS Secretariat and LAS Member State alongside increased policy dialogue between the EU and the LAS as well as with other regional/international bodies on crisis issues of mutual interest.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to UNDP.

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because:

- Some member states of the League of Arab States are in a crisis situation as referred to in Article 190(2) RAP;

- UNDP is in a situation of de facto monopoly by virtue of a specific decision by the League of Arab States to rely exclusively on its services to further build and enhance LAS capacity in the areas of crisis response, crisis preparedness and early warning meeting the requirements of 190 (1) (c) RAP;

- The action has specific characteristics requiring UNDP as beneficiary due to its specialisation and technical competence in the above areas across the Arab region;

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[5] Natural disasters and man-made disasters under the scope of the the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the PPRD are not included in this support

(c) Eligibility conditions

Not applicable

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to EU policy objectives as well as design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80 % of the eligible costs of the action.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to contact the potential direct grant beneficiary

The direct grant is expected to be signed as of second quarter of 2015.

(g) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Not applicable.

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 shall apply.

4.5.   Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.2. Direct grant with UNDP (direct management)	2,500	1,300
4.7. – Evaluation and audit	N.A.	N.A.
4.8. – Communication and visibility	N.A.	N.A.

Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	2,500	1,300

4.6.   Performance monitoring

The project will develop a robust system of internal monitoring of all planned activities in order to ensure that their impact can be consistently measured throughout the implementation period, with particular emphasis on effectiveness of results and knowledge-sharing in line with Theories of Change. This approach may be complemented by recourse to external Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) or to the Staged Evaluation Facility managed by FPI.

4.7.   Evaluation and audit

An independent external mid-term evaluation of the project will be undertaken after 18 months as well as its end. Funds for these evaluations will be contracted separately by FPI and financed under IcSP administrative budget line 19 01 040.

4.8.   Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (Article 4)

Action Document for

European Union Police Services Training Programme II (EUPST II)

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	European Union Police Services Training Programme II (EUPST II) CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 6,250,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 5,000,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project Approach Direct management – grant – direct award		
DAC-code	15220	Sector	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The European Union Police Services Training Programme (EUPST) aims to build the capacity of police and gendarmerie services from EU MS, non-EU CSDP contributing countries and third countries to participate in international crisis management missions and projects of the EU, the UN, the AU and other International Organisations.

Whereas various capacity building opportunities for international missions exist on national and EU level, the particular added value of EUPST is threefold: i) an international learning context and the integration of both operational and command-post elements in operational trainings and live exercises, closely resembling mission and project reality; ii) a focus on interoperability, best practices and harmonization of training approaches and the formulation of the resulting lessons learned; and iii) the stimulation of international linkages and exchange of best practices in police training with partners outside the EU, such as non-EU CSDP contributors and the African Union.

Building on the success of the previous EUPST (2011 - 2014) and EUPFT (2008-2010) programmes, the European Commission has proposed to allocate EUR 5 million to a follow-up project, EUPST II, to run from 2015 to 2018 (3 years). It is foreseen that implementation will again be ensured by the EUPST consortium to which all police and gendarmerie services of EU Member States are invited to participate.

In line with the evolving mission reality on the ground, EUPST II will aim to include more civilian police and strengthening elements in both training and exercises. A stronger focus on Mentoring, Monitoring and Advising as well as Training the Trainers of third country police services intends to increase impact and sustainability of police reform efforts, which are an integral part of the wider Security Sector Reform framework. Promotion of interoperability, best practices including gender mainstreaming, and harmonization of training approaches are equally important elements of EUPST II, aiming to better prepare police officers for international missions and projects.

2.2. Context

There continues to be an overwhelming demand for police expertise in civilian missions and projects. Training in this area is a highly specialised task and national traditions are varied. However in a joint police mission/project, staff with different national and professional backgrounds has to operate smoothly together.

To bridge this gap and help to take international policing out of its niche, the EU launched the European Union Police Forces Training Programme (EUPFT), that took place from 2008-2010. This has been followed up by the European Union Police Services Training Programme (EUPST), a three-year project (2011-2014) funded by the European Commission with EUR 4.5 million under the Instrument for Stability (IfS) and managed by the Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI.2).

The overall objective of EUPST is to strengthen the civilian crisis management capacities of the EU, its Member States and other participating countries in order to contribute more effectively to international stabilisation efforts in crisis countries. The underlying rationale of EUPST is that exploring synergies, improving interoperability of participating services, and moving towards more closely harmonized training approaches for international missions will greatly benefit cooperation and performance in future international police missions and projects.

It is also a key opportunity for ensuring a comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming and ensuring that gender balance and gender issues are taken into consideration in police trainings for international missions. In this context one aspect is working towards women's equal involvement in all efforts for the maintenance of peace and security, including post conflict reconstruction, as foreseen in the Women Peace and Security agenda/ framework.

In this context and given its limited budget and timeframe, EUPST aims to provide an added value and to supplement, but not replace, the various national training efforts in preparing police for participation in international missions and projects.

The particular added value of EUPST is threefold: i) an international learning context and the integration of both operational and command-post elements in operational trainings and live exercises, closely resembling mission and project reality; ii) a focus on interoperability, best practices and harmonization of training approaches and the formulation of the resulting lessons learned; and iii) the stimulation of international linkages and exchange of best practices in police training beyond the EU, such as non-EU CSDP contributors and the African Union.

Building on the success of the previous EUPST (2011 - 2014) and EUPFT (2008-2010) programmes, the European Commission, in close cooperation with the EEAS, has proposed a follow-up, EUPST II, to run from 2015 to 2018 (3 years). This approach has already been agreed in principle by EU Member States as part of the IcSP Strategy Paper/MIP 2014-2020.

2.3. Lessons learnt

EUPST II will build on the results and lessons learned of EUPST I as a basis to further develop and improve capacity building for police officers in preparation of participation in international missions and projects.

EUPST I has been implemented by the EUPST consortium which currently consists of the Gendarmerie services of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain as well as the European Police College (CEPOL). Further EU Member States have voiced their interest of joining the EUPST consortium in time to participate in EUPST II. The EUPST consortium has proposed the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee as the future consortium leader for the period of 2015 to 2018.

From 2011 to 2014, EUPST has built the capacity of over 2400 police officers from 68 countries (incl. 16 non-EU CSDP contributing countries and 28 African Union Member States) to jointly perform civilian policing functions in international crisis management missions of the EU, UN and AU. In total, seven training exercises were implemented in Spain, France, Kenya, Cameroun, the Netherlands and Italy and the project has worked towards closer harmonization of training approaches and identification of best practices.

This work and in particular the results of work of the External Evaluation Team (EET) and Lessons Learned Working Group (LLWG) of EUPST I will be an important basis for informing the conduct and implementation of activities to be implemented under EUPST II.

From 1 to 3 December 2014, an EUPST consultation workshop took place in Brussels. Organized by the European Commission and attended by all consortium members as well as representatives of a further ten interested EU Member States and representatives of concerned departments of the European Commission and the European External Action Service, this workshop allowed to take stock of results achieved and lessons learned under EUPST I, including the necessity to focus more on strengthening elements in line with mission reality, the need for common scenarios and training curricula for EUPST trainings and exercises, a stronger focus on cross-cutting capabilities and interaction with third actors in a mission context while keeping the element of live exercises as a key added value, and the need to

keep the international dimension of EUPST, a stronger involvement of CEPOL and the enlargement of the consortium to police services from further EU MS. It also provided a first opportunity to build a consensus between the EUPST consortium and the European Commission and the EEAS on how to take EUPST forward in its second phase.

2.4. Complementary actions

The activities of EUPST II will be complemented by police trainings and exercises conducted by EU Member States, third countries and international organisations such as the UN and the AU.

On a European level, the training activities and workshops of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and the European Police College (CEPOL) will complement the activities of EUPST II in the field of preparing police for international missions and projects.

In the wider field of capacity building for international missions, EUPST II is being complemented by the Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management (ENTRi) programme, implemented by a consortium of 13 European training organisations that provide training for civilians deploying to international missions. Together, they form a comprehensive EU approach to building knowledge and capacities of staff deploying to international crisis management missions and projects.

In terms of complementary of funding, the financial resources available under the 11th EDF and the African Peace Facility for building the capacity of police services in African Union Member States to participate in international stabilization missions of the AU and its Regional Economic Communities will be able to complement the provision of advice and evaluation by experts from the EUPST consortium members.

2.5. Donor coordination

In order to coordinate activities of other actors active in the field of training for international stabilization missions and projects with a police component, in particular from EU Member States and EU training bodies and programmes, an EUPST consultation workshop was organized and conducted by the European Commission in December 2014 in Brussels. This workshop helped to identify potential synergies with other existing training programmes by EU Member States and EU bodies as well as the UN, which also participated in the workshop.

During the implementation of this measure, continuous coordination with other donors both inside and outside the EU shall be attempted in order to create synergies in the proposed field of action and prevent overlap of activities.

3.   DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1.   **Objectives**

The overall objective of this measure is to improve the capacities of police and gendarmerie officers from EU Member States as well as partner countries to successfully participate, coordinate and inter-operate in international stabilization missions and projects including a police component, both in the field as well as on command-post level.

