



Brussels, 16.10.2014
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.10.2014

**on the 2014 Partnership Instrument Annual Action Programme for cooperation with
third countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the 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 and in particular Article 2 thereof¹,

Having regard to the 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, and in particular Article 84 (2) thereof²,

Having regard to the Regulation (EU) N° 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries³,

Whereas:

- (1) The Regulation (EU) N° 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishes a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries to advance and promote Union and mutual interests;
- (2) The Commission shall adopt Annual Action Programmes, based on the Multi-annual Indicative Programmes referred to in the in Article 4 of the Regulation (EU) N° 234/2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries;
- (3) The Action programmes shall specify for each action the objectives pursued, the expected results and main activities, the methods of implementation, the budget and an indicative timetable, any associated support measures and performance monitoring arrangements;
- (4) The Commission has adopted an Implementing Decision on the first Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2017 under the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries⁴;
- (5) In line with the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2017, this Annual Action Programme includes measures in the following areas: support for the Union's cooperation partnership strategies, cooperation on global challenges, implementation of the international dimension of the "Europe 2020" strategy and promotion of the Unions internal policies abroad, support for economic and trade relations as well as promotion of the Union's values and interests

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1

³ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p 77

⁴ C(2014) 4453 final of 3 July 2014

- (6) It is appropriate to acknowledge that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer who ensures that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals according to Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled. The reasons for and potential beneficiaries of such award should be identified, where *the direct award is based on points (c), (d) or (f) of Article 190(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) no 1268/2012*". This Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- (7) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer');
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Partnership Instrument Committee.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Annual Action Programme, constituted by the actions identified in the second paragraph and laid down in the Annex to this Decision, is adopted: 2014 Partnership Instrument Annual Action Programme for cooperation with third countries.

The actions constituting this Annual Action Programme are:

Annex A: Action Fiche Policy Support Facility (PSF);

Annex B: Action Fiche Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX);

Annex C: Action Fiche Emission Trading System in the Republic of Korea;

Annex D: Action Fiche Low carbon business action in Brazil;

Annex E: Action Fiche Low carbon business action in Mexico;

Annex F: Action Fiche Clean energy cooperation with India;

Annex G: Action Fiche GCC Clean Energy Network;

Annex H: Action Fiche EU-China dialogue on migration and mobility;

Annex I: Action Fiche EU- Green Gateway Republic of Korea;

Annex J: Action Fiche Gateway/EU business avenues to South East Asia;

Annex K: Action Fiche EU-India cooperation on ICT standardisation, policy and legislation

Annex L: Action Fiche Schuman Fulbright Fellowships;

Annex M: Action Fiche Gateway to China

Annex N: Action Fiche Public Procurement Initiative;

Annex O: Action Fiche Public Diplomacy Actions;

Annex P: Action Fiche Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension".

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the 2014 Partnership Instrument Annual Action Programme for cooperation with third countries is at EUR 107.000.000 to be financed from budget line 19.0501 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

Article 3

Technical amendments such as extensions of the implementation period, reassignment of funds between actions contained in this Annual Action Programme, or increases or reductions of the budget of the Annual Action Programme by not more than 20% of the initial budget and not exceeding €10 million shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the objectives of the measure. The responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 16.10.2014

For the Commission
Catherine ASHTON
Vice-President

ANNEX A

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the
Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for the Policy Support Facility (PSF)

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost of the service Framework Contract: € 50 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution from the budget 2014: € 20 million
Total duration	24 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Framework Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The overall aim of the Policy Support Facility (PSF) is to support the EU's priorities and to influence the partner countries/regions' agenda positively, so that it aligns as much as possible with the EU's policies, objectives and values (especially when it relates to values, governance, standards, climate change or the protection of the environment); an active and engaging policy dialogue will foster mutual understanding as well as common responses to global challenges.

2.2. Context

The Partnership Instrument (PI) includes, amongst its thematic priorities support for the implementation of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Action Plans and similar bilateral instruments, strengthening the political and economic dialogue with third countries of particular relevance in world affairs, including in foreign policy; supporting engagement with relevant third countries on bilateral and global issues of common concern; enhancing policy dialogues and cooperation with relevant third countries, taking into consideration all areas within the scope of the Europe 2020 strategy; promoting the Union's internal policies with key partner countries and supporting regulatory convergence in this regard.

In order to address these priorities, a facility is needed to respond to the dynamic and fast-changing global environment that European policies have been confronted with in terms of partner countries'/regions' approaches to these policies and to timely promote European interests.

Quick, short-term actions are required to support the external dimension of the Union's internal policies in order to accommodate rapidly developing policy dialogues and priorities.

This PSF will have a global reach and therefore will allow actions in countries beyond the EU's strategic partners.

The legal framework governing the relations with the partner countries (Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Framework Agreements, Free Trade and Investment Agreements etc.) will be essential in identifying and shaping the targeted actions to be funded under the PI, using this facility. It will contribute to all three priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The design of the PSF builds on and draws lessons from existing similar dialogue facilities. In all four countries, where policy dialogue facilities exist, the projects are either already in their second phase or restructuring/combinations of other projects, showing the continuous and growing demand for this type of facility.

However, several actions under the different facilities have not necessarily served the policy dialogue in the long-run due to their isolation, a lack of vision and/or work programme of the dialogue and/or the unwillingness of one of the partners to implement the activity.

Despite the flexible nature of the projects, it has been challenging and labour-intensive to translate rather general agreements reached in the context of political dialogues into concrete action.

2.4. Complementary actions

There are currently four Support Facilities being implemented across the world: in Brazil, China, South Africa and Thailand (Brazil – EUR 5.5 Mio, China – EUR 12 Mio, South Africa EUR 7 Mio and Thailand – EUR 4 Mio – all EU contributions). Most of them are DCI-funded. The one in Brazil is financed under the ICI+ budget.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

To support (existing) policy dialogues between the EU and partner countries through technical assistance in areas within the scope of “Europe 2020” and to facilitate economic and trade relations with partner countries.

It will complement/support the external dimension of internal policies conducted under the other EU political programmes and instruments.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

R1: More knowledge-based and consequently a strengthening of the policy dialogues of the EU with partner countries and the consequent improvement of the quality of

cooperation with those partner countries, in particular strategic partners through exploring opportunities of mutual interest for a long-term agenda in priority areas.

- R2: Policy commitments and guiding documents, such as Summit Declarations, MoUs (signed between Commission DGs and third country ministries), letters of intent etc. in different areas implemented actively.
- R3: Platforms established and maintained to enhance dialogue and understanding on key priority issues focused on the external dimension of the "Europe 2020" agenda and areas highlighted in the MIP 2014-2017.

For the purpose of the PSF a Global Framework Contract will be put in place, consisting of the following four Lots:

- Lot 1 – Event organisation: logistics, travel and accommodation associated to conferences, forums, workshops, study visits, incl. logistical support for working sessions on policy dialogues (in Europe or partner country), etc.
- Lot 2 – Technical assistance, training and evaluation: technical studies, (feasibility studies, technical reports, baseline, benchmarking on issues that are relevant for the policy dialogues); provision of expertise on specific issues relevant to the policy dialogues incl. speakers, panellists, rapporteurs/ facilitators, moderators; monitoring, evaluation, secondment of experts, exchange of expertise.
- Lot 3 – Information and communication: information and communication actions of the EU.
- Lot 4 – Trade related assistance, including the provision of all of the above-mentioned services in the field of trade: legal analysis and advice, expertise to support Delegations coordinating Market Access Teams, translations, statistics and collection of data and analysis, expert seminars, workshops, technical assistance to support partner countries implement necessary reforms, monitoring of trade agreements.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

- R.1. There is no interest from the partner country in the proposed activity.
- M.1. A written commitment and support from both partners should be provided before the approval of activities. Counterpart contributions could be envisaged.
- R.2. The activity is an isolated event and does not contribute to deepening the policy dialogue.
- M.2. A proposal has to be presented for approval of the activity and it should be made clear how this activity is embedded in the policy dialogue and/agenda.
- A1. Sufficient staff is available in FPI to manage this Global Framework Contract.
- A2. The proposed amount of budget will be fully consumed by the end of the 2-year period.

3.4. Stakeholders

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

Indirect stakeholders are EU Member States, all private and institutional/public stakeholders at different levels in Europe and partner countries that may be consulted or involved in the implementation of the different activities.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

- (a) Contracts: This action will be implemented through a multiple Global Framework Contract with reopening of competition, consisting of 4 Lots or through direct services contracts in duly justified cases.
- (b) Indicative number of specific contracts to be signed under the Global Framework Contract : 250
- (c) Indicative number of direct contracts under calls for tenders: 10
- (d) Indicative timing: call for tenders launched in 3rd Quarter 2014.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for tenders for a service Framework Contract for 2 years: <i>Policy Support Facility</i> (direct management)	50
Of which the budget allocation in 2014 is:	20
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	20

4.3. Performance monitoring

The FPI ensures a regular follow-up of the project, both through visits of its own staff where possible and regular contact with the different activities/ stakeholders. Concerned Commission DGs/ EEAS will be required to monitor activities that have been proposed by them closely.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

Two external evaluations, one mid-term and one final are foreseen. Because of the specific nature of the Framework Contract, these evaluations may take different forms to regular evaluation missions. At least one audit is foreseen.

The external evaluations and audits will be carried out by independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission in accordance with EU rules and procedures on specifically established terms of reference.

4.5. Communication and visibility

Most of the activities (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.) are in themselves visibility-related activities, but it will be important to publicise results and achievements in the appropriate forums to increase visibility.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX B

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 1 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 1 million
Total duration	24 months (indicative)
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> (Assistance for the Implementation of TAIEX Activities: Provision of Logistical Services and Financial Management Tasks" EUROPEAID/130779/C/SER/MULTI). <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The expertise provided through TAIEX is mainly provided by EU Member States (EUMS) public administration experts, to assist in the legal harmonisation process and capacity building of implementing and enforcement bodies as well as in support to the implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, Association Agreements and Agendas or other existing and future agreements and jointly agreed action plans.

TAIEX facilitates the transfer of know-how through workshops/seminars/conferences, experts' missions (practitioners-to-practitioners) and study visits to EUMS. It facilitates the delivery of tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice. For the Partnership Instrument (PI), TAIEX will provide expertise in a different fashion, since the request will generally be issued from the EU rather than from the partner country in areas of common interest.

The requests for using TAIEX will be inter alia assessed on the basis of their relevance to the objectives of the PI.

2.2. Context

The use of TAIEX under the PI is justified as it will allow the EU to push forward its legislations, norms and standards in the partner country or to align the country's agenda to its own and, therefore, promote the EU's interests abroad.

TAIEX is a tool that will be used primarily to exchange knowledge with strategic partners or any other interested country to coordinate practices and/or norms and regulatory frameworks that could benefit both sides.

2.3. Lessons learnt

TAIEX was initially created for candidate countries but has been extended to and appreciated by ENI beneficiary countries. One of its main assets is its flexibility, tailoring services according to requirements and constraints, and speed to mobilise expertise at relative short notice. Level of interest in sending experts is variable depending on the area of expertise and the partner country concerned. The potential for cooperation with the main strategic partners could be considered as a great opportunity.

2.4. Complementary actions

TAIEX is complementary to the Policy Support Facility (PSF) (Annex A) in that the PSF can provide technical assistance through Experts from the private sector, while TAIEX relies on public administration experts

Consistency and complementarity between TAIEX and the PSF will be guaranteed through regular coordination across all actors, EU Delegations in the target countries, relevant Commission services and the EEAS..

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall purpose is to facilitate, in all areas required, the implementation of EU bilateral Cooperation Agreements or similar agreements, with a focus on regulatory convergence in partner countries, to share with the partner countries experience, know-how and information on EU policies and legislation in the widest sense and to support the partner country in fulfilling their commitments under the Agreements (Association or Partnership and Cooperation Agreements or any other bilateral agreement or cooperation framework with the EU).

TAIEX coordinates requests for assistance and cooperation to Member States for the delivery of short-term, tailor-made public administration expertise to address specific requirements at short notice.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

Sharing of EU best practices and know-how with partner countries through the provision of short term technical assistance delivered mainly by experts from Member States Public Administration.

Other expected results are: i) providing information and updates on EU legislation and policies by experts from EUMS Public Administration; ii) intensifying cooperation to improve regulatory convergence and legislative approximation towards higher standards.

The indicators to measure those results are: numbers of events, participants and experts; number of assessment reports; changes to the national regulatory framework brought in line with the EU's in the target countries.

Activities: seminars, workshops, conferences, expert missions and study visits, etc.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

One of the main risks could be the lack of engagement of the target countries; however, TAIEX is flexible and allows for timely mitigations in a difficult context. Operational difficulties could also occur in relation to visa regimes being applied. Advanced planning and specific attention in the early phases of an event preparation should help overcome these. The general assumption is that the Member States will support the scheme by facilitating the use of public sector expertise.