The desired impact of this measure is that international missions and projects with a police component are better able to achieve their aims through better qualified staff.

3.2.   **Expected results and main activities**

1) Design of common scenarios, learning objectives and curricula

The EUPST consultation workshop identified the scenarios "Mentoring, Monitoring, Advising and Training (MMA&T)" and "Missions with an Executive mandate" as the most likely for current and future crisis management missions and projects. They should therefore be the focus of EUPST II. The EUPST consortium will aim to develop common training and exercise scenarios as well as learning objectives and curricula for both main scenarios, taking into account already existing best practices and lessons learned, inter alia from EUPST I. In doing so, the consortium will also closely liaise with the competent bodies of the EU and other international organisations responsible for planning and conduct of crisis response/management missions and projects with a police dimension, such as the European Police College, Crisis Management structures in the EEAS, Commission services responsible for police support programmes under the European Development Fund, the Development Cooperation Instrument and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, and relevant UN police bodies.

The development of common scenarios, learning objectives and curricula will ensure a stronger harmonization and comparability of trainings and exercises, while providing the necessary flexibility to exceed the minimum criteria and learning objectives foreseen. Including international humanitarian law in the scenarios and curricula will reinforce cross-cutting protection of civilians objectives of the EU in both executive and non-executive missions. In addition, the training methodologies will reflect the EU comprehensive approach on Women, Peace and Security and will aim to mainstream gender issues, inter alia taking into account the 17 Indicators for the protection and empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict settings laid down by the European Council in July 2010.

In line with mission and project reality, there shall be a stronger focus on MMA&T and the development of the associated standard curricula for use in third countries, without forgetting about the need to build capabilities for executive functions as well. Cross-cutting capabilities (such as ability to interoperate and coordinate in an international context, understanding of intercultural aspects, awareness of cultural specificities and differences, didactical, communication and leadership skills, knowledge of human rights and gender aspects, understanding of mission structures

and environment including liaison with third actors) shall also be addressed in EUPST II activities.

The possibility of developing e-learning and pre-deployment activities, taking into account already existing formats, shall be explored.

Quantitative indicators for Result No 1 will be the development of all necessary common scenarios, learning objectives and curricula as well as other learning formats, if applicable, needed for the successful implementation of trainings and exercises (cf. result No 2). Qualitative indicators for Result No 1 will be the degree of suitability and effectiveness of the scenarios, learning objectives and curricula to be developed as demonstrated by a close fit with mission and project requirements and measured inter alia by the reports of the PEC (cf. result No 4), EUPST II stakeholders, as well as impact assessments undertaken after deployment of EUPST II participants.

2) Implementation of trainings and exercises

At the core of EUPST II will be the design and conduct of harmonized international trainings and exercises to prepare individual police officers as well as police units for participation in international crisis management missions with a police component. EUPST II trainings and exercises will be based on at least one of the two main scenarios "MMA&T" and "Executive" and will follow pre-establishedscenarios, learning objectives and curricula (cf. Result No. 1). This harmonization of trainings and exercises will help to ensure comparable learning results for all participants and is expected to generate synergies and thus reduce cost and effort in preparing and implementing activities, compared to EUPST I. If possible, both Command-Post as well as Field Training Elements shall be taken into account.

EUPST II activities will be organized in a modular, complementary way, allowing for variations and the necessary flexibility in size and scope of individual activities, in line with availability of assets, personnel and specialization of implementing institutions. The joint organisation of activities of various consortium members shall be possible.

The possibility of conducting a limited number of workshops or academic conferences can also be envisaged, however this shall not jeopardize the predominately operational character of EUPST activities and overlap with already existing workshops from other training providers such as CEPOL, ESDC or EU MS institutions shall be avoided.

Frequency and size of activities in EUPST II, the mix of individuals/units to take part in EUPST II activities, as well as the set of capabilities to be trained should as much as possible reflect mission/project reality and requirements, both for current missions/projects as well as foreseen demand in the near future. This necessitates a stronger focus on MMA&T related activities in EUPST II. However training and exercises for both scenarios should continue, also in view of the possible synergies between strengthening and executive mandates. Scheduling of EUPST activities shall seek to take into account mission and project planning and timing of the EU and

international organisations as much as possible, in close coordination with the relevant stakeholders.

The conduct of live exercises simulating mission and project environments as a particular added value of EUPST shall continue to play a prominent role in EUPST activities.

Quantitative indicators for Result No 2 will be the number of trainings, exercises and possibly workshops implemented. Qualitative indicators will be the success in conducting the foreseen trainings, exercises and possibly workshops, including the achievement of pre-established learning results of participating trainees, as demonstrated inter alia by the reports of the PEC (cf. result No 4), EUPST II stakeholders, as well as impact assessments undertaken after deployment of EUPST II participants.

3) Developing international linkages

Result No. 3 of EUPST II will be to build the capacity of police and gendarmerie officers from selected non-EU partner countries, in particular but not limited to non-EU CSDP contributing countries and Member States of the African Union, to be better able to participate in international missions and projects. EUPST II shall also contribute to a global exchange on best practices and lessons learned, thus helping to create an international community of practitioners in the field of international police missions and projects. More precisely, three main measures are foreseen in order to strengthen the international linkages of EUPST II:

a) A limited number of participants from police services from outside the EU shall participate in EUPST II activities. Detailed selection criteria shall be established. Efforts should also be made to include trainers from outside the EU, where appropriate.

b) EUPST II trainers, advisers, mentors and evaluators shall be deployed to selected countries outside the EU to support the organization, conduct and evaluation of trainings and exercises for participation in international missions/projects, on the invitation of the hosting institution. Such support shall in particular focus on accredited training centres of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union but support of trainings and exercises in other areas outside the EU can also be envisaged. Close coordination with donors financially supporting such trainings, for example EU MS or the African Peace Facility and the European Development Fund (managed by DG DEVCO) will be assured.

c) EUPST II will aim to create close linkages with international organisations and their respective training departments active in the field of international policing, in particular the UN, the OSCE and the AU and its RECs, in order to exchange best practices in capacity building for international police missions/projects and to ensure that EUPST training exercises reflect as closely as possible the mission reality of these international organisations.

Quantitative indicators for Result No 3 will be the number of non-EU participants taking part in EUPST activities as well as the number of trainings and exercises outside the EU supported through EUPST. Qualitative indicators will be the achievement of learning results of non-EU participants in EUPST activities, the quality and effectiveness of the support provided by staff from EUPST consortium members to trainings and exercises outside the EU, and the establishment of functional links with international organisations active in the field of international policing, as demonstrated inter alia by the reports of the PEC (cf. result No 4) and EUPST II stakeholders, as well as impact assessments after deployment of EUPST II participants.

4) Evaluation of EUPST II activities and formulation of lessons learned

In order to further enhance the evaluation of EUPST II activities and to formulate lessons learned and best practices, a Permanent Evaluation Committee (PEC) shall be established under EUPST II. This PEC shall be composed of representatives of EUPST consortium members as well as external evaluation and police experts, including representatives from the EEAS (CMPD/CPCC). Chaired by CEPOL in close cooperation with the lead implementing partner, this PEC will draw in particular on the lessons learned and best practices identified under EUPST I. It will aim to provide a consistent assessment of EUPST activities as well as to make a contribution to a further harmonization of training efforts. This shall include a number of training impact assessments with participants, post-mission deployment. The capacity of PEC members to effectively perform their duties shall be ensured, inter alia through adequate capacity building measures, including gender sensitivity training. In particular the independence and neutrality of external members of the PEC shall be guaranteed and their assessments made available to the consortium and the steering group.

Quantitative indicators for Result No 4 will be the number of meetings and reports and recommendations produced by the PEC. Qualitative indicators will be the successful and effective work of the Permanent Evaluation Committee, including the production of meaningful and independent evaluation reports of EUPST II activities and the identification of viable lessons learned and best practices, as measured inter alia by the feedback and assessment received from the EUPST steering group.

3.3.   **Risks and assumptions**

Assumptions underlying the project intervention

- EU Member States and third countries will nominate and send appropriately qualified police and gendarmerie officers for participation in EUPST II activities

- The relevant departments of the EU and international organisations responsible for international missions with a police component cooperate with EUPST II

- Training providers from third countries, in particular non-EU CSDP-contributing countries and African Union Member States, invite EUPST II to support training and exercise activities with experts and advisors

- Training providers in third countries are able to secure the necessary financial resources to cover participation of trainees in their activities to be supported by EUPST II, as well as other related activity costs

Identified Risks

- A lack of nominations of appropriately qualified participants to participate in EUPST activities would make it difficult to achieve foreseen Result No. 2. A mitigating strategy would be to establish close links on working level with sending authorities and institutions both in EU Member States and within third countries, with the aim to create an understanding of both the added value of EUPST II as well as the minimum criteria participants should fulfil in order to be able to meaningfully participate in EUPST II activities.

- A high turnover or insufficient qualification of the members of the Permanent Evaluation Committee (PEC) would have negative effects on its effectiveness to provide a meaningful assessment of EUPST activities. A mitigating strategy would be to establish clear criteria for participation in PEC and to provide training by outside experts on proper evaluation and monitoring methodology.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

EUPST II will aim to include relevant cross-cutting issues in activities under all four expected results. Particular attention will be given to mainstreaming human rights and gender and intercultural issues in all parts of the programme. In addition, the linkages of police reform with the wider SSR and Rule of Law framework, including Good Governance, will be highlighted throughout the programme activities.