3.4. Stakeholders

Potential stakeholders can include public (central or lower level(s)) administrations, national parliaments' administrations, judiciary bodies, social partners and, when appropriate, private sector associations.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The 1 M € is estimated for contracting under centralised direct management. The implementation of the programme will be delegated by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) to the Directorate-General for Enlargement (DG ELARG).

The services will be provided through the contract "Assistance for the Implementation of TAIEX Activities: Provision of Logistical Services and Financial Management Tasks" EUROPEAID/130779/C/SER/MULTI).

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – <i>Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Procurement (direct management)</i>	1
Totals	1

4.3. Performance monitoring

The Commission may undertake any actions it deems necessary to monitor the programme. In particular, the procedure of evaluation and monitoring described in section 4.4 will apply.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The "Impact Feedback" gathers information on tangible impacts of TAIEX activities six months after their implementation. Before the organisation of the activity the partner administration at the receiving end is asked to identify a person to assess its impact. Six months later, this same person is asked to fill in a questionnaire. The results of the evaluation are taken into account in the programming and implementation cycle.

4.5. Communication and visibility

This project will contain communication and visibility measures which will be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be drawn up and submitted to ELARG.D.2 for approval before the launch of activities. It will be supported with the budget indicated under point 4.2.

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.

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the contractor, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX C

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the
Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Technical Assistance on the Implementation of an Emission Trading System in the Republic of Korea

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 3.5 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 3.5 million
Total duration	36 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The project is designed to enhance South Korea's understanding of Emissions Trading through sharing EU regulatory approach and experiences. To this end, it will develop and offer Emissions Trading System (ETS) simulation tools to both competent authorities and the industrial sectors included in the Korean ETS, provide direct assistance to the public sector and indirect assistance (through a helpdesk) to the private sector and offer a carbon price modelling to demonstrate the likely development of the carbon price in Korea.

2.2. Context

As of the beginning of 2015, the Republic of Korea will introduce an emission trading system (KETS) to reduce its business-as-usual emissions by 30% by 2020. The necessary, legal framework, including provisions on allocation of allowances was finalised in June 2014. It is the first nation-wide emission trading system to start in the region and is expected to have a knock-on effect on many other countries in Far East Asia. Its success is therefore not only important for Korea, but is likely to produce repercussions beyond the region. Contributing to the success of KETS is clearly in the interest of the EU, as it reinforces its policy approach and helps to cut down greenhouse gas emissions globally.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Experience gained from a project in China, launched in January 2014, on capacity building for emissions trading is integrated in the project approach to be applied in Korea. Close cooperation between domestic authorities and the European Commission (EC) in drafting terms of reference tailor-made to the needs of the country whilst promoting its ownership of the project. The management structure is also designed to reinforce the beneficiary

country's commitment towards the successful implementation of the project. The positive experience gained from the project with China has been taken into account.

2.4. Complementary actions

Some EU Member States (EU MS), such as UK, Germany, and France, are currently active in supporting ETS in Korea but in a rather uncoordinated way. The proposed project, however, is expected to bring synergies to other ongoing activities in Korea mainly carried out by EU MS.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to assist the Republic of Korea in its efforts to meet its carbon emission reduction target of 30% by 2020 against a business-as-usual emission trajectory set up in 2009 by establishing an effective ETS in Korea. The project is to provide technical assistance on issues necessary for the implementation and operation of KETS. These issues will be identified in the identification phase at the start of the project.

The specific objective of the action is to provide technical assistance to the Republic of Korea in order to support the successful implementation and operation of its forthcoming national ETS.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

R1: participants, especially public authorities, are familiar with emissions trading so as to reinforce effective decision making and compliance strategies under KETS;

R2: public and private sector representatives receive direct and indirect support, respectively, on technical issues relating to KETS implementation;

R3: a carbon price model is developed and adapted to the Korean carbon market so as to enable an informed decision making process of the Korean authorities for further implementation and operation of KETS.

The main activities of the project are the following:

1. **ETS Simulation tasks.** The purpose is to support the implementation of the Korean ETS. It would cover competent authorities and industry and to help them get acquainted with the key ETS functionalities, decision making and compliance responses by means of a simulation tool designed to enhance each participating party's level of expertise to successfully comply with ETS.
2. **Helpdesk/intelligent support.** The scope will be twofold: a) direct support ("intelligent support") to the public sector (Ministry of Environment) in developing specific activities (e.g. workshops on benchmarking and auctioning, training of accredited 3rd party verifiers); b) indirect technical assistance to the private sector (helpdesk support) by supporting ongoing activities on MRV, trading and registry.
3. **Carbon price modelling.** Designed for authorities concerned to have access to information necessary for policy making. This will be essential when considering the use of market stabilisation or other supply and demand measures without jeopardising the

environmental integrity of the system. The model should take into account marginal abatement cost curves, and allow for scenarios to demonstrate the likely development of the carbon price under regulated and non-regulated retail electricity prices.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

A possible risk is that KETS could face complications occurring during its implementation. This could threaten its success, reduce its mitigation potential and reduce the appeal for ETS in third countries. The EU's experience would be very important to overcome this critical preliminary phase. Furthermore, a potential lack of openness and capacity of the administration to receive the technical assistance could result in a possible risk. However, Korean authorities have been very positive about the idea of a bilateral co-operation project, minimising the implementation risk.

The most important assumption is the positive role that KETS will play in the Korean Green Growth Strategy. Equally important is that ETS is the most cost-effective climate change policy tool.

3.4. Stakeholders

- The national government and the relevant ministry, such as Environment, as the primary stakeholder as implementing the carbon market infrastructure;
- Business entities, including trade associations, affected by ETS;
- Intermediary companies active in the upcoming carbon market;
- Korean civil society groups active in the area of environment and climate policies;
- International organisations such as the World Bank, the UNFCCC, the Green Growth Institute and UNEP;
- EU MS, (UK, DE, FR, NL, DK, SE) and Norway active in supporting climate change mitigation and ETS through their overseas aid programmes.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

- (a) The project will be implemented via an international service contract.
- (b) Indicative timing: call for tenders launched in 4th Quarter 2014

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1 – Call for tenders <i>Technical Assistance on the Implementation of an Emission Trading System in the Republic of Korea</i> (direct management)	3.5
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	3.5

4.3. Performance monitoring

Day-to-day technical and financial monitoring will be a constant process part of the contractor's responsibilities. The EC will further check performance on the basis of the description of the action, the results framework, the annual events calendars, as well as on the Bi-Annual Progress Reports. The Delegation will also hold regular meetings with the contractor as well as participate, as appropriate, in the project events and activities.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The action will be subject to a mid-term evaluation to assess progress and to identify adjustments. A final evaluation will analyse the overall performance, outputs compared to initial targets, impacts achieved and likely to be achieved, relevance to the national context, institutional and financial sustainability and management efficiency. A final external audit by an approved auditor will be required. The EC will reserve the right to conduct one or more external audits during the implementation period. Evaluations and audits will be carried out by making use of the project funds.

4.5. Communication and visibility

During the implementation of the project, in all activities carried out, the visibility and knowledge of EU support shall be ensured to all entities and stakeholders involved as well as in media, brochures and any other communication material.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX D

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for 'Low carbon business action in Brazil'

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 3 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 3 million
Total duration	Number of months: 30
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The overall objective of the 'Low carbon business action in Brazil' initiative, of which this action fiche constitutes the first phase, is greening industries by adopting low carbon technology (including energy efficiency) in areas such as energy production and consumption, transport, manufacturing process, waste management, agriculture and forestry.

The specific objective of the project is to establish "Cooperation Partnerships Agreements" between EU and Brazilian businesses by supporting the implementation of joint "bankable" proposals which should result in low carbon technology solutions and reflect the interests of both parties.

This initiative is twofold: Phase 1: (a) mapping of specific needs and gaps and identification of potential partners in target sectors in Brazil; (b) mobilisation of identified potential partners in Brazil (and Europe), (c) matchmaking activities between European and Brazilian clusters and businesses resulting in the establishment of Cooperation Partnership Agreements – implemented through a service contract. Phase 2: to put into place under future PI Annual Action Programmes (AAP), after the mapping and identifications processes of phase 1 and depending on its results, a support facility for the preparation of bankable proposals by Cooperation Partnerships and cooperation with national and international financial institutions in Brazil to finance these proposals.

2.2. Context

The EU has a strategic interest in stimulating concrete efforts from middle income countries such as Brazil to adequately tackle the climate change challenge by assisting them in a shift towards decoupling economic growth from CO2 emissions and enabling a

greener economy. At the same time, the EU has a leading role in low carbon technologies and solutions and a key objective of EU industrial policy is to promote internationalisation of EU companies, in particular SMEs by facilitating their entering into new markets. The proposed action offers the opportunity to combine these two strong policy objectives within one action. Thirdly, in the context of UNFCCC negotiations, the EU has a strong interest in being supportive, with projects such as this one, of middle income countries, such as Brazil, who actively seek to pursue a low carbon development path.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Under the *Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme* a number of activities have been set-up to support international cluster cooperation for the benefit of SMEs. This includes a European Cluster Collaboration Platform which facilitates transnational and international cooperation, including signature of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on cluster cooperation with partners in third countries. The MoUs are implemented through the organisation of cluster-to-cluster and business-to-business matchmaking events in agreed industrial sectors. So far, matchmaking events have been organised in Japan, Brazil and India in 2012-2013 and further events are foreseen with Chile and China in 2014.

While these activities have been successful in establishing new partnerships and networks between clusters and their SME members across a range of sectors, it has become clear that further efforts and support are required in order for these partnerships to lead to sustainable business projects. Therefore, the initiative of which this action fiche constitutes the first phase, will foresee a second phase (to be put forward as a separate, consecutive action in future AAPs) with provision of technical assistance for the elaboration of joint bankable proposals.

2.4. Complementary actions

In parallel, but not as part of the present action (i.e. no financial or other support required) DG ENTR will encourage the setting up of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships in low carbon and related sectors and value chains to putting in place a field of competent European cluster partners for the present action. In this way, the Cooperation Partnerships would benefit from the broad range of competences available in more than 2.000 clusters across Europe and from business support networks reaching out to a large number of highly relevant research organisations and innovating enterprises to match the identified technology needs.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

This action fiche constitutes the initial phase of two to achieve the overall objectives as set out in section 2.1. This specific phase will consolidate the list of sectors to be pursued, identify potential and interested Brazilian partners and facilitate matchmaking between European and Brazilian clusters and businesses resulting in the establishment of Cooperation Partnership Agreements on low carbon technologies in sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, waste management (notably solid waste), second generation biomass and energy efficiency in buildings and in industry.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

Expected result: the establishment of EU-Brazilian Cooperation Partnerships that would, eventually, lead to increase in export and international ventures for European businesses and introduction of low carbon technologies in Brazil resulting in carbon emission reduction. The target is to establish 80 Cooperation Partnerships.

The service contractor will perform the following tasks:

- a) Mapping of existing low carbon initiatives in the targeted sectors in Brazil to identify technology needs and gaps in order to avoid duplication of ongoing efforts. This will include not only Brazilian initiatives, but also existing Member State actions on low carbon in Brazil. The mapping should also identify potential, suitable financing institutions and instruments that could fund the implementation of the bankable proposals to be elaborated under Phase 2.
- b) Identification of potential Brazilian partners in the targeted sectors.
- c) Communication campaign to mobilise potential, identified Brazilian partners, resulting in Declarations of Interest in cooperation with European counterparts and in which specific areas.
- d) Organisation of matchmaking activities, including screening of candidates, virtual online matchmaking sessions and matchmaking mission in Brazil and/or Europe, resulting in formalised Cooperation Partnership agreements.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

This project is considered to represent a low level of risk. The main challenge is to reach consensus on its overall objectives and to mobilise the necessary political support from national and regional authorities in Brazil. A range of bilateral agreements on cluster cooperation with the EU already exist onto which this project can be anchored. This also includes e.g. bilateral agreements on market access, research cooperation and direct foreign investments in order to facilitate such business and cluster cooperation.

3.4. Stakeholders

The target groups of this action will include governmental institutions at three levels (federal, state and municipal), e.g. Ministries, Embrapa, Aneel, Brazilian Forestry Service, etc., business associations such as clusters, and companies.

In Europe, the stakeholders will be European Strategic Cluster Partnerships. These partnerships bring together clusters and their member companies and knowledge institutions from different sectors and countries.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The project will be implemented via an international service contract Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for tenders <i>Low carbon business action in Brazil</i> (direct management)	3
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	3

4.2. Performance monitoring

The service contract shall include provisions for on-going monitoring and evaluation of progress by the service providers, notably in relation to outcomes and, where appropriate, anticipated impact.

4.3. Evaluation and audit

The evaluation and audit modalities applied will be those usually applied by the FPI for such projects and service contracts.

4.4. Communication and visibility

The action includes a communication campaign to mobilise potential Brazilian partners which will ensure visibility of the action in Brazil. In parallel, in Europe the action will be widely publicised, notably via the EU Cluster Portal on the DG ENTR website and via the European Cluster Collaboration Platform in order to engage European Strategic Cluster Partnerships and businesses in the action. As the action is anchored in already existing bilateral agreements and will involve important Brazilian actors from ministries and regional/local authorities and business, visibility at that level will also be ensured.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX E

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the
Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for 'Low carbon business action in Mexico'

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 1.5 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 1.5 million
Total duration	Number of months: 24
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The specific objective of the action is to establish "Cooperation Partnerships Agreements" between EU and Mexican businesses with a view to supporting the implementation of joint "bankable" proposals that results in low carbon technology solutions and reflect the interests of both parties.