More in detail, the following approaches might inter alia be taken to take account of cross-cutting issues.

Result No 1: Cross-cutting issues will be included in the design and drafting of common scenarios, learning objectives and curricula in order to ensure that they are structurally integrated in the overall training and learning approach of EUPST II.

Result No 2: During the implementation of training and exercises, the inclusion of cross-cutting issues shall *inter alia* be facilitated by the participation of outside experts on issues such as human rights, gender and rule of law as trainers, observers and exercise participants, where feasible.

Result No 3: In developing the international linkages of EUPST II, best practices and lessons learned on cross-cutting issues shall *inter alia* be integrated in the advice and evaluation provided by EUPST experts to activities outside the EU as well as in the collaboration with training departments of international organisations.

Result No 4: The evaluation of EUPST II activities and formulation of lessons learned shall take the coverage of cross-cutting issues into account as one of the evaluation criteria.

3.5.   Stakeholders

Direct beneficiaries of this programme are the police and gendarmerie officers benefitting from the capacity building delivered through the various EUPST II activities, as well as the training centres, institutions and authorities of the EU Member States and third countries, in particular Member States of the African Union and non-EU CSDP contributing countries[1], to which they belong and where training and exercise activities will take place. This might include training centres of regional organisations, such as the Regional Economic Communities in Africa.

The final beneficiaries of this action are the international stabilization missions and projects with a police component of the EU and of international organisations that will benefit from better qualified staff enabling them to be more effective and efficient in reaching their aims. Within the EU and concerned international organizations, the main stakeholders will be the training departments as well as the bodies responsible for planning and conduct of missions and projects, and missions and projects themselves. In the EU this includes in particular the Crisis Management structures of the EEAS and relevant European Commission actors (DG DEVCO, HOME, FPI). In the UN key stakeholders will include *inter alia* the OROLSI/Police Division of DPKO.

EUPST II will aim to establish close links with these stakeholders, inter alia to help ensure the proper qualification of nominated EUPST II participants and a close fit between EUPST II activities and mission and project reality. At EU level, project implementation will be guided by a steering group composed of representatives from all relevant EU bodies.

4.   IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1.   Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2.   Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where

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[1] The non-EU CSDP contributing countries are the following: Albania, Canada, Chile, Colombia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States of America.

financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.2 Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The Objectives of the grant, as mentioned in section 3.1, are to improve the capacities of police and gendarmerie officers from EU Member States as well as partner countries to successfully participate, coordinate and inter-operate in international stabilization missions and projects including a police component, both in the field as well as on command-post level, so that international missions and projects with a police component might be better able to achieve their aims through better qualified staff.

The fields of intervention and expected results are 1) Design of common scenarios, learning objectives and curricula; 2) Implementation of appropriate trainings and exercises; 3) Development of international linkages in the area of training of police for international stabilization missions and projects; and 4) the evaluation of the activities undertaken and the subsequent formulation of lessons learned and best practices. Further details can be found in section 3.2.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the coordinator of the EUPST consortium. Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the characteristics of the action make it so that the existing EUPST consortium, represented by the consortium coordinator, made up of national entities competent in the field, can carry it out based on its technical competence and high degree of specialisation in accordance with Article. 190(1)(f) RAP. Indeed, EUPST consortium is the only existing consortium of EU Member States police and gendarmerie services with the explicit purpose of and experience, gained through the implementation of the preceding project EUPST I, in building the capacity of both police and gendarmerie officers from EU Member States and non-EU countries to participate in international crisis management missions and projects of the EU and International Organisations. In the meeting of the EUPST Steering Committee on 16/17 October 2014, the EUPST consortium unanimously agreed to propose the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee as EUPST consortium coordinator for the period 2015-2018, following on the Italian Carabinieri that coordinated the EUPST consortium 2011-2014. The designation of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee as EUPST consortium coordinator and main beneficiary of the grant is justified, given its successful

participation in EUPST I, including the effective planning and implementation of a large, multidimensional EUPST training exercise.

(c) Eligibility conditions

Not applicable

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80 %.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Second quarter 2015

(g) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Not applicable

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 shall apply.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.2 – Direct grant (direct management)	5,000	1,250
4.7. – Evaluation and audit	N.A.	N.A.
4.8. – Communication and visibility	N.A.	N.A.

Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	5,000	1,250

4.6. Performance monitoring

Performance monitoring will be carried out through regular progress reports and the use of both qualitative and quantitative performance indicators, indicatively mentioned in section 3.2 above, to be agreed in the contract with the beneficiary of the action. The Permanent Evaluation Committee (cf. Result No 4) will play a key role in monitoring performance and formulating lessons learned in the project.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

If deemed necessary, external evaluation and/or audit can be commissioned by the European Commission – FPI, and financed under IcSP Administrative budget line 19.010401.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented by the grant beneficiary, implementing partners and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in the grant contract.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (Article 4)

Action Document for the Development of Post-Conflicts and Post-Disasters Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) capacity and tools

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Development of Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) capacities and tools CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 1,700,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 1,700,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project Approach Direct management – procurement of services		
DAC-code	15220	Sector	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The action "Development of Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) capacities and tools" corresponds with the need for increased EU engagement on PCNA/PDNA within the tripartite (EU/WB/UN) Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning of 2008. The action allows the EU to strengthen its contributions on technical aspects like development of methodologies and reinforce its strategic visibility. The EU's strong commitment to crisis response assessments was emphasised in a Communication[1] indicating the need to closely link the humanitarian crisis response with post-crisis assessments paving the way for appropriate post-crisis planning and support.

The new project would build on the work carried out under the action, *"Development of PCNA/PDNA assessment capacity and tools"* funded under the Instrument for Stability Annual Action Programme 2011, related to revision and development of assessment methodologies, elaboration and delivery of training based on these tools and provision of in-country support to missions in post-disaster and post-conflict settings. The objective of the new project is to further develop and test common operational practices and tools with the UN, World Bank and regional organisations. This should in particular lead to further mainstreaming of inter-linkages and

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[1] COM (2010) 600 final of 26 October 2010

synergies between PDNAs and PCNAs, further development of tools that allow full coordination with other existing EU assessment instruments and tools (notably related to conflict assessments, assessments of countries in transition and assessment of risks and vulnerabilities, such as the Index for Risk Management - INFORM) and further strengthening of regional and in-country capacity related to Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments, thereby allowing regional organisations and national bodies to gradually assume a more prominent role. It is also a key opportunity for ensuring a comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming and ensuring that gender balancing occurs through ensuring women are empowered to play a key role in meeting their own needs.

2.2.   Context

Policies and challenges

The joint assessment by HR/VP Ashton and Commissioner Georgieva of the EU response to the Haiti earthquake clearly highlighted the need for increased EU engagement on PCNAs/PDNAs within the tripartite (EU/WB/UN) framework.

Ensuring a coherent response to crises is part of the EU's wider efforts in external relations, in close cooperation with the EU Member States, to turn the 'comprehensive approach' into comprehensive action. Such coherence implies an effective use and sequencing of the entire range of available EU tools and instruments related to the full crisis cycle, including conflict prevention, crisis response, crisis management, stabilisation, as well as longer-term recovery, reconciliation and reconstruction but also development.

The Joint Communication on the EU's comprehensive approach to external conflict and crises[2] adopted on December 11, 2013 by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commission indicates the concrete steps that the EU, collectively, is taking towards an increasingly comprehensive approach in its external actions. In line with this Communication and its focus on conflict-affected and fragile states, the EU instruments and tools used in the context of resilience, recovery and reconstruction should better frame and consolidate the use of needs assessment tools in post-disaster and post-conflict contexts. This would imply a better coordination between the relevant EU services but also between the partners to the Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning (EU/WB/UN) in line with the principles for cooperation promoted under the New Deal. The ultimate goal is to have a more dynamic, flexible and effective delivery of assistance to third countries.

Coordination between the three partners needs to be further consolidated in order to better meet immediate challenges in terms of response to ever increasing international disaster and post-crisis situations. This will include refinement of systems for transparent flow of information between all three partners, coordination of contacts with partner Governments and coordination of recruitment/training of experts for missions. In spite of progress during the implementation of the 2011 action, particularly at headquarters' level, further efforts are needed at in-country and regional levels.

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[2] JOIN (2013) 30 final

2.3. Lessons learnt

The new phase of the *'Development of PCNA/PDNA assessment capacity and tools'* project will build on the achievements from its first phase from January 2013 to June 2015 funded through the 2011 Annual Action Programme. Several activities were carried out to contribute at various stages to PCNA/PDNA missions supporting EU Delegations in different countries. Besides support in relation to the Myanmar Joint Peace Building Needs Assessment, in particular the PDNA missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia stand out as the first ones where the EU took the lead among the tripartite partners under the Joint Declaration on Post Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning, delivering a full politically endorsed PDNA in time for the Brussels Donors Conference in July 2014. Other deployments were carried out following Typhoon Yolanda, affecting the Philippines in November 2013, and in the Solomon Islands in response to the floods at the beginning of 2014. With regard to PCNA, deployments took place in Ukraine in August 2014 and in Gaza in September and October 2014.