The specific objective of the project is to establish "Cooperation Partnerships Agreements" between EU and Mexican businesses by supporting the implementation of joint "bankable" proposals which should result in low carbon technology solutions and reflect the interests of both parties.

This initiative is twofold: Phase 1: (a) mapping of specific needs and gaps and identification of potential partners in target sectors in Mexico; (b) mobilisation of identified potential partners in Mexico (and Europe), (c) matchmaking activities between European and Mexican clusters and businesses resulting in the establishment of Cooperation Partnership Agreements – implemented through a service contract. Phase 2: to put into place under future PI Annual Action Programmes (AAP), after the mapping and identifications processes of phase 1 and depending on its results, a support facility for the preparation of bankable proposals by Cooperation Partnerships and cooperation with national and international financial institutions in Mexico to finance these proposals.

2.2. Context

The EU has a strategic interest in stimulating plausible efforts from middle income countries such as Mexico to adequately tackle the climate change challenge by assisting them in a shift towards decoupling economic growth from CO2 emissions and enabling a greener economy. At the same time, the EU has a leading role in low carbon technologies

and solutions and a key objective of EU industrial policy is to promote internationalisation of EU companies, in particular SMEs by facilitating their entering into new markets. The proposed action offers the opportunity to combine these two strong policy objectives within one action. Thirdly, in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations the EU has a strong interest in supporting good examples of middle income countries, including Mexico, who actively seeks to pursue a low carbon development path, which this action can facilitate.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Under the *Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme*, a number of activities have been set-up to support international cluster cooperation for the benefit of SMEs. This includes a European Cluster Collaboration Platform which facilitates transnational and international cooperation, including signature of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on cluster cooperation with partners in third countries. The MoUs are implemented through the organisation of cluster-to-cluster and business-to-business matchmaking events in agreed industrial sectors. So far, matchmaking events have been organised in Japan, Brazil and India in 2012-2013 and further events are foreseen with Chile and China in 2014.

While these activities have been successful in establishing new partnerships and networks between clusters and their SME members across a range of sectors, it has become clear that further efforts and support are required in order for these partnerships to lead to sustainable business projects. Therefore, the initiative of which this action fiche constitutes the first phase, will foresee a second phase (to be put forward as a separate, consecutive action in future AAPs) with provision of technical assistance for the elaboration of joint bankable proposals.

2.4. Complementary actions

In parallel, but not as part of the present action (i.e. no financial or other support required) DG ENTR will encourage the setting up of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships in low carbon and related sectors and value chains to putting in place a field of competent European cluster partners for the present action. In this way, the Cooperation Partnerships would benefit from the broad range of competences available in more than 2.000 clusters across Europe and from business support networks reaching out to a large number of highly relevant research organisations and innovating enterprises to match the identified technology needs.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

This action fiche constitutes the initial phase of two to achieve the overall objectives as set out in section 2.1. This specific phase will consolidate the list of sectors to be pursued, identify potential and interested Mexican partners and facilitate matchmaking between European and Mexican clusters and businesses resulting in the establishment of Cooperation Partnership Agreements on low carbon technologies in sectors such as agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, waste management (notably solid waste), second generation biomass and energy efficiency in buildings and in industry.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

Expected result: the establishment of EU-Mexican Cooperation Partnerships that would, eventually, lead to increase in export and international ventures for European businesses and introduction of low carbon technologies in Mexico resulting in carbon emission reduction. The target is to establish 40 Cooperation Partnerships.

The service contractor will perform the following tasks:

- a) Mapping of existing low carbon initiatives in the targeted sectors in Mexico to identify technology needs and gaps in order to avoid duplication of ongoing efforts. This will include not only Mexican initiatives, but also existing Member State actions on low carbon in Mexico. The mapping should also identify potential, suitable financing institutions and instruments that could fund the implementation of the bankable proposals to be elaborated under Phase 2.
- b) Identification of potential Mexican partners in the targeted sectors.
- c) Communication campaign to mobilise potential, identified Mexican partners, resulting in Declarations of Interest in cooperation with European counterparts and in which specific areas.
- d) Organisation of matchmaking activities, including screening of candidates, virtual online matchmaking sessions and matchmaking mission in Mexico and/or Europe, resulting in formalised Cooperation Partnership agreements.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

This project is considered to represent a low level of risk. The main challenge is to reach consensus on its overall objectives and to mobilise the necessary political support from national and regional authorities in Mexico. A range of bilateral agreements on cluster cooperation with the EU already exist onto which this project can be anchored. This also includes e.g. bilateral agreements on market access, research cooperation and direct foreign investments in order to facilitate such business and cluster cooperation.

3.4. Stakeholders

The target groups of this action in Mexico will include governmental institutions at three levels (federal, state and municipal), business associations such as clusters, and companies.

In Europe, the stakeholders will be European Strategic Cluster Partnerships. These partnerships bring together clusters and their member companies and knowledge institutions from different sectors and countries.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The project will be implemented via an international service contract following a restricted procurement procedure.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for tenders <i>Low carbon business action in Brazil</i> (direct management)	1.5 ¹
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	1.5

4.3. Performance monitoring

The service contract shall include provisions for on-going monitoring and evaluation of progress by the service providers, notably in relation to outcomes and, where appropriate, anticipated impact.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The evaluation and audit modalities applied will be those usually applied by the FPI for such projects and service contracts.

4.5. Communication and visibility

The action includes a communication campaign to mobilise potential Mexican partners which will ensure visibility of the action in Mexico. In parallel, in Europe the action will be widely publicised, notably via the EU Cluster Portal on the DG ENTR website and via the European Cluster Collaboration Platform in order to engage European Strategic Cluster Partnerships and businesses in the action. As the action is anchored in already existing bilateral agreements and will involve important Mexican actors from ministries and regional/local authorities and business, visibility at that level will also be ensured.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

¹ The indicative budget will include dedicated funds for evaluation and audit, on one hand and communication and visibility on the other.

ANNEX F

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action Programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Clean Energy Cooperation with India (CECI)

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 5 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 5 million
Total duration	Maximum 48 months (24 + 24 months subject to satisfactory progress by the positive assessment of key performance indicators)
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The project aims to enhance India's capacity to deploy low carbon energy production and improve energy efficiency and, therefore, contributing to the mitigation of global climate change. Project activities will support India's efforts to secure the supply of energy and contribute to global energy security. Finally, the project will create opportunities for European businesses in the energy technologies sector (renewables, energy efficiency, electrical network equipment).

2.2. Context

India is the world's sixth largest energy consumer. To meet its economic and social targets, the Indian Government aims to sustain an economic growth rate of 8% p.a. for the next 25 years. Estimates are that India's energy supply will need to double by 2020, and increase by three to four times by 2031-32. Currently 65% of India's energy depends on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas. India imports around 80% of its oil; energy security and cost are a concern. Despite having one of the lowest per capita rates of energy consumption and pollution in the world, India's population and dependence on coal averaging over 50% of its energy production makes it one of the world's most substantial polluters.

Under the Joint Action Plan, the India-EU Energy Panel was created as the formal instrument for EU-India cooperation in the energy sector in order to develop clean coal technologies, increase energy efficiency and savings, promote environmentally friendly energies such as renewables, and provide assistance in energy market reforms. The Joint Declaration on Energy cooperation (signed in 2012) renewed the firm commitment of both

sides to enhance cooperation in the energy field, and identifies priority areas for mutually beneficial joint activities.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Past and on-going initiatives in the clean energy sectors have shown the importance of giving a continuous support to India in addressing the present challenges the country is facing, and of keeping a strategic cooperation with the partner country. While complementary actions have given a new impetus to the EU-India Strategic Partnership, it has become clear that further efforts and support in this sector are needed to develop sustainable business cooperation between the EU and India.

2.4. Complementary actions

The ongoing EU India bilateral Cooperation on Renewable Energy comprises of two grants: 1) Euro 8M for setting up a solar-Biomass hybrid in the State of Bihar of 3MW by a consortium of EU and India; and 2) Euro 4M grant to assist to government of India to support off-shore wind feasibility by mapping the south and west coastlines and coming up with specifications for a viable off-shore wind plant in India (project 'FOWIND'). A short-term technical assistance of Euro 2,1M has been agreed with India to build institutional capacity, generate knowledge, create linkages between European and Indian agencies and institutions, and ensure awareness-raising in the energy and environment sector. Between 2010 and 2014, EU has supported two projects, each with an EU contribution of Euro 500,000 for the promotion of Clean Coal Technologies in India.

EIB's credit lines in India focus on Climate change and renewable energy. The ongoing and future projects of European Investment Bank (EIB) in India will also be complemented through this action. Moreover, there are opportunities to complement the existing EU-German partnership in the "Delhi- Mumbai Industrial Corridor" as well as "Green Energy Corridors".

Close coordination will be ensured to avoid any possible overlapping or duplication with the activities proposed in each project.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overarching goals are the support to the EU's bilateral, regional and interregional cooperation partnership strategies, by promoting policy dialogues and by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern (i.e. Energy, Environment and Climate Change), and the support to the international dimension of EU-2020 strategy and boosting business opportunities for European companies.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- 1) To increase India's capacity to set-up low carbon energy and to improve energy efficiency and contribute global climate change mitigation;
- 2) To contribute to the security of energy supply;
- 3) To develop and maintain a well-established framework for strategic energy cooperation between the EU and India; and

4) To increase business opportunities for EU companies in the energy technologies sector.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results of this action are:

- Launch and operation of offshore wind energy
- Launch and operation of Green Energy Corridors (i.e. high voltage transmission networks to integrate renewable electricity)
- Implementation of energy efficiency legislation based on EU experiences
- Implementation of the 2012 Joint Declaration and the EU-India Energy Panel
- Improved access of EU companies in Indian market, in particular electrical equipment suppliers, energy generation equipment suppliers, transmission and distribution system operators, companies involved in energy efficiency technologies.

Projects activities will contribute to:

- 1) The set-up of renewable energy, particularly through the preparation of a pilot in offshore wind energy demonstration and bringing it to the phase of 'ready-to-order';
- 2) High-voltage renewables integration, through the development of high capacity transmission corridors (inter-state and intra-state) facilitating grid stability, creating renewable power evacuation infrastructure (project activities will support the Indian Government's planned "Green Energy Corridors - GECs");
- 3) Providing a sustainable legal and policy support to the development and implementation of energy efficiency legislation for the Building and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditional sectors, using the EU's experience in regulation and standards;
- 4) Supporting the activities of the following Joint Working Groups in the framework of the EU-India Energy Panel: 1) Energy Security; 2) Renewables/Energy Efficiency/Smart Integration; and 3) Coal and clean coal. This will be done through facilitating visits, workshops and studies to enhance a dialogue on strategic energy security matters and on supporting technologies and policies in the areas proposed.

EU industrial/business stakeholders will be closely involved in the envisaged activities.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

India's Government is politically committed to the clean energy sector and welcomes the EU support to clean energy technologies, which is confirmed by the 12th Five-Year planning document. EU support under the Green Energy Corridors Project may be too small in financial terms and requires additional assistance; therefore the EU will consider blending loans of EIB with some grant component. The EU Delegation (EUD) will maintain regular contacts with the Ministries to ensure identification of mutual benefit actions. One final risk is represented by the possible lack of local level involvement and commitment in adopting ECBC codes, but the application of heavy penalties by the Indian authorities should ensure adequate attention and adherence.

3.4. Stakeholders

Main stakeholders will be the participants of the EU-India Energy Panel as well as of the Joint Working Groups (on Clean Coal and on Energy Efficiency) under the EU-India Joint Declaration on Energy. These are identified as the most active forum of collaboration between the EU and India. The EUD in New Delhi will work closely concerned services of the Commission and the EEAS to ensure the proper coordination in the implementation of the Action.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

- (a) The project will be implemented via an international service contract following a restricted procurement procedure.

Three service contracts are foreseen for the implementation of the above-mentioned group of activities, and particularly for group (1), (2) and (3+4) respectively. The timeline of each activity is 4 years.

- (b) Indicative timing: first call for tenders launched 2nd Quarter 2015

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1 Procurement <i>Clean Energy Cooperation with India (CECI)</i> (direct management)	5.0 ¹
Total	5.0

4.3. Performance monitoring

A permanent and internal monitoring mechanism will be established as part of each service contract. Regular follow up and monitoring activities will also be carried out by the EU Delegation. The governance structure for the project will be represented by the existing Energy Panel between EU and India which have annual meetings to examine the developments and progress made between the two sides. A Steering Committee should be set-up under the Energy panel to steer and monitor the actions proposed and provide the overall strategic guidance. The following stakeholders may be invited to participate in the steering committee: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bureau of Energy efficiency, Ministry of Power, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, CWET-Centre for Wind Energy and Technology, Confederation of Indian Industries. Project implementers for the two DEVCO grant projects might also be invited as observers.

¹ The indicative budget will include dedicated funds for evaluation and audit, on one hand and communication and visibility on the other.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

Standard external Mid-Term and Final evaluations will be conducted by independent consultants on specifically established terms of reference. One external audit covering the entire project will be launched at a later stage. The Mid-Term evaluation, based on the assessment of the key performance indicators, will conclude about the continuation of the project for the following 24 months.

Evaluations and audits will be carried out by making use of the project funds.

4.5. Communication and visibility

The project will work out a specific communication strategy and develop specific activities dedicated to communication and visibility. Specific activities will be developed as per EU guidelines. The EU Delegation will participate in the dissemination of information in order to facilitate program implementation. Existing networks of stakeholders will be used for the dissemination of information and results to local actors. Existing networks of local authorities will also be involved.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX G

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for EU-GCC Clean Energy Network

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 3.6 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 3.6 million
Total duration	36 months with the possibility of a 24 months extension
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

Operate and further develop the initiatives of the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network created in a previous contract, while also stimulating cooperation at bilateral level, in particular on energy efficiency with Saudi Arabia.

The overall aim of the network is to strengthen EU energy cooperation with GCC countries in areas where the EU can provide an added value, such as clean energy technologies, energy efficiency, renewable and sustainable use of energy.

The project, through its initiatives, will be extremely valuable to support the EU-GCC energy export group which has been specifically created to address energy efficiency and gas.

2.2. Context

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) expressed on various occasions a new interest in cooperation with the EU in areas of sustainable use of energy. This project therefore responds to a request which could be of mutual interest as it will allow the EU to promote its energy, climate and environmental strategic objectives. Cooperation with GCC countries should be envisaged both at regional level, as well as appropriate at bilateral level.

The cooperation at bilateral level is an additional area of cooperation added to the topics covered by the previous project (financed under ICI) which focused mainly on cooperation at regional level between the EU and the GCC. As a consequence, the budget request for the project has been increased to reflect the broadening of the scope for cooperation.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The activities carried out by the previous contract were extremely useful to create and animate the EU-GCC Clean Energy Network. This second phase is now required to further develop and strengthen the project thus ensuring its sustainability beyond its inception phase. Moreover, cooperation with Saudi Arabia at bilateral level will be pursued taking into account the keen interest expressed by Saudi on cooperation on energy efficiency issues. Cooperation with other GCC countries (e.g. the UAE) would be considered on the basis of further contacts and interest.

2.4. Complementary actions

The continuation of the EU-GCC Energy Network project shall be seen as an element of a global cooperation within the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. Such cooperation includes involvements in initiatives such as MASDAR, IRENA, the "Energy Efficiency in the Construction Sector in the Mediterranean" (MED-ENEC), the Cairo-based "Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency" (RCREEE) and the "Association of the Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas" (MEDREG).

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The EU-GCC Clean Energy Network will act, as previously, as a catalyst and element of coordination for development of cooperation on clean energy, including the related policy and technology aspects among various stakeholders in the EU and GCC countries.

Future activities of the network in the area of clean energy should include the exchange of experience and know-how and the coordination and promotion of joint actions between the EU and GCC stakeholders. The various initiatives should aim at facilitating joint research, demonstration and development of joint projects in the area of clean energy technologies in the GCC countries. Besides that, support would be provided to promote experience sharing on relevant EU energy policies. The stakeholders participating in the network will include energy-related research entities, universities, administrations, utilities, industry as well as relevant organisations and stakeholders in GCC countries such as MASDAR.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

- Strengthening and operation of a functioning network of GCC and EU entities (universities, research institutes, administration, industry, etc.), practically promoting cooperation between the two regions in the area of clean energy and the related technologies and support to ongoing policy dialogues.
- Increased cooperation and working contacts between EU and GCC entities active in the area of clean energy.
- Development of joint research activities.
- Increased knowledge and information exchange between the EU and GCC participants on possibilities for cooperation and joint projects in energy, including through the Community Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7) and Horizon 2020.
- Increased knowledge between GCC entities on EU on policies in the area of clean and sustainable energy.

- Promotion and facilitation of a number of joint demonstration and pilot projects being implemented with participation of EU and GCC entities in the area of clean energy.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

- Possible deterioration of the financial capacity of participants to the network, as a result of difficult economic conditions.
- Possible reluctance on the part of some GCC partner countries to further the dialogue on energy policies and reforms in a region-to-region context.
- Possible reluctance of partner countries to question the sustainability of an economy still almost entirely based on fossil fuels.
- Possible future lack of interest in some partner countries for energy efficiency and demand-side management, combined with the difficulty to raise interest for these issues if large subsidies are maintained for all categories of energy consumers (and not exclusively for low income consumers).
- Limited country-level assistance. Wide range of approaches to energy policies and sustainable development in partner countries.

3.4. Stakeholders

The activities of the network in the area of clean energy should include the exchange of experience and know-how and the coordination and promotion of joint actions between the EU and GCC stakeholders. These will include industry, research institutes and academia, NGOs, national administrations and regulatory bodies etc. Bilateral cooperation shall include previously mentioned stakeholders as well as authorities of the partner countries concerned.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

- (a) The project will be implemented via an international service contract.
- (b) Indicative timing: call for tenders launched 4th Quarter 2014

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for tenders EU-GCC Clean Energy Network (direct management)	3.6
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	3.6

4.3. Performance monitoring

Monitoring visits by EEAS/EC staff and will also be carried out regularly. The project deliverables will also be regularly checked on the base of periodic interim reports which should described the activities carried out and the main achievements of the project.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

At least one external evaluation of the project, to be entrusted to independent evaluators, will be carried out. If necessary, a mid-term evaluation of project performance and achievements will also be organised.

4.5. Communication and visibility

During the implementation of the project, in all activities carried out, the visibility and knowledge of EU support shall be ensured to all entities and stakeholders involved as well as in media, brochures and any other communication material.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX H

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Support to the EU-China dialogue on migration and mobility

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 3 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 3 million (maximum co-financing rate up to 100%)
Total duration	36 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Grant -Direct Award (IOM)</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

In order to strengthen the EU's ties with China as one of its key strategic partners, and to promote their mutual interest in tackling together the global challenges caused by migration, this project aims to support the EU-China High Level Dialogue on migration and mobility (HLD). It will contribute to increased legal migration and mobility between the EU and China, to the reduction of irregular migration flows stemming from China, and to strengthen migrants' rights, in line with the EU Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM).¹

The project, to be implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) together with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), would support the HLD by relevant research and analysis on a range of migration issues, as well as targeted capacity building and training of Chinese authorities in line with EU and international standards and best practices.

2.2. Context

China is an important country of origin of migration to the EU, and is also becoming an important country of destination of migrants itself, which implies significant policy and legislative developments, and provides a solid basis for exchange and dialogue as well as opportunities for capacity building. According to official statistics, today nearly a million people living in Europe are Chinese-born (UNDESA 2013), with real figures probably higher while there remains significant undocumented Chinese migration as well. Legal

¹ Commission Communication of 18 November 2011 (COM (2011) 743 final).

migration flows from China to the EU are increasing, as is the number of issued Schengen visa, reflecting important tourism and business interests. Travel and visa cooperation bring considerable challenges to EU-China relations, both in light of growing Chinese demand to ease the Schengen visa regime, and difficulties for EU citizens in obtaining Chinese visa. The number of irregular Chinese migrants found in the EU, traditionally high although showing a downward trend, remains significant, while at the same time cooperation on return is limited in the absence of a Re-admission Agreement between China and the EU. Asylum and international protection also remain relevant issues. The Chinese asylum system and capacity to process asylum seekers and recognise refugees is in an early stage of development, though the first recent elements of legislative codification, relevant jurisprudence, and practical improvements might pave the way for a broader reform.

In order to better address the numerous challenges caused by migration, the HLD was recently established on the basis of the commitments taken at the 14th EU-China High-Level Summit. These commitments were reconfirmed at the 16th EU-China summit held in November 2013, which also resulted in the signing of the EU-China 2020 Agenda for Strategic Cooperation that included several joint initiatives to work on migration issues. The HLD provides a suitable framework for general policy exchange on migration-related issues of mutual interest, and for finding short term solutions to pressing and sensitive issues, such as visa cooperation and the readmission of irregular migrants.

2.3. Lessons learnt

An internal evaluation carried out in 2013 on a project aimed at supporting migration cooperation between the EU and China (see below chapter 2.4) showed it was highly appreciated and considered very relevant by both the EU and Chinese counterparts and recommended to support the Dialogue launched in October 2013. Thanks to the flexible project management, it was possible to respond to new requests from the partners and to develop activities which were relevant to the preparation for and launch of the EU-China HLD and to the implementation of reforms in China (i.e. the drafting of the new Chinese Entry/Exit law adopted in 2013). One of the challenges identified for the future is to invest more in inter-agency coordination involving further relevant Chinese ministries and administrations (e.g. the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Public Security, the provincial level).

2.4. Complementary actions

Two phases of a capacity-building project to support migration management in China, implemented by IOM and funded under the DCI thematic programme on asylum and migration, were already carried out from 2007 to 2013. There are currently no other relevant on-going or planned EU-funded projects in China in the migration area.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the proposed action is to contribute to a better management of mobility and legal migration between the EU and China, as well as to reduce irregular migratory flows stemming from China. This objective is fully in line with the GAMM and

thus with the objective of the Partnership Instrument to promote the EU's interests abroad and to deepen its relations and dialogue with strategic partner countries, including on global challenges such as migration.

The specific objective of the proposed action is to support the EU-China HLD and to further develop EU-China cooperation in general in this area, and to strengthen relevant migration management capacities of the competent Chinese authorities.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

In line with the EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), the proposed action would cover the following expected results:

- i. Consolidating and supporting a structured and well-functioning migration dialogue between the EU and China;
- ii. Legal migration and travel flows between the EU and China better managed;
- iii. Irregular migration, migrants smuggling, and trafficking of human beings originating from China reduced, and cooperation on readmission of irregular migrants improved;
- iv. Chinese capacities for ensuring international protection in mixed migration flows increased;
- v. Positive impact of migration for EU-China political and economic relations as well as their socio-economic development.

Main activities will consist in particular of capacity-building measures such as technical assistance and training, as well as studies, seminars, awareness-raising and other preparatory or complementary activities in relation to the EU-China HLD. The degree to which these activities will be managed in-house will be assessed in the programme to be agreed with the agreed partner.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The expected impact of the proposed project will notably depend on the continued interest of China in the EU-China HLD on Migration and Mobility, and in making concrete progress in this area in general. In this respect it is assumed that cooperation under the HLD will be further consolidated and deepened, regardless of the result of short term issues that may arise, such as discussions on a possible link and parallel negotiations between China and the EU on a visa waiver for diplomatic passport holders and cooperation on the re-admission of irregular migrants.

Its expected impact is also based on the assumption of a strong ownership of the dialogue and the project by the EU and EU Member States (EUMS), so as to ensure that the project fully serves the EU and mutual interests. This will notably be ensured through a strong role of relevant EU services in the project steering mechanism.

3.4. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders for the proposed project are the relevant Chinese ministries and authorities (MFA, MPS, MOFCOM, Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Human

Resources and Social Security, National Tourism Agency), the EUMS and Frontex, as well as relevant international organisations (IOM and ILO).

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Grants: direct award (direct management)

Implementation will be carried-out through a grant directly awarded to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This is justified on the basis of Article 190 (1) (f) of the Rules of Application of the EU Financial Regulation, given that both IOM and ILO are global international organisations with specific (and complementary) mandates and expertise in the very sensitive area of migration, and have the technical competence and high degree of specialisation which are necessary to implement such a project. Both IOM and ILO have a proven track record in successfully implementing EU-funded projects, including the two phases of the aforementioned DCI-funded migration capacity-building project with China, so that they have already gained the trust of both the EU and Chinese counterparts and thus appear to be best placed to implement the proposed project.

Selection criteria:

IOM and ILO shall have sufficient sources of funding and the technical competencies and qualifications to carry out the action. The verification of the financial capacity shall not apply to them and the obligation to verify their operational capacity is waived in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria:

The proposal shall be evaluated on the basis of the relevance and quality of the proposed action, its objectives and methodology, its cost-effectiveness and expected impact, as well as the European added value.

Indicative date of the signature: December 2014.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. Directly awarded grant to IOM (and ILO) <i>EU-China dialogue on migration and mobility</i> (direct management) In accordance with Article 192 of the EU Financial Regulation, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing is 100% of the total eligible costs.	3.0
Total	3.0

4.3. Performance monitoring

The project will be subject to regular monitoring, in particular on the basis of performance indicators established in the agreement to be concluded with IOM and ILO. A project steering committee will be set up, comprising in particular of representatives of the relevant Commission services, EEAS and EU Delegation in Beijing) as well as IOM and ILO, which will meet at least twice a year to review progress and provide guidance to the implementation of the project.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The project will be subject to regular monitoring and auditing, as well as to a final evaluation and audit in line with the applicable EU rules and procedures.