Experience from the first phase indicates that the positive results achieved are based on increased EU engagement and provision of technical input to the wider PDNA/PCNA processes with the WB and UN partners. This has become apparent in relation to all three aspects of project activities, i) methodology/tools development (EU input has allowed to break what was a *de facto* deadlock in finalising key tools during the period 2013-2014); ii) training (has allowed the EU to take part in delivering training including EU experiences from previous assessments); and iii) participation in PCNA/PDNA missions (allowing EU Delegations to fully engage in PDNA/PCNA processes in their country on condition that appropriate coordination takes place with relevant EU services and between the tri-partite partners). Systems to generate closer coordination between EU/WB/UN field offices have been developed but need to be fully applied while further efforts are required in terms of conveying joint messages to affected countries regarding PDNAs/PCNAs, what they imply and what use (both operational and political) can be made of the outputs.

2.4. Complementary actions

The EU's strong commitment to crisis response activities is emphasised in its 2010 Communication 'Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance'[3] in which the need to closely link the humanitarian crisis response component with post-disaster assessments was specifically underlined.[4]

Another clear manifestation of the very strong EU commitment is its substantial contribution to the World Bank managed Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). These contributions turn the European Commission into a major if not the largest contributor to post-disaster and post-conflict assessments both in terms of financial support to missions and for the development of tools and roll-out of the methodologies.

The availability of developed methodologies and tools related to post disaster settings alongside the revision of post-conflict needs assessment tools will facilitate

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[3] COM (2010) 600 final of 26 October 2010
[4] Need also to mention the Communication on Comprehensive Approach as in Section 2.2.

the joint implementation of PDNA/PCNA missions and joint elaboration of recovery/reconstruction plans. However, these evolving tools can be fully accepted and used by the different EU interlocutors only if they integrate and reflect the main EU concerns related to natural and man-made disaster response and assistance to countries in transition. Thus, through a close collaboration between relevant EU services, this project will put particular emphasis on incorporating/creating linkages with existing EU guidelines and tools relevant for post-crisis response actions.

Coordination will also be ensured between PCNAs under this action and the IcSP facility European Resources Mediation Support' (ERMES) which aims at supporting third parties engaged in inclusive peace mediation and dialogue processes.

Phase II of 'Strengthening Crisis Response Capacities of the League of Arab States (LAS) and Member Countries' will involve intensification of PCNA and PDNA training modules (see Action Document 3) and complementary activities may be required in relation to the latter which may be provided by the service experts under this contract as necessary.

Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (see Action Document 1) prioritizes Gender Responsive Budgeting in planning processes in fragile and conflict-affected situations. GRB activities carried out in PCNAs and PDNAs under Action Document 1 and/or this Action can mutually reinforce each other.

2.5.   Donor coordination

The EU/WB/UN Joint Declaration on Post-Crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning, was developed to increase and maximise donor coordination in the aftermath of disasters and conflicts. The whole range of planned activities under this project, linked to PCNAs and PDNAs, is intrinsically linked to the Joint Declaration and fully in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration/Aid and Development Effectiveness Agenda, the European Consensus on Development and the EU Code of Conduct. Furthermore, bringing the methodologies, methods and output from PCNAs/PDNAs in line with relevant EU concerns and EU analyses and methods should ensure more recognition of EU contribution, enabling the EU to take part in and contribute more effectively to the post disaster/post conflict recovery programmes designed as the outcome of PDNAs/PCNAs.

3.   DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1.   Objectives

In line with the 2008 Declaration on Joint Post-crisis Assessments and Recovery Planning, the overall objective of the project, is to assist and develop third countries in-country capacity to gradually assume a more prominent role in Post-Conflict and Post-Disaster Needs Assessments.

Specifically, this will involve contributing to the development of high-quality gender sensitive operational practices and tools based on the knowledge and experience of the EU, the UN and the World Bank in cooperation with third countries and regional organisations.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

- Further support the joint discussions and enhanced application of the PDNA/PCNA related concepts, methodologies and tools, as indicated in the Joint EU/WB/UN Declaration and developed under the previous project funded under the 2011 Annual Action Programme;

- Continued promotion of the organisation, coordination and provision of technical and administrative input to joint (UN/WB/EU) training/capacity-building events (in Europe and other regions) for roll-out/dissemination of the existing tools (information/training) including for the benefit of third countries and regional organizations;

- Increased systematic support to all stages of disaster- and conflict-related assessment missions. Provision of in-country support in the crucial planning and report writing stages of such assessments (longer-term support missions of 2 to 4 weeks is particularly foreseen). Such input will be coordinated by the EU Delegations so that their knowledge of the country and relevant EU concerns are fully taken into account, thus ensuring a more efficient cooperation with the host countries;

- The provision of technical and administrative input will increase knowledge and ability of the different stakeholders to take part in PDNA/PCNA assessments;

- Support to all stages of implementation of joint missions will ensure high-quality EU contribution based on a participatory approach (involving relevant interlocutors, including civil society).

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Assumptions underlying the project intervention:

- Joint actions should result in commonly accepted (EU/WB/UN) PDNA/PCNA methodologies and tools of high quality, taking into account recent feedback and request from users, partner countries, civil society organisations;

- It is assumed that further developed methodologies/tools fully integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures, ensure full gender mainstreaming and are flexible in adjusting to different types of crises, the local and regional settings, as well as different levels of demands/expectations on output from governments;

- Regional organisations will be better equipped to strengthen their own capacities to plan and undertake PDNA/PCNA assessments in coordination with their respective member states.

Risks:

- The absence of relevant staff, a potentially high turnover, or the poor selection of participants within the regional organisations targeted would substantially undermine the results to be expected from the training sessions foreseen;

- Lack of in-country coordination between the three partners (in particular in view of joint PDNA/PCNA missions) may jeopardise the commitment to operationalize the tri-partite agreement;

- Lack of gender aware/gender sensitive approach.

Mitigating actions will be developed to address the above-mentioned risks at the launch of the action.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

PDNA/PCNA methodologies aim to fully incorporate cross-cutting issues such as *inter alia* environment, gender sensitive approach, youth, good governance, human rights as well as the safeguarding of culture and cultural heritage as part of their operational logic. Cultural heritage is at high risk of damage, destruction, looting and theft in post-conflict and post-disaster situations, whereas its protection, reconstruction and rehabilitation can act as a positive force for social stability, economic recovery and reconciliation. In addition, the full involvement of relevant EU services, informally and formally through the Inter-service Group on Transition and the Steering Committee foreseen for this project, will facilitate incorporation of various horizontal issues as articulated by DEVCO, ECHO and EEAS, such as aid efficiency, resilience, DRR, conflict sensitivity, climate change and LRRD (linkage between relief, rehabilitation and development).

3.5. Stakeholders

The direct beneficiaries of the foreseen project are mainly national governments and regional organisations in high-risk countries/ areas. The support will be channelled to Ministries, authorities and stakeholders, in particular civil society, involved with response and recovery after in-country/region crises. Other major stakeholders are development partners, primarily in the UN family and the World Bank. The ultimate beneficiaries are of course the people of the countries affected by crises, benefitting from more efficient and effective post-crisis assessments and recovery planning.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.3 *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical assistance related to PCNA and PDNA	Services	1	1th quarter 2015

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 shall apply.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.3. – Procurement (direct management)	1,700	N.A.
4.7. – Evaluation and audit	N.A.	N.A.
4.8. – Communication and visibility	N.A.	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	1,700	N.A.

4.6. Performance monitoring

Performance monitoring will be carried out through regular progress reports and the use of performance indicators that were agreed during the initial contract will be continued. They will be subject to review during the implementation of the project in line with new developments and in response to activities on the ground.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

If deemed necessary, external evaluation and/or audit can be commissioned by the European Commission – FPI, and financed under IcSP Administrative budget line 19.010401.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4)

Action Document for data collection on Violence against Women in conflict-risk areas

1.   IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Data collection on Violence against Women in conflict-risk areas CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 2,500,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 2,000,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project Approach Direct management – grants – direct award		
DAC-code	15220	Sector	Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution

2.   RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1.   Summary of the action and its objectives

The proposed action aims to improve policy making and programming of relevant actors – such as security sector, executive and legislative, as well as international stakeholders – to prevent and combat violence against women in the OSCE region. This will be achieved by creating an evidence base on Violence against Women (VAW) following the model of the survey undertaken by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on Violence against Women in European Union Member States. The regions/countries proposed to be covered in a first wave of survey are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine.

2.2.   Context

Women, men, girls and boys experience and take action differently in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping, peace building and reconstruction.

Contemporary conflicts affect civilian populations in particular, and in this context women have often become strategic targets, sometimes on a massive scale, as when rape is used as a tactic of warfare and ethnic cleansing.

Many women, girls and boys also become combatants' domestic and sexual slaves.

Women are however not only victims of war and violence. They also play active roles as combatants, peace builders, politicians and activists. The equal participation of men and women in these roles is both an essential goal and means to help prevent and resolve conflicts and promote a culture of inclusive and sustainable peace. There is a close link between the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the opportunities made available to women to participate politically, to achieve a sustainable livelihood and to feel secure in their communities during and after conflict[1].