4.5. Communication and visibility

The relevant EU principles will be applied by IOM and ILO in line with the EU Visibility Guidelines.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX I

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for EU Green Gateway – Republic of Korea

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 20 Million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 20 Million
Total duration	Max. 60 months (30 + 30 months subject to satisfactory progress by the positive assessment of key performance indicators)
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract(s)</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The EU Green Gateway Programme for Korea aims to strengthen the presence of EU companies in Korea, through an increase and diversification of export or investments supporting green growth. It will also complement the efforts made at regulatory dialogue level and FTA implementation to remove regulatory obstacles to trade.

It specifically focuses on a) Facilitating trade and business cooperation with Korea; b) Assisting EU companies, in particular SMEs, to create business links in Korea in clean technologies, products and services; c) Assisting EU companies in gaining a better understanding of the local business culture, market rules and practices.

2.2. Context

Korea is a strategic partner of the EU in Asia and it offers major commercial opportunities. 1st July 2011 marked the entry into force of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the EU and South Korea: the first of a new generation of FTAs characterised by its far-reaching and comprehensive nature and the EU's first trade deal with an Asian country. Korea's economy is the 4th largest in Asia and the 15th largest in the world. In 2013, the EU became Korea's 2nd trading partner after China, before the US and Japan. The trade surplus of the EU over Korea reached US\$ 7.4 billion in 2013, while the overall trade flow exceeds US\$ 100 billion. Moreover, over the past few years EU consolidated its position as the largest source of FDI in Korea.

Despite this positive overall picture, Korea remains a rather difficult market to penetrate, in particular, due to cultural, linguistic and regulatory differences. Therefore, it remains

strategic to support EU business to familiarise with the Korean market and facilitate market entry, complementing trade promotion initiatives carried out by the Member States (EUMS).

2.3. Lessons learnt

The majority of participating companies, stakeholders and EUMS trade representatives strongly recommend the continuation of a Gateway type programme, which proved to be extremely useful in difficult key markets, such as Korea.

In doing so, the general visibility and outreach can be further improved by making use of private and public networks, particularly involving EUMS and national Chambers of Commerce, both in the EU and in the partner country.

Sectors wise, a) it is noted that bringing the same sector over a period of several years is important to provide continuity for both the participating companies and the partner country; b) sector definition should be kept flexible and regularly reviewed to respond to changes in the demand or in the market environment; c) it is recommended to avoid combining numerous sub-sectors in the same business mission, as this may obstruct attracting enough visitors to the venue.

Additionally, pre –departure meetings and coaching sessions have been perceived as very useful, and should be maintained; they could be tailored further for companies participating in Gateway for the first time and for those which have some experience in the market.

2.4. Complementary actions

EUMS and Chambers of Commerce traditionally organise business missions to Korea, as it is their competence to do trade promotion. This project reinforces the activities of the EUMS in this area, diversifying the contents and helping EU countries with lower resources (or no presence) in this geographical area to establish some presence.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the presence of EU companies in Korea, through an increase and diversification of export or investments.

The specific objectives are:

- Facilitate trade and business cooperation with Korea;
- Assist EU companies, in particular SMEs, to create business links in Korea;
- Assist EU companies in gaining a better understanding of the local business culture, market rules and practices.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

- R1: increase of the number of business contacts with Korean intermediaries, as well as direct contacts with Korean SMEs

- R2: increase of the number of direct business cooperation deals and partnership negotiations between European and Korean SMEs
- R3: SMEs interested in doing business with Korea are better prepared
- R4: enhancing of the overall networking between EU and Korean companies, resulting in new trade and investment opportunities

The project will cover the following macro areas of intervention:

- **Programme promotion and outreach**, through local business intermediaries, e.g. Business and Industrial Association, as well as Chambers of Commerce, including entities being part of the EEN Network;
- **Companies' selection and coaching**, business missions will be accompanied by preparatory meetings and coaching sessions in Europe and include market intelligence and match-making;
- **Organisation of business missions** in the field of Clean Technologies and products, equipment and services for: a) Environment and water; b) Renewable energy and energy efficiency; c) Construction and building technologies/materials.

Sectors related to the FTA implementation will also be considered (e.g. Healthcare and medical technologies, including biotech).

3.3. Risks and assumptions

a) EUMS and relevant business organisations are in favour of the EU intervention and recognise the added value of Green Gateway to Korea. To maintain their support, a two way communication mechanism on the project will be established locally through Trade councillors meetings.

b) European SMEs are interested in the Korea Market and in participating in structured business missions. This assumption results from a positive feedback on the previous Gateway to Korea. In order to inform the largest number of companies, in particular SMEs, about the opportunities offered by the Korean market, an extensive marketing campaign will be carried out throughout the duration of the programme.

c) Korean companies are interested in importing goods from Europe and in establishing new partnership with European companies.

3.4. Stakeholders

EUMS' local trade promotion offices, their bilateral Chambers of Commerce, the European Chamber of commerce of Korea (ECCK), and Europe-based networks of European companies including Europe-wide business intermediary organisations, sectoral or regional associations are all important stakeholders. Cooperation or coordination between the stakeholders and the contractor shall be sought. In addition, involvement of Korean Associations, in particular, but not exclusively, KOTRA, KITA, KOIMA, KFSMB¹, would ensure important interaction with representatives from Korean side

¹ Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Korea International Trade association (KITA), Korean Importers Association (KOIMA), Korea Federation of Small and Medium Business (KFSMB).

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The project will be implemented via an international service contract .

Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for Tenders <i>EU Green Gateway</i> (direct management)	20
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	20

4.2. Performance monitoring

The programme will have a built-in monitoring system including company data and information on programme results collected in a systematic manner. This monitoring system will hold cumulative information on the programme and inform the Commission on satisfactory performance by the contractors on key indicators.

4.3. Evaluation and audit

Independent consultants, recruited directly by the EC will carry out a mid-term evaluation to assess overall progress and to identify – where appropriate – adjustments. Similarly, a final evaluation will assess the overall performance, outputs compared against initial targets, impacts achieved and likely to be achieved relevant to the national context, institutional and financial sustainability and management efficiency.

4.4. Communication and visibility

As visibility is essential to Green Gateway's successful implementation, the project is expected to ensure visibility and awareness through a regularly updated website, newsletters, reports on past activity, well-advertised future activities as well as through other business networks based in both Europe and Korea, and whenever possible also in cooperation with other EU financed projects.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX J

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Gateway / EU Business Avenues in South East Asia

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 25 M Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 25 M
Total duration	Maximum 60 months (30 + 30 subject to satisfactory progress by the positive assessment of key performance indicators)
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

Building on the successful EU Gateway programme model, this project will promote trade and business cooperation with South East Asia and create valuable business links for European SMEs with emerging markets in the region. It aims to strengthen the presence of EU companies in key markets in South East Asia, contributing to economic and job growth in the EU. By establishing direct business contacts with ASEAN companies in priority sectors (energy, environment, health technology), the project will also facilitate the attainment of EU objectives at regulatory dialogue level and further ongoing FTA negotiations.

2.2. Context

South East Asian markets have high growth potential and offer opportunities for EU business. However, they are difficult to break into for European businesses due to high access restrictions, burdens of entry and a lack of information about the market and its laws. Different customs and regulations constitute considerable challenges, especially for European SMEs that try to gain a foothold in the South East Asian market. This is particularly true for Vietnam and Indonesia which are ranked 99th and 120th, respectively, on the World Bank's ease of Business Index.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The comprehensive Study of the EU Gateway to Japan and Korea Programme has provided useful lessons learned that are reflected in the set-up of the EU Business Avenues to South East Asia project. Most importantly, the study recommended the continuation of

EU Gateway type projects. It also makes the useful suggestion to identify strategic sectors carefully and allow for a certain margin of flexibility regarding the sector definition so as to allow responsiveness and adaptation to changing market conditions. The study makes further helpful comments concerning an increase in flexibility in the number of participants and regarding the customisation of business missions.

2.4. Complementary actions

EU Business Avenues is based on the successful EU Gateway programme and builds upon the ICI-financed pilot "new EU Business Avenues in South East Asia". There are strong synergies with the Europe 2020 Strategy as well as ongoing ICI+ activities in the region – notably in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines – with extra actions currently being developed. EU Business Avenues in South East Asia also offers the possibility to create synergies with and reinvigorate the role of the ICI+-financed European ASEAN Business Centres in the region (Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam) and the IPR Helpdesk. It will also be complementary to the COSME programme.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

EU Business Avenues in South East Asia seeks to strengthen the presence of European companies, specifically SMEs, in key emerging markets in South East Asia and thus fosters economic growth and employment opportunities to the benefit of EU citizens. More precisely, the project aims to:

- Support trade and investment with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam and possibly other South East Asian countries – decision on the roll out will be guided by the progress on the FTA agenda and an assessment of opportunities for smaller European businesses.
- Contribute to improving the (global) competitiveness of EU companies, specifically SMEs, and strengthen their position in emerging key markets;
- Complement efforts at regulatory dialogue level to remove remaining regulatory obstacles and facilitate FTA negotiations where appropriate;
- Facilitate market access of EU companies to markets in the region, focussing on specific, strategic sectors.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

- Implement cooperation with various business partners through the following mechanisms:
 - (1) build partnerships with local SMEs for entering SEA markets;
 - (2) engage in cooperation with multinational and publically owned companies on projects in the ASEAN region;
 - (3) establish direct business contacts with companies in priority sectors;

(4) identify projects under the ASEAN connectivity plan and establish avenues to business cooperation in that context.

- Implement key provisions of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements that cover industrial policy and SMEs.
- At business level: growth of the number of direct business cooperation deals and negotiations for partnership between the EU and South East Asian companies.
- At business level: strengthened business-to-business links and enhanced networking between EU and South East Asian companies, resulting in the realisation of new trade and investment opportunities.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

- Assumptions: 1) Continuous trend of deepening relations between the EU on the one hand and Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam on the other hand. 2) Considerable difficulty for EU companies, especially SMEs, to access target markets. 3) Interest for business cooperation with the EU by the target countries.
- Risks & Mitigation: Size and scope of the programme might be too small to see any meaningful impact at the macroeconomic level. Project therefore targets specific, strategic sectors with considerable potential for substantial micro- and macroeconomic impact.

3.4. Stakeholders

Close consultation with relevant Commission DGs (TRADE, ENTR) will mainly take place in the planning phase of the programme, with the aim to ensure coherence with already existing as well as forthcoming activities related to internationalisation of SMEs. Business missions will be conducted in cooperation with EU Delegations in target countries. The programme naturally involves close contact and regular consultation with European business.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The project will be implemented via an international service contract .

Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Procurement, international tender (direct management)	25
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	25

4.2. Performance monitoring

Mid-term evaluation will assess the project after two years and, if appropriate, provide country-specific suggestions on how to improve the programme. The programme will have a built-in monitoring system including company data and information on programme results collected in a systematic manner. This monitoring system will hold cumulative information on the programme and inform the Commission on satisfactory performance by the contractors on key indicators.

4.3. Evaluation and audit

Development of a thorough monitoring system to test the impact of the project. The success of the programme will be assessed in a mid-term review; a final study will also evaluate the project at its closure.

4.4. Communication and visibility

Similar to the EU Gateway to Japan and Korea programme, information about EU Business Avenues to South East Asia could be disseminated through a regularly updated website and a newsletter. Participating EU business will be asked to ensure the visibility of EU financial support.

The programme will also make use of platforms promoting internationalisation of European SMEs, such as the 'SME Internationalisation Portal' and the forthcoming 'ASIA Co-ordination Platform'.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX K

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for an initial support to EU-India co-operation on ICT-related standardisation, policy and legislation

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 0.3 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 0.3 million
Total duration	12 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The proposed global action aims at improving and reinforcing the market perspectives for the EU ICT sector in India in an area where the EU-India Broad Based Trade and Investment ("FTA") negotiations can bring about only limited benefits.

The proposed action consists in a twelve month inception phase of a global action which will support cooperation between the EU and India on ICT related standardisation, policy and legislation issues. The bulk of the action would be included in a subsequent Annual Action Programme, according to the results of the inception phase covered by this Action Fiche.

2.2. Context

The action is fully in line with the implementation of the EU-India Strategic Partnership, including the EU-India Joint Action Plan and the EU-India Research and Innovation Partnership, endorsed by the 2012 EU-India Summit. The proposed action also fully connects with the EU's official dialogues with India, as it fits in with the mandate of the EU-India Joint ICT Working Group¹ and relates to the EU-India Research and Innovation Partnership and the implementation of a possible EU-India FTA. In the field of statistics, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on statistical cooperation was signed on 10 February 2012 by Eurostat and the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

¹ The EU-India Joint ICT Working Group is held between the European Commission (DG CONNECT) and India's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology; Department of Telecommunications), and covers telecom regulation, ICT market access issues, ICT standardisation, ICT research and innovation, Internet Governance, and network and information security.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The SESEI (Seconded European Standardisation Expert for India) project has been instrumental in highlighting the relevance, need and interest for deeper cooperation between India and the EU on ICT standardisation.

For the statistical part of the action, experiences from similar projects in South East Asia have been taken into account. Furthermore, experience in Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) implementation in the EU and other countries in the world has shown that the support from the top management of statistical organisations in the decision to implement SDMX standards, the fostering of cooperation among IT experts and statisticians, and the investment in training and capacity building are important.

2.4. Complementary actions

The project SESEI was launched in March 2013 and aims at raising awareness on the European standardisation system, values and assets in India. The project focuses on several sectors, including information and communication technologies (ICT), but does not have the means for comprehensive support activities of the type foreseen under the proposed global project.

The project CITD (Capacity-building Initiative for Trade Development in India) focuses on strengthening the capacity of India trade-related institutions in some of the priority areas identified in the 11th 5-Year Plan (2007-12), such as: establishment of a National Quality and Standardisation Authority and strengthening standards regulation; simplification of customs procedures, streamlining of documentary requirements, accelerated implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) initiatives, etc.

Close coordination will be ensured to avoid any possible overlapping or duplication with the activities proposed in each project.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of this global action is twofold:

- a) Facilitating co-operation and exchange of best practices between relevant actors in the EU and India;
- b) Supporting efforts for early alignment of ICT standardisation (regarding security, testing and certification, new emerging information and communication technologies, ICT for smart energy, standards for statistical data and metadata exchange).

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The inception phase of the global project, funded under the AAP 2014, shall cover:

- The organisation of workshops/conferences with stakeholders covering topics such as: Security; Testing & Certification; New Emerging ICT Technologies; ICT for Smart Energy; Statistical Cooperation;
- The identification of the most promising cooperation field(s) on ICT-related standardisation issues, in which follow up work would be implemented through specific pilot project(s);

- The organisation of validation workshops on the topics proposed and selected together with the stakeholders.
- One pilot initiative focusing on EU-India cooperation and dialogue on a specific set of ICT standards and on a specific area for statistical cooperation.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

With regard to ICT standardisation, the risk is already mitigated by the fact that the relevant organisations have underlined their cooperation interest and signed MoUs for closer cooperation. If, however, this background changed unexpectedly, mitigation actions could include advocacy highlighting the mutual interest and benefit of this type of cooperation.

With regard to the interchange of statistical data, India's interest in SDMX implementation was already expressed to Eurostat through official letter in 2012, following the signature of a MoU on statistical cooperation. Should such support be missing, mitigation measures would include advocacy to generate support from the top management, such as tailor-made presentations and demonstrations of the benefits of SDMX implementation.

3.4. Stakeholders

Stakeholders will be the European and Indian ICT standardisation bodies, industry, academia, national and regional statistical institutes, international organizations and the community of users of statistical data. This includes in particular the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the newly established Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI), Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCOE)² and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), which groups the Indian GSM mobile operators and companies providing telecom networks (including the European companies active in India), as well as Eurostat and the Central Statistics Office.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

(a) Procurement procedure to be launched under an existing framework contract (FWC)³.

(b) Request for services under (FWC) to be submitted during 4th Quarter 2014.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
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² TCOE is a Public Private Partnership consisting - at the moment - of 8 centres of excellence specialised on telecommunications at different Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). Each of them is supported by a telecom operator, and by government.

³ Framework Contract Commission EuropeAid/ 132633/C/SER/multi

4.1. Call for tenders under framework contract <i>initial support to EU-India co-operation on ICT-related standardisation, policy and legislation</i> (direct framework contract)	0.3
Total	0.3

4.3. Performance monitoring

A permanent and internal monitoring mechanism, setting a baseline, will be developed by the project team with regular follow up and monitoring activities also carried out by the EU DEL. Specific monitoring indicators will be designed during the project's inception phase, for the measurement of expected results and activities during project implementation.

A Steering Committee consisting of representatives of TSDSI, TCOE, COAI, CSO, the EU DEL, DG CNCT, DG ESTAT, DG ENTR and the contractor will be set-up, and will meet at least once per year by means of videoconference. Representatives of the SESEI and CITD projects may be invited to participate as observers. This Steering Committee will be in charge of the overall strategic guidance for the project and its decisions will be informed – inter alia – by the internal monitoring mechanism.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

Midterm and final external evaluation and audits of the project will also be carried out in the course of the following phase of the project's implementation.

4.5. Communication and visibility

The project will work out a specific communication strategy and develop specific activities dedicated to communication and visibility. The EU visibility guidelines will be followed. EU Delegation(s) will participate in the dissemination of information in the partner country, possibly in coordination with local partner networks in order to raise awareness about the programme. Existing networks of stakeholders will be used for the dissemination of information and results to local actors.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX L

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Schuman Fulbright Fellowships

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number	NA
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 0.59 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 0.35 million
Total duration	24 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Grants – direct award (Schuman Fulbright Commission)</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

A fellowship scheme, co-funded by the European Commission and the US Department of State to allow mid-career professionals the opportunity to research or lecture for 3 to 9 months in any area of EU-US relations.

2.2. Context

The action contributes and supports the Europe 2020 strategy in its initiative called Agenda for new skills and jobs. The Agenda for new skills and jobs is one of the 7 flagship initiative of Europe 2020. It also supports the Youth on the Move initiative in the Strategy

2.3. Lessons learnt

The Schuman-Fulbright programme has been running since 2002 and was one of the actions run under the renewed Agreement between the EC and the US for cooperation in higher education and vocational educational training signed in 2006. Since then, several evaluations of the programme took place, always very positive. The budget has been steadily increased as has the number of participants.

2.4. Complementary actions

There are no similar actions existing. Some MS so have scholarship programmes with the US but this specific action benefits from the "Fulbright" experience and reputation which upon eventually benefits the participants and open doors for them in larger companies in Europe and in the world. They can also benefit from the large network of former Fulbright alumni. There is a complementarity also with Erasmus + Programme.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The Schuman-Fulbright programme supports the EU agenda for new skills and jobs under Europe 2020, through the exchange of mid-career professionals using the framework of the US Fulbright programme. Grants fund fellowships for research, and lecturing in the fields of US-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions.

The scheme is intended to create a cohort of high quality Europeans who have the chance to investigate policy areas of interest to the transatlantic relationship and act as ambassadors for European values while in the US, and then as ambassadors for EU-US relations upon their return.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

After a selection process taking place in all EU Member States, EU professionals receive fellowships from 3-9 months to spend in the United States. Grantees must arrange their own placement at an independent research centre, vocational training/professional institution or accredited university in the USA. The scheme funds up to 20 EU nationals per year to spend 3-9 months in the US, from the EU contribution. The size of the EU contribution amounts to a maximum of 29.000 € per grantee.

The US State Department pays for the reciprocal scheme whereby American, mid-career professionals receive fellowships to come to Europe and undertake lecturing or research, funding up to 15 US nationals to spend 3-9 months in the EU, paid for by the US contribution.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risk is finding suitable candidates willing to undertake the secondment. In the last two years the number of EU applicants has doubled and quality of EU candidates is very high. At the moment, the numbers of US applicants to come to Europe are less impressive and the US Dept. of State is undertaking promotional activities to publicise the fellowships.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Grants: Direct award to the Belgium-Luxembourg Fulbright Commission (direct management) to provide grants to fund fellowships for research, and lecturing in the fields of US-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions (Schuman-Fulbright Fellowship).

4.1.1 Direct award to the Belgium-Luxembourg Fulbright Commission (direct management)

(a) Selection criteria

The selection criteria is given by Annex I of Council Decision of 4/12/2006 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the United States of

America renewing the co-operation programme in higher education and vocational education and training (2006/964/EC) provides that for the purpose of promoting "Schuman-Fulbright" grants and supporting grantees, the Parties may provide financial support to an organisation that they shall jointly designate.

In line with Article 190.1 (f) RAP, the EU and US authorities have jointly designated the Belgium-Luxembourg Fulbright Commission with this task since 1995 for the reason that actions carried out under the Schuman-Fulbright scheme have very specific characteristics as part of the wider Fulbright programme. This programme is only implemented through the network of national Fulbright commissions in Europe. EU grants are subject to the Financial Regulation and Rules of Application of the EU. It is therefore the only organisation combining expertise in implementing the Fulbright Programme and following the FR and its implementing rules as set out in the Schuman-Fulbright Scheme.

(b) Award criteria: The capacity and competence to fulfil the provisions set out in the agreement with the US.

(c) Financing via this agreement is based on matching funds between the Parties following the laws and regulations, policies and programmes of the European Union and the United States.

(d) Expected maximum rate of co-financing to the Belgium-Luxembourg Fulbright Commission by the European Union: 60%.

(e) Indicative timing: December 2014

4.1.2 Grants provided by the to fund fellowships for research, and lecturing in the fields of US-EU relations, EU policy, or EU institutions (Schuman-Fulbright Fellowship)

(a) The objectives of the grants are to create a cohort of high quality European professionals who have the opportunity to investigate policy areas of interest to the transatlantic relationship in the US. Grantees should have the skills to represent the EU as ambassadors for the programme and the energy and enthusiasm to promote the results of their work/research during the secondment to relevant stakeholders. This will benefit the EU-US relationship via mobility of mid-career professionals undertaking short research and outreach secondments. Successful proposals will address an issue of common concern from a comparative perspective and will bear significance for more than one EU member state. The intended area of research or study must deal with US-EU relations or current particular EU-related priorities.

Results should enhance the knowledge of the young professional participants on the EU-US relationship; increase their employability and their job attractiveness; and, finally, expand their network. Funding concerns around 15-20 EU nationals per year spending 3-9 months in the US.

(b) Eligibility conditions of grantees

Preference will be given to candidates with two years of relevant professional or academic experience beyond the Bachelor's degree. EU professionals and professionals in training (decision-makers, policy-makers, individuals in industry, the media, politics, academia, and public administration) are encouraged to apply. Proficiency in English

and a minimum of three months experience in two or more Member States is preferred. Candidates with permanent positions at the European Commission are ineligible to apply.

(c) Selection and award criteria of grantees

The selection committee consists of the European Commission, US embassy representatives and Fulbright alumni.

-Selection criteria: details of the educational and professional qualifications of the candidate; knowledge of public policy issues relevant to the substance of the proposal; and, where appropriate, knowledge of EU policies and of the relationship between the EU and the US in that policy area.

-Award criteria : relevance, quality and impact of the project proposed in terms of value-added input to the EU-US relationship, EU policy, as EU institutions. The results must be relevant to at least two Member States.

(d) EU contribution amounts to a maximum of 29.000 € per grantee (A unit contribution of EUR 3.000,00 per EU student per month to cover the mobility grants for the beneficiary and EUR 2.000,00 per EU student for travel costs)

(e) Indicative timing: September to December 2014

(f) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs: The Commission may authorise the eligibility of costs up to the submission of the grant applications. This will allow the Schuman Fulbright Commission to carry-out preparatory work from the beginning of the 2014-2015 cycle.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. –Grant – direct award to the <i>Schuman Fulbright</i> Commission (direct management)	0.35
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	0.35

4.3. Performance monitoring

The programme is run by the Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Belgium based in Brussels, who undertake pre-departure briefing and post-fellowship monitoring of the grantees are also obliged to final reports to Belgian Fulbright Commission. The European alumni are then called upon to help promote the benefits of the transatlantic relationship and the Schuman Fulbright programme around Europe.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The Commission for Educational Exchange between the United States and Belgium produce an interim report after 12 months to check the progress of scholarship selection as

well as a final report after 24 months when all the grantees have finished their secondments.

The Commission reserves the right to organise on-the-spot visits in addition to technical and financial audits.

4.5. Communication and visibility

Promotion of the fellowship scheme is organised via a network of national Fulbright Commissions around Europe and via the Fulbright network in US higher education institutions. Grantees are actively encouraged to blog about their fellowships and are invited to make video testimonials on www.youtube.com/fulbrightbe.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is co-financed by the EU.

ANNEX M

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the
Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for EU Gateway to China

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number:	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 5 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 5 million
Total duration	24 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

Gateway to China will organise business missions for EU companies (mainly SMEs) to China. It will provide coaching and targeted information to selected companies, thereby complementing other instruments currently used to address market access barriers (regulatory dialogue, trade promotion and business centres). The proposed project would facilitate EU companies without the leverage to successfully penetrate the Chinese market on their own, and especially SMEs, to expand their activities, as well as employment opportunities for European citizens.

2.2. Context

The proposed project fits with the priorities under the "EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation" and the goal to enhance further the bilateral trade and investment relationship in a spirit of mutual benefit, with particular attention to be paid to improving opportunities for SMEs.

China is the second largest economy and now also the world's biggest trading nation. China's growth in 2013 was 7.7 %, and international estimates predict the country may be on track to become the world's biggest economy within the next 10 years. Even if China's GDP growth rate is gradually slowing down, China continues to generate an impressive amount of additional output year after year. 90 % of global economic growth over the next years is expected to be generated outside Europe, a third of it in China alone.