SGBV in conflict has in some contexts become a tactic of war designed to achieve military and political objectives. It can target men and women, girls and boys. As such, sexual and gender based violence requires both tactical and political responses. This means that the security mechanisms of the EU must address sexual violence through training and operational responses by armed personnel, as well as through the provision of a rapid response task team of judicial experts to support domestic transitional justice processes and to prevent impunity for these crimes. A security and political response also means that peace negotiators and mediators must include sexual violence on peace talk agendas. Resolution 1960 (2010) mandates Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) to improve the information available to the Council about the frequency and severity of conflict-related sexual violence.[2]

Violence Against Women (VAW) is defined by the UN as "*any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life*."

This encompasses, *inter alia*, "*physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family and in the general community, including battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence, rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the state*."

The need for comparable data on sexual and gender based violence is of utmost importance as a basis for developing evidence-based policies to combat and address this prevalent violation of women's access to their human rights. In order to respond to this need, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) initiated the first European Union-wide survey on violence against women[3] in 2010. The survey

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[1] Source: Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security. Brussels, council of the European Union, 1 December 2008.
[2] **Source: UN Women Sourcebook on Women, Peace and Security: Overview of Contents (October 2012)**
[3] http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/vaw-survey-main-results

covered 42,000 women in the 28 EU member states – an average of 1,500 women per country. This is the largest multi-country survey on violence against women ever undertaken. It measured many types of violence, including: physical, sexual, psychological, stalking and violent interactions with partners. The outcome is a robust and statistically significant set of data that has illustrated the extent of sexual and gender based violence both across and within countries and has the ability now to inform national and international policies and programmes.

The results were launched in March 2014 to a great deal of interest and reaction by policymakers, practitioners and the public all over the European Union and beyond. The findings showed amongst many other things that on average one out of three women in the EU has experienced violence in her lifetime and only one in three victims of partner violence and one in four victims of non-partner violence report their most recent serious incident to the police or some other service, which means the true extent of violence against women remains hidden. FRA's survey is also important for identifying emerging forms of insecurity, such as stalking, or how social media and new technologies are used to perpetrate violence.

The framework for the EU commitments on Women Peace and Security are based on the "Comprehensive EU Approach to the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on WPS" (2008); The operational paper "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP" (2008); EU indicators for the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation for the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on WPS (2010); EU Guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls (2008) and EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict (2003, updated 2008). As stated by HRVP Ashton at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, on 12 June 2014: "The European Union, its Member States, its Institutions, is and will remain a strong partner in the fight against sexual violence in conflict."

In order to take a step towards fulfilling EU commitments on combating gender based violence, as well as to build on the unique research of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), a study of the costs and feasibility of replicating FRA's unique methodology across the OSCE participating States identified both the gap in existing data on women's security and safety in OSCE participating States not covered under the EU FRA survey. Based on the results of this study and an ongoing partnership between OSCE and FRA, which has offered an in-kind contribution towards the objective, it is proposed to replicate the survey in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

There are indications that sexual and gender based violence can be a precursor to conflict and tends to increase in the run up to, during and following conflict. However, very little data is available to test this. Data generated by this project could thus contribute to our understanding, particularly from an early warning perspective, as a larger project is ongoing to test indicators related to conflict in the context of the Early Warning System. The outcomes would be of interest to the EU, OSCE and UN as well as the academic community.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The 2014 evaluation of the Instrument for Stability's Crisis Preparedness component (Article 4.3)[4] found that despite a limited budget, the IfS Crisis Preparedness component contributes to fulfillment of EU commitments related to women, peace and security. However there is a need for a review of the specific sub-areas where the component can produce greatest added value for the EU such as for example Gender-sensitive transitional justice, Gender in crisis management, Women's leadership in conflict prone areas, Sexual and Gender Based Violence in conflict affected areas.

Drawing upon the experience of the previous and on-going Instrument for Stability actions supporting the EU agenda for Women, Peace and Security, and based upon the recommendations of the 2013 evaluation of the Instrument for Stability crisis preparedness component, this action will focus on the specific WPS area of data collection on Violence Against Women.

While no multi-national survey prior to the FRA study has managed to capture reliable and comparable statistics across multiple countries, a few large-scale efforts have been made to conduct systematic survey research on Violence against Women globally[5]. However these surveys use methodologies that often mean the results cannot be generalized to all women in the population. While the research that has been done previously on violence against women by international organizations, national governments, academics and NGOs is substantial, it does not provide reliable, comprehensive and comparable statistics across states. Against this backdrop, the VAW survey initiative by the FRA is truly revolutionary, as would be its expansion to the target countries of this action. This methodology took the depth of the most comprehensive surveys and extended it across 28 EU Member States.

2.4. Complementary actions

All ongoing IcSP actions in the target countries of this action will be informed of data generated on VAW so that specific activities in sectors such as Security Sector Reform, Transitional Justice, Early Warning System, etc, can meaningfully address GBV issues and make use of this data on sexual and gender-based violence. In addition, ENI programmed activities also stand to benefit from making use of the same results.

The goal of the evidence based advocacy supported by the action creates opportunity for civil society to participate in political decision making processes on security issues. Civil society organizations will be able to better carry out their work related to women and young women, based on the statistically significant and generalizable data collected by the survey research. Therefore actions funded under Action Document 1 (Support to capacity-building of in-country actors) should be linked to this action. In particular, the target groups for this action include national policymakers that have to ensure political commitment to use the data generated for evidence based policymaking and international organizations which should commit

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[4] http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/documents/pbp_evaluation_2014_report_en.pdf
[5] WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women ; UNICEF's multi-indicator health survey ; Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) of statistical and health agencies of governments.

to use the data generated for informing programming priorities. Although progress has been made in each of the target countries, policy makers are lenient towards this VAW and hesitate to allocate substantial budgets and efforts that could help address the issue as the extent of it remains mainly unknown and since it is often still considered a private concern rather than a concern of the state. Actions on Gender Responsive Budgeting that will be funded under Action Document 1 will therefore benefit from this action.

2.5. Donor coordination

This action also has the important goal of leading to strengthened coordination of efforts by the international community on gender based violence and the women, peace and security agenda by generating data available to national stakeholders as well as the EU, OSCE, UN agencies and other international organizations. It contributes to the coordination of the international community in the areas covered by assistance under the IcSP.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The main objective of this action is to create an evidence base on violence against women to be used in the long term for improved policymaking by national actors, such as security sector, executive and legislature and social services as well as international stakeholders working on related programming and policy-making. This will be done by conducting a survey similar to the one conducted in the EU Countries by FRA from 2010 to 2014.

The overall objective will be achieved through specific objectives of:

- generating comprehensive and comparable data on prevalence rates of violence against women in selected regions;

- providing an analysis of comparative lessons and experiences for countries sharing similar conditions and deepening understanding of how conflict affects sexual and gender based violence and can be a catalyst for crisis and a means of prosecuting conflict;

- triggering a policy discussion based on statistical data that can generate commitment and change in policy making.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The main results expected are:

- the production of a set of comprehensive, comparable data on violence against women[6] from ten target countries[7] and the conflict-affected contexts[8] related to

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[6] experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, including incidents of intimate partner violence ('domestic violence')

these countries based on interviews with 1500 women[9] in each country. The study will serve as a baseline study for upstream monitoring and evaluation;

- for the first time, the production of data on the effects of conflict on gender based violence and how conflict and crisis can be a catalyst for sexual violence. This will enable greater understanding of the patterns and context associated with violence against women;

- information of both international and national policies on violence against women, analysis of the impact of conflict on prevalence of sexual and gender based violence, and promotion of the implementation of UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1960 and 2016 as tools for addressing the specific needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situations, including their exposure to gender-based violence and their support for rehabilitation and reintegration.

The main activities that will be undertaken in order to achieve these results include:

- tailoring to selected countries the survey on women's wellbeing and security conducted by FRA in the EU member states and publishing results of data collection and analysis;

- replicating in selected countries the adapted FRA survey;

- carrying out a full analysis of the trends and challenges identified in the data;

- launching the survey findings in each country to both State institutions and civil society, at a regional institutional level and globally.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risks and assumptions linked to this action relate to:

- a low level of interest in the analysis and publication of the collected data may affect impact and sustainability.. This risk can mitigated by highlighting the comparable transnational nature of the ta in terms of the levels and types of gender based violence identified..

- the sustainability of data collection methods may be adversely affected by persistent or frozen conflicts. A regional conference to relay and assess the project outcomes and findings will contribute to offsetting this risk.

- the availability and readiness of women to discuss VAW with interviewees and/or the police or other authorities may not be forthcoming. This risk can be mitigated by protecting the identities of participants and their experiences, conducting closed and targeted focus group discussion and individual interviews with women head of communities.

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[7] Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
[8] Kosovo, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh
[9] 16 years old and above.

- ongoing stakeholder support is assumed, including local, regional and national authorities. The March 2014 release of the FRA results for the EU member states generated significant interest and awareness of the prevalence of women's personal insecurity and secured the interest of potential OSCE stakeholders.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The following cross-cutting issues will be considered in the formulation of this action: the promotion of democracy, good governance and human rights and humanitarian law, including children's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples; non-discrimination; cultural and religious diversity; intercultural dialogue, gender equality and women empowerment; conflict prevention and climate change.

3.5. Stakeholders

Stakeholders of the action include the governments, relevant civil society organizations of the target beneficiary countries as well as international organizations working on similar issues.

The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) is also a significant stakeholder of this action as it has partnered with the OSCE in conducting a feasibility and costing study for the action in 2013 and has committed to providing an in-kind contribution of the survey questionnaire.

The final beneficiaries will be victims of gender based violence but also persons at risk of becoming victims who will benefit from improved policies and programmes on sexual and gender based violence that will result from the increased evidence and knowledge generated by the survey. Although the survey focuses on women respondents, the results and the lessons for improved policies and programmes will benefit all victims including boys and men.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements;

such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3.   Implementation components and modules

4.3.2. Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grant is to create an evidence base on sexual and gender based violence to be used in the long term for improved policymaking by national actors. This will be done by conducting a survey similar to the one conducted in the EU Countries by FRA from 2010 to 2014. The results will include: the production of a set of comprehensive, comparable data on violence against women from ten target countries and the conflict-affected contexts related to these countries; the production of data on the effects of conflict on gender based violence and how conflict and crisis can be a catalyst for sexual violence; information of international and national policies on violence against women, analysis of the impact of conflict on prevalence of sexual and gender based violence, and promotion of the implementation of UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1960 and 2016 as tools for addressing the specific needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situations.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to OSCE.

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because:

- some targeted countries are in a crisis situation referred to in Article 190(2) RAP;

- OSCE is in a factual monopoly situation referred to in Article 190 (1) (c) RAP;

- the action has specific characteristics requiring OSCE as beneficiary for its specialisation and mandate in the target countries.

OSCE is the only organisation entitled to use the FRA survey questionnaire and methodology in third countries. Alongside the application of the methodology used for the fieldwork data collection, FRA formally offered to OSCE to provide expert input throughout all activities of the action. Specifically two staff members of FRA who were closely involved in the survey development and implementation by FRA will participate in the Steering Committee and consult closely on progression of the action.

The OSCE participating States include the 28 EU Member States in addition to 29 other participating States from Western Europe, North America, South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The serious lack of data on the extent of gender based violence is a serious concern to the OSCE, given the integral position

of personal security within the comprehensive security approach. In addition, the OSCE region has experienced a number of conflicts (for example in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244), and in the South Caucasus), some of which have included known aspects of conflict-related sexual violence that need to be further explored in order to develop appropriate practical and policy responses.

The OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (MC.DEC/15/05) recommends that participating States take measures to improve prevention of violence and the protection of and assistance to victims. The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (MC.DEC/14/04) mandates the Secretariat, Institutions and Field Operations to assist participating States in developing programmes and activities aimed at the prevention of all forms of gender-based violence.

The underpinning tenet of the OSCE's mandate is its comprehensive approach to security. The OSCE is unique in that it was the first international organization to take on a holistic approach to security, including human security, in the 1970s. This approach recognizes the importance of individual security in the political, economic and human dimensions, equally for men and women, boys and girls. Individual security includes personal security and research shows that gaps continue in the ability of institutions to understand and address women and girls' experience of violence. This makes the OSCE a unique actor to speak on sexual and gender based violence as a security issue in the regions targeted by this action.

(c) Eligibility conditions

Not applicable.

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Direct grant is expected to be signed in the second quarter of 2015.

(g) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Not applicable.

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 articles 8 and 11 of the Common Implementation Regulation (CIR) shall apply.

4.5.   Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.2. – Direct grant (direct management)	2,000	500
Totals	2,000	500

4.6.   Performance monitoring

As a continuous and inner process of project implementation, technical and financial monitoring of individual projects funded under this action will be undertaken by the beneficiaries based on a set of performance indicators identified in the project's Logical Framework to be annexed to the contract.

In addition, it is expected that monitoring and follow-up missions be conducted regularly by external consultants.

4.7.   Evaluation and audit

At project level, grant's beneficiary will be responsible for undertaking/commissioning any evaluation (mid-term, final) deemed necessary, as well as compulsory expenditure verifications foreseen in their respective grant contracts and whose costs shall be covered by projects' budgets.

If deemed necessary, external audits of projects and external evaluations of the overall Action will be commissioned by the European Commission – FPI service, and financed under IcSP Administrative Budget Line N. 19.010401

4.8.   Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be

elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2015 Annual Action Programme for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component (Article 4)

Action Document for Support to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Regional Approach to KP Compliance in the Mano River Union

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Support to the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Regional Approach to KP Compliance in the Mano River Union CRIS number: ICSP/2015/37925		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 2,000,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 2,000,000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project Approach 1) Direct management - procurement of services 2) Direct management – grants – direct award with GIZ		
DAC-code	32210	Sector	Mineral/Mining Policy and Administrative Management

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The overall objective of the action is to support country compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. As such, it seeks to underpin EU support to the Kimberley Process (KP), the international mechanism that prevents rough diamonds from fueling conflict.

It is articulated in two main components as follows:

a) support to the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Program (PRADD II), assisting governments to implement mining best practices and promote good governance of the artisanal diamond mining sector at international level. Specifically, PRADD II aims to increase the number of alluvial diamonds entering the formal chain of custody, while improving the benefits accruing to diamond mining communities.

b) support to the Regional Approach to KP implementation in the Mano River belt region of West Africa (the "Regional Approach") to specifically assist

regional participants to tackle smuggling, foster law enforcement cooperation and safeguard government revenues.

2.2. Context

The KP is a global tri-partite initiative between governments, civil society and industry, launched in May 2000, under UNGA Resolution 55/56 to stop the trade in 'conflict diamonds'. Its purpose is to ensure that rough diamonds do not finance violence by armed rebel groups. Over the past ten years, the KP has evolved into an effective mechanism for stemming the trade in conflict diamonds and is recognized as a unique conflict-prevention instrument to promote peace and security. The joint efforts of governments, industry leaders and civil society representatives have enabled the scheme to curb successfully the flow of conflict diamonds in a very short period of time. Diamond experts estimate that conflict diamonds now represent a small percentage of the international trade in diamonds, compared with estimates of up to 15% in the 1990s. The KP currently has 54 participating members (Participants)[1], representing 81 participating countries.

The EU has participated in and supports the KP as an active instrument for conflict prevention, promoting peace and international security, with the aim of contributing to the fight against illegal exploitation of conflict diamonds and supporting sustainable use of natural resources for development. In this regard, € 1 million was allocated under the 2012 AAP of the Crisis Preparedness Component (Article 4.3) of the Instrument for Stability to support the "Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development' (PRADD) programme in cooperation with the United States' Agency for International Development.

PRADD has acted as one of the main advocates encouraging the KPCS to move from a focus on traceability, regulation and enforcement systems to a broader scope recognizing the role of economic development in bringing rough diamonds into legitimate chains of custody, and consequently better addressing the challenges of conflict diamonds. This transition was demonstrated by the adoption of the Washington Declaration[2] at the 2012 KP Plenary meetings that occurred in November in Washington, DC.

Artisanal miners work under archaic and difficult working conditions and live in extreme poverty, often receiving less than 9% of the retail price of the stones they extract. Vulnerability to poverty also prevents miners from acquiring the licenses required to operate within the law, the equipment necessary to increase their gains, and the assets needed to diversify their livelihoods. Miners often access rights to land and minerals through different and sometimes competing tenure systems, offering little, if any, legal protection. Mined claims are often allocated with unclear and overlapping boundaries and commonly lack documentation of any sort, leading to disputes between different land users over surface and sub-surface mining rights,

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[1] The KP has 55 participating countries: Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Congo (DRC), Congo (ROC), Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, European Union, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.
[2] http://usaidlandtenure.net/pradd/washington-declaration

thereby increasing risks of communal or regional conflicts. In addition, miners often become incentivized to mine quickly, sell fast, and swiftly move on to new sites; practices which have devastating economic and environmental consequences, negatively impacting on export revenues and preventing compliance with the Kimberley Process.

In addition, the action will provide support to the Regional Approach to the KPCS in the Mano River Union ("the Regional Approach") by providing logistical support to communications and organising conferences. The Regional Approach is an initiative established by the Governments of the Mano River Union ("MRU") namely Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, to respond to shared challenges to KPCS compliance in the MRU through enhancing arrangements for regional cooperation in the fields of beneficiation, internal controls and law enforcement. The Regional Approach has been endorsed by the Working Group on Monitoring (WGM) of the KPCS, which has established a group of technical experts including Partnership Africa Canada, the Diamond Development Initiative, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the European Union (together known as the "Technical Team"), to support the Regional Approach, provide strategic advice and oversight, and report back to the KPCS. The Technical Team works closely with the KP Focal Points ("Focal Points") from the MRU on this initiative. The Regional Approach encompasses the principles of the Washington Declaration, adopted at the November 2012 Plenary meeting in Washington, which now embeds development concerns at the heart of the KPCS. The aim of the initiative is to support the MRU countries to take forward action under national and regional-level action plans to tackle smuggling, improving internal controls, and ensure greater benefits are returned to diamond mining communities.