Of the EU's exports to China, only 20% are of services. Investment flows show great untapped potential, especially considering the size of the two respective economies. The comprehensive EU-China Investment Agreement aims to tap into this potential to the benefit of both sides. Furthermore, managing the challenges of urbanization is a key task

for China which moves towards a green growth strategy. European companies have a major role to play in that area, reinforcing their presence in China while offering their expertise on urban development and management solutions.

2.3. Lessons learnt

On the basis of the experience already developed in the context of the Gateway to Japan and Korea since 2008, the new programme for China will be designed along the following lines: simplify the current implementing structure of the programme; the EU-SME Centre will be consulted on the sectors to be selected and the geographical scope of the programme - the sector definition should remain flexible to respond to changing market conditions; the number of participating companies should be flexible and demand driven; a pre-departure meeting in Brussels will prepare the participating companies for the business mission week; translation, printing, interpretation and importing services will be provided.

2.4. Complementary actions

The programme will build on the existing initiatives/facilities, under the EU-SME Centre, the SME IPR Helpdesk and the Enterprise Europe Network to inform EU companies on how to develop their presence on the Chinese market.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of EU Gateway China is to strengthen the presence of EU companies in key markets in China and thus contribute to economic growth and job creation in the European Union. EU Gateway Specific objectives include: (i) promoting trade and business cooperation with China; (ii) assisting EU companies to create business links in China and (iii) assisting EU companies in gaining a better understanding of the local business culture, market rules and practices

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The Programme will foster partnership/cooperation with European SMEs and companies for entering the Chinese market, cooperation with multinational and State Owned Enterprises on projects in China and direct business contacts to Chinese companies. At business level, the Programme will result in (i) growth in number of direct business cooperation deals and negotiations for partnership between EU and Chinese companies and (ii) enhanced networking between EU and Chinese companies resulting in new trade and investment opportunities de facto taking place.

The programme will organise 4 business missions, involving overall 200 EU companies in specific sectors. Precise identification and geographical coverage will be made during the initial stage through a market study that will decide on the basis of the potential of each region/city for expanding EU business, among the following broad sectors: (i) environmental technologies or services; (ii) construction and green building technologies/materials and services; (iii) services sectors to be open up by China to foreign companies, especially in the context of new Free Trade Zones development.

Expected activities in Europe include the promotion of the programme in all 28 Member States, selecting companies based on current Gateway methodology, preparation and coaching of EU companies. On the Chinese side, activities will include: a market study to define priority sectors and regions, in which the business missions will be carried out per year, collaboration with Chinese industry and branch organisations, the use of services available in the existing EU SME Centre and SME IPR helpdesk (both funded by the EU), and practical support to EU companies during the business mission week.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The programme aims to penetrate a difficult market and not at trade promotion. Effective links with EU Member State trade promotion bodies should be ensured in the same way as in the case of the EU Gateway to Japan and Korea, where such bodies cooperated closely by directing companies to use the services of the programme.

3.4. Stakeholders

- Business and Industry Associations as well as National and Local Chambers of Commerce in the EU, including those being part of the EEN network.
- Local business organisations and partners in the EU, e.g. with National Chambers of Commerce of the EU Member States and the EU Chamber of Commerce in China.
- China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, provincial or municipal trade and investment promotion bodies, sectorial organisations
- The EU SME Centre, the SME IPR helpdesk, and the Enterprise Europe Network

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The method of implementation is direct management with overall management responsibility of the EU. The EU will award service contract/s through an International Call for Tender.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for tenders <i>EU Gateway to China</i> (direct management)	5
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	5

4.3. Performance monitoring

The programme will have a built in monitoring system through collection of data and information on results in a central manner which will instruct the Commission on input/output.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

The 2-year pilot programme will be assessed on a continued basis over the 2 years of implementation and a final assessment will be done during the last quarter of the period, which will instruct the Commission on adjustments and lessons learned for an eventual follow-up roll-out of the programme in China.

4.5. Communication and visibility

Similar to the EU Gateway to Japan and Korea programme, information about EU Gateway to China will be disseminated through a regularly updated website and a newsletter. Participating EU business will be asked to ensure the visibility of EU financial support.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX N

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action Programme for the
Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Public Procurement Initiative

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	NA
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 4.5 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 4.5 million
Total duration	36 months (with a possible extension of the same duration)
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

This initiative aims at improving the availability, coverage and quality of data on public procurement (including on cross-border access to public markets). In the framework of the project an appropriate methodological approach for assessing public procurement markets will be defined. At a second stage the project will also look into the identification of policy instruments and practices that restrain market access in third country public procurement markets. The ultimate goal will be to provide the analytical tools to assess – in the context of trade negotiations on procurement – (i) the size of procurement markets; (ii) the positive effects of improved market access and (iii) the degree of contestability of a procurement market for European companies.

2.2. Context

Public Procurement is gaining importance on the trade negotiation agenda, both under the aegis of the WTO and at the bilateral level. This reflects the economic importance of public procurement markets (purchases of goods and services by public authorities are estimated to account for 17% of world GDP) and the fact that up to date a relatively small part of these markets has been committed internationally both at bilateral or multilateral level.

Public procurement markets in third countries therefore offer a substantial and yet largely unexploited market potential for European companies. Having the right knowledge and data about these key markets will facilitate negotiators of trade agreements to secure an increased market access for European companies in future negotiations. In addition ensuring data availability will enable an economic assessment of liberalisation effects of opening up EU key partners' procurement markets as well as potential spill-over effects.

2.3. Lessons learnt

This is a new initiative, but existing research and data from other sources will be taken into account (see below).

2.4. Complementary actions

Close coordination with other activities and research in the area of gathering public procurement data (e.g. work done by the World Bank, OECD or linked to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement) will be ensured in order to avoid any potential overlap.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the project will be to enable a thorough economic assessment of the effects on trade flows, GDP and welfare of policy measures, status-quo and opening of procurement markets for EU businesses in third countries.

The key objective of the project will be to provide the analytical tools to assess in the context of trade negotiations on public procurement – (i) the size of procurement markets; (ii) the positive effects of improved market access and (iii) the degree of contestability of a procurement market for European companies.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected result of the project is to obtain detailed data and an assessment of the contestability of public procurement markets of third countries, which will ultimately feed into the negotiations of trade agreements.

This will be achieved via the following main activities:

1. Establishing a methodology for data collection in the area of public procurement in third countries. The methodology's main objective will be to ensure that public procurement data covering the following indicators is collected and compiled in a consistent and structured manner:
 - Size of public procurement markets in the country in question, at central (such as Ministries etc.) and local level (such as states, provinces etc.) as well as for major utilities operators or public law bodies which could be covered by a potential chapter on public procurement,
 - Type of government expenditures in respect to investment and consumption,
 - Number and type of government entities,
 - Contestable shares.
2. Once the methodology is established, data will be collected for three pilot countries (Brazil, India and Thailand) according to the methodology described above.

3. Assessment of the contestability of the public procurement markets of these countries so as to eventually feed into ongoing or upcoming negotiations for trade agreements.
4. Identification of policy instruments and practices that restrain market access in the public procurement markets of the pilot countries selected.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

A legal regime on public procurement in the pilot country which facilitates data collection, such as obligations on data availability and awards publications, will facilitate the data collection efforts of the project. In this context, depending on the administrative structure and the availability of data in the selected countries, not all indicators mentioned under 3.2 might be covered.

Potential risks include social and political uncertainties in the pilot countries which might prevent the successful completion of the project. Furthermore, the countries could prevent the contractor from collecting the data (more relevant for the data collection at local government and utilities providers' level) and limitations in the data collected may have an impact on the data assessment and on the final results.

3.4. Stakeholders

Besides DG Trade staff in Brussels and in Delegations as well as colleagues from the EEAS and other Commission services, academics and international organisations working in the area of public procurement will be consulted and associated as appropriate.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

Procurement (direct management)

The project will be implemented via an international service contract.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1. – Call for tender (direct management)	4.5
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	4.5

4.3. Performance monitoring

A steering committee will be established during the early stage of the project which will meet on a regular basis and will decide on methodology and the activities to be implemented as well as regularly monitor the implementation of those activities. It will

also continuously evaluate and provide feed-back to the work of the contractor during the project as well as during the usual mid-term and final evaluation of the project.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

A final evaluation at the end of the project will be undertaken.

4.5. Communication and visibility

The EU will have the property rights of the established methodology and final results. The information will feed into the negotiations for bilateral trade agreements and will be used as appropriate for further research.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX O

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for Public Diplomacy Actions

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: € 4.9 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 4.9 million
Total duration	Up to 36 months depending on the action
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Grants – call for proposals</i> <i>Grants – direct award (EU-Russia Civil Society Forum)</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the actions and their objectives

- **Academia**

1. Jean Monnet Activities in the EU's strategic partners

Jean Monnet activities are designed to increase knowledge about European integration by promoting teaching, research and debate and are funded under Erasmus+. Building a bridge between the existing "EU Centres" and the Jean Monnet set of activities would foster dialogue between academics and decision makers in the EU and abroad and would increase widespread understanding and visibility of the EU and its role on the world scene. This action would primarily target EU strategic partners (e.g. Russia, Brazil, Mexico) which would benefit from the highly renowned Jean Monnet brand and its quality and breadth of knowledge on EU subjects. This action provides additional funding to complement the 2014 "Erasmus+" annual work programme.

2. Academic Fairs

Increasing the attractiveness of European higher education is an important goal for the EU. For the EU to remain attractive as a destination for internationally mobile students, it is important to reinforce efforts towards increased global awareness of the high quality of the European higher education system. To this end, a number of fairs will be organised in partner countries of particular interest to complement DG EAC's activities. DG EAC has the expertise and the contractual tools in place to promote Europe as an attractive destination for international students.

- **Civil Society Engagement**

3. EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue

The EU has an extensive relationship and dialogue with many partner countries. The overall aim of the "civil society engagement scheme" is to stimulate dialogue between partners in the EU and in the third country fostering common approaches to key global policy challenges and promoting cooperation on issues of common concern that have a potential for progress.

This grant scheme addresses specific policy issues relevant to the EU-US relationship and strengthens the dialogue between the EU and US civil societies.

4. Europe and US

This programme promotes knowledge and understanding of the EU, its international role, its policies and the value and significance of the EU-US transatlantic partnership. It targets regional audiences where the image of the EU needs to be improved or is little known and should reach all levels of civil society, including business and cultural associations. Cooperation and networks of the EU Member States Consulates should be sought for an even greater effectiveness

5. EU-Russia Civil Society Forum

The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum acts as an independent cooperation platform between European and Russian civil society actors and grassroots organisations and is instrumental in diffusing EU values. The Forum increases people-to-people links and improves political and inter-cultural understanding among civil society actors on both sides, making their voice heard in European and Russian policy processes.

2.2. Context

Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014, establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries says that the measures to be financed shall reflect the following specific Union objectives such as in *Article 1.2 (d)*:

‘enhancing widespread understanding and visibility of the Union and of its role on the world scene by means of **public diplomacy**, people-to-people contacts, cooperation in educational and academic matters, think tank cooperation and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests. The attainment of that objective may be measured, inter alia, by opinion surveys or evaluations.’

2.3. Lessons learnt

1. The EU Centres initiative has been carried out under the ICI in many countries and territories for a certain amount of time showing the value of academic cooperation in pursuing public diplomacy objectives. The possibility of streamlining this cooperation under the Jean Monnet activities opens the door of the EU's strategic partners to a wider network of well-established set of activities promoting the interaction between the academic community, policy-makers and civil society..
2. Academic fairs are proven to be useful tools in the promotion of European higher education and universities which shows the need for a better level of coordination.
3. Regarding the EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue, the results of an evaluation on public diplomacy actions undertaken under the ICI, took place in 2008, were

deemed overall positive and favoured the interaction between the EU and US civil societies.

4. Europe and US was formerly known as ‘Getting to know Europe’ which is a straightforward outreach programme targeting a wider audience across all levels of civil society in the US. This programme was also assessed positively under the Public Diplomacy evaluation mentioned above.
5. Based on previous actions, the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum has proven to be in demand from both sides and this can be quantified by the constant growth of the Forum’s membership. This network, comprising approximately 120 NGOs from EU and the Russian Federation, was founded in 2011 and has since then been constantly growing and strengthening cooperation both among its members and with other stakeholders in the EU.

2.4. Complementary actions

Quite often, complementary actions in public diplomacy are run by the Press and Information Sections of EU Delegations.

With regards to specific activities listed in this action fiche:

1. The Jean Monnet activities are covered by the general framework of the Erasmus + Programme;
2. DG EAC organises 10 academic fairs yearly (2014-2015: Russia (2), China (2), Korea, the US, Japan, Ukraine, Moldova and South Africa) for a budget of € 0.5 million;
3. The EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue is complementary to the Transatlantic Research and Debate (TRD) programme which is run by the EU DEL in Washington DC;
4. Europe and US promotes cooperation with the networks of Member States consulates across the US to further EU public diplomacy.
5. EU-Russia Civil Society Forum has complementarities with other actions envisaged within the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights and actions to support capacity building of local authorities within the dedicated CSO/LA DCI thematic programme.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The Annex of the PI Regulation sets out a general framework for the programming regarding thematic priorities and more specifically relating to the objective set out in point (d) of Article 1(2):

- 1) Enhancing cooperation in higher education: enhancing student and academic staff mobility, leading to the creation of partnerships aimed at improving the quality of higher education and of joint degrees leading to academic recognition (‘Erasmus+ Programme’)..