A number of shared vulnerabilities significantly undermine internal controls and KP compliance in Mano River countries, including inadequate regulatory framework governing the exploitation and trade in diamonds and other precious stones, poor domestic enforcement capabilities by police, customs and immigration and lack of coordination amongst governments on fees and export duties to remove incentives to smuggling. To address the above, Mano River countries face perennial face financial and logistical challenges compounded by lack of knowledge of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme requirements amongst government officials, industry and artisanal miners further undermining overall compliance. Enforcement agencies also struggle to compete against sophisticated networks that routinely deprive governments of diamond revenues through under-valuing stones or by engaging in smuggling. The current impact of Ebola on efforts to improve KP compliance cannot be underestimated.

2.3.   Lessons learnt

Work on clarification and strengthening of property rights at various stages of the mining process under the PRADD programme demonstrates that resource conflicts can be reduced significantly while also providing incentives for investment and the mitigation of adverse environmental impacts. Complementary actions *inter alia* on establishment of government traceability systems tracking diamonds from the point of extraction to point of export; reform of land and mining laws and regulations; establishment of an artisanal mining cadaster and support and diamond valuation

training have also yielded positive results for KP compliance. Additionally, by ensuring women have equitable access to land and natural resources and the benefits generated from them, additional positive development impacts can be achieved for women and the wider community. Five years of PRADD implementation in CAR and approximately two years each in Guinea and Liberia shows that establishing clear and secure tenure fights plays a critical role in reducing conflicts at the mine level as well as incentivizing changes in land use behavior, thereby serving as a solid basis to establishing a viable mine-to-export traceability system.

While the Regional Approach to KP compliance in West Africa enjoys high-level political support particularly at ministerial level, there is a need to provide a mechanism to maintain this momentum. Similarly, while this initiative enjoys the support of key working groups within the KP, more needs to be done to ensure its long-term support through developing a network of donors and implementing partners while there is also a need to establish an institutional architecture, at a national and regional level, to support the Regional Approach. In addition, a communications strategy will also need to be developed to keep KP participants abreast of progress and challenges in the implementation of the Regional Approach both within the Mano River countries themselves, as well as within the KP and towards external stakeholders. Existing language barriers within the Mano River Union - two francophone countries (Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea), and two Anglophone (Sierra Leone and Liberia) – also act as constant challenges to practical working level cooperation, an element that needs to also built into any future KP communications strategy.

2.4. Complementary actions

The EU is a single KP Participant, represented by the European Commission. Consequently, this action is to be seen in the context of the EU role in the KP both in terms of its participation and political leverage as well as in its role as donor.

The Commission on behalf of the EU chairs the Working Group on Monitoring (WGM), which plays an important role in overseeing KPCS implementation by Participants and dealing with cases and issues of non-compliance.[3] In 2013, the Commission contributed substantially to the progress made on the KP reform agenda under South Africa's Chairmanship, in particular as regards strengthening KPCS implementation within its existing mandate. As the Chair of the WGM, the Commission has also helped to guide the KP's careful stewardship of the violence ongoing in the Central African Republic (CAR), and the technical support that the KP family is offering to the authorities of CAR and neighbouring KP Participant countries to ensure profits from diamonds do not fuel further violence. The Commission has welcomed Angola's appointment as KP Vice-Chair for 2015, and Chair in 2016, pledging the EU's full support to Angola's stated intention to advocate for respect for fundamental human rights and improve beneficiation in the diamond mining sector.

The first component of this action builds on successful EU cooperation with United States' Agency for International Development under the "Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development" (PRADD) programme (€ 1 million under AAP

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[3]   At the level of the EU, the KPCS is implemented through Council Regulation (EC) No. 2368/2002.

2012 of the Instrument for Stability's Crisis Preparedness Component) which particularly focuses on helping Ivory Coast comply with the KPCS requirements. The action is also complementary with Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) a project currently supported under the 2014 AAP of IcSP (Article 4). Through cooperation with PAC, the EU is supporting the initial stage of development of a regional approach to KPCS implementation in the Mano River belt region of West Africa, helping regional Participants tackle smuggling, foster law enforcement cooperation and safeguard government revenues. PAC and the EU currently serve as members of a four-person technical team appointed by the KP's Working Group on Monitoring to coordinate this initiative. In recent past – 2013- , the EU also supported PAC's work under the Instrument for Stability's (IfS) crisis response component (Article 3), with funding to help avoid the emergence of crises which would have otherwise severely destabilised conflict prone and diamond producing regions.

In addition, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) has been supporting the Commission in its role as Chair of the WGM by helping to monitor implementation of the KPCS. To this end, in 2013 the JRC further developed its scientific expertise in the management of certificate data, statistical analysis, as well as monitoring and assessment of mining production sites for the scheme via satellite imagery. This has been particularly helpful in assessing the extent of mining activity in countries seeking to improve KP compliance such as Liberia, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire as well as embargoed countries such as Central African Republic.

2.5. Donor coordination

Several KP working bodies play a role in ensuring effective donor coordination in delivery of technical assistance needs to KP Participants. For example, the Working Group on Monitoring, Working Group on Statistics, the Working Group on Diamond Experts, and the Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Mining Production all have responsibilities to uphold KP minimum standards and to ensure conflict diamonds are not traded internationally. When technical assistance needs are identified, these are notified to the Chair of the relevant Working Group, the KP Chair, and the focal point on technical assistance within the KP (currently Diamonds for Development Initiative) which can then seek assistance from within the KP community. As Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring (WMG), the EU regularly identifies needs for technical assistance highlighted in the reports of KP review visits.

With regard specific donor coordination for this action, a steering committee will be set up to include both the US Agency for International Development (USAID) – as the PRADD programme is co-funded by the US State Department - the EU and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Under the current phase of the EU support to PRADD, USAID and the EU already collaborate closely via monthly coordination calls and where possible, joint reporting schedules. The inclusion of GIZ in this Steering Committee mechanism will ensure enhanced coordination and joint planning especially for interventions within the Mano River Union. In addition, collaboration will be sought with the World Bank on aligned activities in the extractive sector in Guinea and with the Gemological Institute of America, which provided training to valuation officers in Ivory Coast in September of 2014.

3.   DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1.   **Objectives**

The overall objective of the action is to support country compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).

Component 1 - the PRADD programme - aims to increase the percentage of diamonds entering the legal chain of custody, while improving the livelihoods of artisanal diamond mining communities and where possible, forging public-private or other institutional partnerships.

Component 2 aims to support the Regional Approach to KP implementation in the Mano River belt region of West Africa (the "Regional Approach") by helping regional participants to tackle smuggling, foster law enforcement cooperation and safeguard government revenues.

The action will foster inclusive engagement and will strive to uphold social justice and human rights of all people – women and men in artisanal diamond mining communities. It will commit to address gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of women's marginalisation and discrimination, vulnerability to gender-based violence and their unequal access to natural resources and common property rights. In this regard, particular attention will be paid to understanding and analysing socio-economic and cultural diversity including differences gender-based power relations in the artisanal diamond mining.

3.2.   **Expected results and main activities**

Component 1

Main expected results of PRADD II and indicative activities:

Result 1: Property rights to land and diamond mining are clarified, strengthened and formally recognised

Indicative activities:

- community-based validation process and the GPS mapping of mining pits to certify local artisanal mining claims;

- technical assistance to support government(s) in policy review and reform to improve artisanal mining formalisation and land valorisation in the areas of artisanal mining taxation, land tenure, and customary rights

- design and implement (together with local government and customary authorities) a conflict management programme addressing related land and natural resource (e.g. diamond mining) disputes in artisanal mining zones

Result 2: Internal controls are strengthened and governance of the artisanal diamond mining sector is improved

Indicative activities:

- technical assistance to relevant authorities to refine proposed KP systems and processes (including proposing amendments to related laws and regulations)

- assist relevant authorities with developing an artisanal mining cadastre
- provide capacity building support to relevant authorities to help them better monitor and manage artisanal mining production and sales

Result 3: Economic development within artisanal diamond mining communities is improved, with benefits of mining activities to local communities increased and food production diversified and intensified.

Indicative activities:

- capacity building for communities to strengthen village level management and benefits from artisanal mining
- support to the 'cooperative artisanal mining model'
- assist local communities to establish equipment rental pools, including training in administrative, financial and logistical management
- design a gender-balanced participatory process for identification, prioritization and implementation of complementary livelihoods that also meet environmental rehabilitation objectives, with special attention given to livelihood options for women

Result 4: Public awareness and education as it relates to the Kimberley Process, and laws and processes related to the formalization and organization of artisanal mining activities are increased

Indicative activities:

- In collaboration with local authorities, design and implement a communications and awareness-raising campaign targeting transparency of the artisanal mining sector and compliance with KP rules
- Design and implement appropriate information and awareness raising campaigns at the national level to enhance general understanding of the conditions and issues predominant in the artisanal mining sector
- Solicit partners and develop networks of civil society organizations that are already active in sponsoring information diffusion on topics related to artisanal diamond mining and rural land tenure

Result 5: Increase understanding of how clear and secure property rights reduces conflict and formalizes mining activities, also in the context of women, peace and security

Indicative activities:

- Design and implement an impact evaluation to understand how and whether project activities are helping to achieve project objectives, including gender equality and women's empowerment objectives
- Implementation of all activities under Component 1 will rely on the premise (theory of change) that if property rights to land containing high-value natural resources are clarified and strengthened, then conflict over the control and benefits from these resources will be reduced, management of the sector enhanced, and local level investment in related livelihood activities will be increased.

Component 2

Main expected results of the regional approach and indicative activities:

Result 1: A regional KP implementation and monitoring framework is established at Mano River Union (MRU) level.

Indicative activities:

- Implementation of the Regional Approach Action Plan via procurement of a capacity assessment and political economy analysis. Such analysis will be done in close consultation with the MRU Secretariat and its member states to ensure ownership. The analysis will inform necessary capacity development and funding needs and will be an integral part of the implementation strategy of the above action plan

- Implementation and monitoring of the Regional Approach Action Plan by supporting exchange of information between MRU KP Focal Points and the Technical Team appointed by the Working Group on Monitoring to enable MRU countries to better support each other at a regional level in addressing KP compliance challenges

- Capture of good working practice including on gender and facilitation of sharing of expertise , amongst MRU Focal Points on planning, monitoring and implementation of the Regional Approach Action Plan

- Conclusion of an MoU between PRADD and GIZ in consultation with USAID and EU to support stronger KP compliance mechanisms at regional level

- Where requested, provision of support to the partnership building process to ensure that MRU countries have the required resources to address all relevant challenges

Result 2: Joint KP and diamond industry training and awareness-raising materials

Indicative activities:

- Procure services of a training institute in order to create a KP induction training module for all law enforcement agencies, to deliver training to relevant law enforcement agencies (including government evaluators) and train local trainers for implementation at community level

- Adapt law enforcement training module for community-level awareness raising

- Implement community-level campaigns through pre-selected local training providers

Result 3: Joint platform for sharing information on geographical information on diamond concessions and zones, licensing, production, sales and exports

Indicative activities:

- Develop a regional database interface for geographical information on diamond concessions and zones, licensing, production and diamond

sales/exports information retrieving data from national systems. This activity may include development of procedures and practices for gathering statistics at national level for the regional database.

Result 4: Development of a regional law enforcement information system in implementation of KP

Indicative activities:

- Assist member states to include regional and cross-sectorial consultation in exporter vetting procedures

- Establish and support logistically a task force of member states' law enforcement authorities (including customs) to agree on a regional approach in investigating diamond trade violations and possible connections to organized crime, terrorism and drug trafficking and increase awareness of KP requirements

- Support the harmonization of key mining sector governance regimes including licensing procedures

- Support the MRU Secretariat to organize a regional conference to build awareness among government and diamond industry on efforts to fight links between diamond trade and money laundering

- Establish and support logistically a joint MRU/ECOWAS task force to improve border controls on diamond trade

Result 5: Development of mechanisms to disseminate best practices and harmonize policies across the region

Indicative activities:

- Create national tri-partite KP working groups in each member country to examine progress on harmonization, Washington Declaration, etc.

- Establish regular regional coordination and communication meetings on MRU harmonization among relevant stakeholders at regional level

- Ensure that focal points have sufficient information to encourage decision-makers to optimize and harmonize policies as well as strengthen internal controls

- Procurement of services to conduct a landscape survey with respect to fiscal regimes, royalty fees, beneficiation, and licensing regimes

3.3.   Risks and assumptions

Assumptions:

- Countries targeted by the Action will not be affected by conflict or instability that delays or suspends project activities.
- Governments recognize need for reforms and political will exists to adopt legal and regulatory changes including cost reduction and accessibility of mining licenses.

- Property rights to mining claims are verifiable and recognized by local customary and administrative authorities .
- Increased tenure security encourages adoption of complementary livelihoods on rehabilitated land.
- Existing disputes are reconcilable and can be readily resolved through third party intervention.
- Breaches in KP compliance are identified and acted upon, both at national as well as regional level.
- Governments of the region recognize added value of and show political will for regional cooperation and horminization in KP implementation specifically and mining sector governance more generally.
- Other development partners will complement the implementation of the regional action plan with activities at national level (multi-level and multi-partner approach)

Risks

- Elections over the coming years may increase tensions particularly in regions with concentrations of artisanal mining. This risk will be mitigated by the development of customised conflict resolution mechanisms to address any related grievances in individual communities;
- High levels of extreme poverty in the region provide counter- incentives set to compliance with KP principles and induce illegal mining, smuggling and human rights abuses along the diamond value chain.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The action will take particular account of the differing roles and responsibilities of men and women in the artisanal mining sector will ensure that implemented activities offer equal opportunities and benefits for women including actions reducing any negative impact such as loss or unequal access to livelihoods and employment or exposure to gender-based violence.

The contribution and equal participation of women is fundamental in ensuring the inclusive engagement of the KP process and its foreseen equitable benefits to women, men, boys and girls and the communities in which they live and work.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the action via Component 2 will work to convert exhausted mining pits into three types of productive agricultural units: fishponds, vegetable gardens and agro-forestry. This scheme, which generates sustainable income while mitigating environmental damage, will be made sustainable by the establishment of local business units or collectives. In addition, the action aims to train artisanal miners to regenerate small watercourses polluted by artisanal mining

3.5. Stakeholders

A wide range of stakeholders will be targeted by the action, including artisanal miners, buying houses and collectors, local and national government, the private sector and the general public at large. The action raises the knowledge and awareness of artisanal miners on key issues such as the mining law, income diversification, gender promotion and environmental protection. It also develops countrywide sensitisation campaigns on legal mining and legal sales. In addition, the action reaches out the

public at large through the production and diffusion of radio programmes, films and newspaper articles on artisanal diamond mining, including at the Kimberley Process. Support is also provided to local and national level government partners to increase their capacity to monitor and enforce Kimberley Process requirements. Finally, the private sector is engaged in terms of identifying opportunities for more responsible supply chains and financing of diamond production.

Participants in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme will also be important stakeholders, including members of the Working Group on Monitoring, currently chaired by the EU. The principle conduit for communication to the WGM is via the Regional Approach technical team (including PAC, DDI, DRC and the EU). Other tri-partite actors include the Civil Society Coalition and the World Diamond Council.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **48 months** from the date of where financing agreement is concluded or, where no financing agreement is concluded from the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

The Action will be implemented through two contracts:

- Procurement (direct management)

- Grant: direct award (direct management) with GIZ

4.3.1. *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical Assistance to support the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development Program	Services	1	2/2015

4.3.2. *Grant: direct award (direct management)*

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grant, as mentioned in section 3.1, is to support the Regional Approach to KP implementation in the Mano River belt region of West Africa (the "Regional Approach") by helping regional participants to tackle smuggling, foster law enforcement cooperation and safeguard government revenues. The results will include: the establishment of a regional KP implementation and monitoring framework at Mano River Union level; an increased awareness of law enforcement agencies and communities through joint KP and diamond industry training; the development of a joint information sharing platform on geographical information on diamond concessions and zones, licensing, production, sales and exports; the development of a regional law enforcement information system in implementation of KP; the development of mechanisms to disseminate best practices and harmonize policies across the region. Further details can be found in section 3.2 above.

Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to GIZ in accordance with Article 190 (1) (f) of RAP.

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action has specific characteristics requiring GIZ as beneficiary due to its specialisation, past experience and technical competence in the above areas across the Mano river belt region of West Africa. GIZ has an on-going programme in the Mano River Union (MRU) member countries since October 2009 focusing on the management of natural resources, including diamonds. GIZ has already established a strong working relationship with the MRU technical committee on energy and mining and the Ministries responsible for the mining sector in the MRU member states. GIZ supported the MRU mining sector including specific elements in its strategic action 2010-2020. For many years, GIZ has been the sole actor on the ground to provide support to the MRU Secretariat with an important budget (the financial volume of its support being approximately of EUR 11 million for the period 2009-2015). Recently the African Development Bank (AfDB) has engaged with the MRU Secretariat to support the regional harmonisation of minerals tax and licensing regimes. The AfDB in the preparation of this grant relied strongly on technical support from GIZ. In addition, GIZ is the only partner organization of the MRU Secretariat with a relatively broad mandate at multiple levels. GIZ areas of support encompass support to the MRU Secretariat, but also include capacity development of the relevant national Ministries and they have a staff of advisers and administrative officers on the ground, bringing solid human, technical and managerial resources to manage additional financial supports from third-party donors.

(b) Eligibility conditions

N.A.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80%.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

The direct grant is expected to be signed during the third quarter of 2015.

(f) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

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 shall apply.

4.5. Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.1. – Procurement (direct management)	1,000	N.A.
4.3.2. – Grant (direct management)	1,000	N.A.
4.7. – Evaluation and audit	N.A.	N.A.
4.8. – Communication and visibility	N.A.	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	2,000	

4.6. Performance monitoring

The project will develop a robust system of internal monitoring of all planned activities in order to ensure that their impact can be consistently measured throughout the implementation period, with particular emphasis on effectiveness of

results and knowledge-sharing in line with Theories of Change. This approach may be complemented by recourse to external Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) or to the Staged Evaluation Facility managed by FPI.

4.7.   Evaluation and audit

If deemed necessary, external evaluation and/or audit can be commissioned by the European Commission – FPI, and financed under IcSP Administrative budget line 19.010401.

4.8.   Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.