- 2) Enhancing widespread knowledge of the Union and raising its profile: promoting the Union's values and interests in partner countries through enhanced public diplomacy and outreach activities in support of the objectives of the instrument.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

1. Jean Monnet Activities
 - (a) Results: wider knowledge of the EU and its policies within academic circles.
 - (b) Activities: organising and coordinating human and documentary resources related to EU studies; leading research activities in specific EU subjects developing content and tools on EU subjects; update and complement the current courses and curricula; enhance the debate, network and exchange of experiences about the EU; publication of the results of research activities.
2. Academic Fairs: increased knowledge worldwide of the quality of European higher education as an attractive destination for students.
3. EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue
 - (a) Results: drafting of recommendations for Summits, negotiators rounds (TTIP), and other high-level meetings and bilateral political dialogues. Outputs should aim to create/enhance transatlantic civil society networks that are sustainable, creating platforms to facilitate productive dialogues, offer analyses and joint positions and widely disseminate their findings.
 - (b) Activities: Conferences, working groups, events, seminars, webinars, briefing sessions, etc...
4. Europe and US
 - (a) Results: better knowledge and understanding of EU policies and the value of the transatlantic relationship across the US among those target audiences that cannot be reached with the Delegation's other outreach programmes
 - (b) Activities: Envisaged outputs would be series of events, programmes (such as conferences, seminars, competitions, town twinning, etc.) across the US rather than single one-off initiatives.
5. EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
 - (a) Results: continued, sustainable dialogue of the EU and Russian Civil Society Organisations, based on a bottom up approach and enabling participation of both well-established NGOs as well as grass root activists. An uninterrupted exchange of information and ideas, bringing the two societies closer to each other.
 - (b) Activities: facilitating contacts, consultations and discussions between different EU and Russian stakeholders; Development and maintaining of communication and information dissemination channels, dissemination of information; advocacy, including vis-à-vis legislative and regional structures and taking into account the agenda of the EU-Russia bilateral relations; involvement and encouragement of community groups or initiatives; organisation of conferences, workshops, seminars, exchange programmes as part of the networking of NGOs.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

In general, there is a possible risk of change of priorities as well as changes in political relations with the concerned partner countries.

With grants, the project may not be implemented as planned due to inattention on the part of the beneficiary this can, however, be mitigated by requiring a regular financial and technical reporting as well as a detailed annual action plan.

- 3.4. **Stakeholders** Universities, academics, professorial body, students at all levels, civil society at large, NGOs, think tanks, research centres, cultural organisations and foundations diplomatic corps, Consulates, EEAS, European Parliament, etc.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation

4.1.1. *Jean Monnet Activities: Call for proposals (grants)*

- (a) Grants covering three years for either: i) Modules: a short teaching programme in the field of European Union studies of 40 teaching hours; ii) Chair: teaching posts with a specialisation in European Union studies for university professors or senior lecturers; iii) Centre of Excellence: a focal point of competence and knowledge on European Union subjects; iv) Networks and Projects: activities to support innovation, cross-fertilisation and the spread of European Union content. These actions will be based on unilateral proposals - although the proposed activities may involve other partners – and may last between 12 and 24 months.
- (b) Eligibility conditions: A higher education institution (HEI) established in any country of the world or other organisations active in the European Union studies subject.
- (c) Essential selection criteria:
 - Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
 - Applicants must have the professional competences and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.
- (d) Essential award criteria:
 - Relevance of the project;
 - Quality of the project design and implementation;
 - Quality of the project team and cooperation arrangements;
 - Impact and dissemination.

- (e) Maximum rate of co-financing: i) Modules: The maximum grant that can be awarded is 30.000 EUR that can represent the maximum of 75% of the total costs of the Jean Monnet Module; ii) Chair: The maximum grant that can be awarded is 50 000 EUR that can represent the maximum of 75% of the total cost of the Jean Monnet Chair.; iii) Centre of Excellence: The maximum grant that can be awarded is € 100 000 that can represent the maximum of 80% of the total eligible costs; iv) Networks and Projects: for networks the maximum grant that can be awarded is 300.000 EUR that can represent the maximum of 80% of the total costs, and for projects the maximum grant that can be awarded is 60.000 EUR that can represent the maximum of 75% of the total costs.
- (f) Indicative timing: the annual call will be published in September 2014 (general call Erasmus+).
- (g) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs: N.A.

4.1.2. *Academic Fairs: procurement, service contract (direct management).*

An estimated number of 4-8 Academic fairs (specific contracts) will be organised over the next 36 months. An existing framework contract managed by DG EAC will be used and the necessary financial resources cross-delegated.

4.1.3. *EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue: Grants: call for proposals (direct management)*

- (a) Objectives of the grants are to strengthen four civil society policy dialogues addressing the current priorities of the EU-US relationships and complementing the existing formal policy dialogues. The fields of intervention are the energy security dialogue; a consumer dialogue to identify common challenges in the context of the trade negotiations (TTIP); a data protection and privacy dialogue in the context of the umbrella agreement; and a development and humanitarian dialogue with a special focus on the security nexus. Results are joint policy recommendations to policy makers, advocacy of interests with public authorities, and show casing of good practices.
- (b) Eligibility conditions: think tanks, NGOs and NPOs, trade unions, business associations, or interests groups representing broad constituencies of civil society in the EU and in the US. They must demonstrate that project activities are strictly non-profit making. Partnerships across the Atlantic are mandatory.
- (c) Essential selection and award criteria: based on both technical and financial capacities such as proven experience in similar projects, knowledge of the relevant policy issue; securing participation from stakeholders; and CVs of the staff undertaking the project and, finally, financial and economic capacity to perform the tasks supported by balance sheets and ability to meet the co-financing requirements. Award criteria will be based on the relevance and the quality of the activities proposed, their impact, the cost-effectiveness and their dissemination strategy.

- (d) Maximum rate of co-financing: the maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call for proposals is 75% of the eligible costs of the action.
- (e) Indicative timing: call for proposals launched 4th Quarter 2014.
- (f) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs: The Commission may authorise the eligibility of costs as from the submission of the grant applications.

4.1.4. Europe and US: Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

- (a) Grants promoting knowledge and understanding of the EU and its international role, its policies, but also the value and significance of the EU-US transatlantic partnership across the US. Priorities of the year would include energy policy, climate change, 2015 European year of development, and cultural diplomacy at large.
- (b) Eligibility conditions: US based NGOs and NPOs, trade unions, business associations, youth groups, local community groups, cultural institutions, media, professional associations, teachers federation, chambers of commerce. Universities can apply but not for academic activities and provided they are not currently receiving EU funding. Applicants must demonstrate that project activities are strictly non-profit making.
- (c) Essential selection and award criteria: based on both technical and financial capacities such as proven experience in similar projects, knowledge of the relevant policy issue; securing participation from stakeholders; and CVs of the staff undertaking the project and, finally, financial and economic capacity to perform the tasks supported by balance sheets and ability to meet the co-financing requirements. Award criteria will be based on the relevance and the quality of the activities proposed, their impact, the cost-effectiveness and their dissemination strategy.
- (d) Maximum rate of co-financing: The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call for proposals is 75%.
- (e) Indicative timing: call for proposals launched 2nd Quarter 2015.
- (f) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs: The Commission may authorise the eligibility of costs as from the submission of the grant applications.

4.1.5. EU-Russia Civil Society Forum: Grants: direct award (direct management)

Grants : direct award [in line with Article 190 1. \(f\) RAP](#): this is justified by the following reasons: the **EU-Russia Civil Society** Forum was initially supported as an EU pilot project introduced by the European Parliament and it has received continued EU support ever since. The Forum represents today an excellent entry point for maintaining dialogue with the Russian civil society in that it provides a unique platform with a wide scope of cooperation between the EU and Russian civil society actors. The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum is also a key component of the ongoing dialogue between EU and Russia in the area of civil society within the framework of the Partnership for Modernisation.

- (a) Essential selection criteria: technical capacity (incl. experience and knowledge in the field) and financial capacity to perform the tasks.
- (b) Essential award criteria: Relevance of the project; Quality of the project design and implementation; Quality of the project team; Impact and dissemination.
- (c) Rate of co-financing by the European Commission will be of maximum 80% of the total project cost. The applicant is therefore expected to provide funding from own sources or from external sources of at least 20% of the total project cost.
- (d) Indicative timing: the estimated date of signature of the agreement is August 2015.

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1.1. – Call for proposals <i>Jean Monnet Activities in the EU's strategic partners (e.g. Russia, Brazil, Mexico)</i> (direct management)	1,2
4.1.2. – <i>Academic Fairs</i> (direct management)	0.2
4.1.3. – Call for proposals <i>EU-US Transatlantic Civil Society Dialogue</i> (direct management)	0.8
4.1.4. – Call for proposals <i>Europe and US</i> (direct) management	1.5
4.1.5. – Direct award <i>EU-Russia Civil Society Forum</i> (direct management)	1.2
Totals must correspond to the amounts in the second line in table in section 1	4.9

4.3. Performance monitoring

Monitoring performed by responsible EU Delegations, concerned Commission DGs and the EEAS.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

Possible mid-term and final external evaluations of the projects should be envisaged.

Beneficiaries should submit interim and final audit reports performed by external auditors.

4.5. Communication and visibility

During the implementation of the projects, in all activities carried out, the visibility and knowledge of EU support shall be ensured to all entities and stakeholders involved as well as in media, brochures and any other communication material.

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.

ANNEX P

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2014 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Fiche for the "Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension"

1. IDENTIFICATION

CRIS Number	N.A.
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 1 million Total amount of the EU budget contribution: € 1 million
Total duration	Up to 36 months
Method of implementation	<i>Direct management</i> <i>Procurement – Service Contract</i>

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the actions and their objectives

The objective of this action is to promote a comprehensive approach with North-South and South-South relations in order to explore and shape responses to shared policy challenges around the Atlantic Basin. Main activities include workshops and high level conferences.

2.2. Context

The rationale behind this action is the Report on the role of the EU in promoting a broader Transatlantic Partnership by MEP Francisco José Millán Mon from 14 May 2013. The report calls *inter alia* for a broader transatlantic cooperation including the African and South American rims of the Atlantic basin. The action would aim at deepening comprehensive cooperation between all the countries of the Atlantic Basin by encouraging think-tanks, researchers and influential decision makers to engage in a broader transatlantic cooperation on cross-regional issues ranging from security to economics, migration to energy and thus fostering the idea of a wider Atlantic community. Given the fact that the objectives of this action are already covered by the legal basis of the Partnership Instrument, the action has been included in the Partnership Instrument's Annual Action Programme and the appropriations were transferred from the Preparatory Action budget line 19 05 77 02 to the PI budget line 19 05 01 (Partnership Instrument).

2.3. Lessons learnt

- There is political support for this initiative as outlined in the paper produced by the Group of Eminent Persons: "A New Atlantic Community: Generating Growth, Human Development and Security in the Atlantic Hemisphere".
- Related actions are currently being funded by DG Research & Innovation (DG RTD) as well as by other organisations but they have not yet been finalised (see below). This action could allow linking existing initiatives and consolidate the results.

2.4. Complementary actions

- a) Beginning 2013, the European Commission (DG RTD) launched a three-year research project, *"Atlantic Future: Towards an Atlantic Area? Mapping Trends, Perspectives and Interregional Dynamics amongst Europe, Africa and the Americas"*, funded by the Seventh Framework Programme (EU Contribution: EUR 2,495,276 equal to 78% of the total sum). The project pursues both conceptual and policy oriented objectives, which will give us a more detailed and more profound picture of the Atlantic area. This project will be a major contribution to EUs understanding of the Atlantic world at the beginning of the 21st Century. The main objective of this project is to analyse fundamental trends in the Atlantic basin and to show how changing economic, energy, security, human, institutional and environmental links are transforming the wider Atlantic space. The partners¹ also aim to reach policy relevant conclusions for the EU's Atlantic agenda, including a review of the EU's interregional links with the other three littoral continents, its strategic partnerships with the USA, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa and a holistic approach to the whole area - all of them crucial aspects of the role that the EU can play in today's changing world.
- b) In January 2014, a Declaration and Call for Action of the Eminent Persons Group (Atlantic Basin Initiative) was adopted². The Group has more than one hundred persons from Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe and the list is still evolving. This initiative was initially funded by the European Delegation in Washington and by DG RTD (Atlantic Future). The Declaration and the White Paper propose five key recommendations – an Atlantic Energy renaissance; Economic Growth and Human Development; Our Common Heritage the Atlantic Ocean; Human Security and Cultivating Cultures of Lawfulness and effective Democratic Governance.
- c) The German Marshall Fund of the United States is running the initiative "Wider Atlantic Program" which promotes a more comprehensive approach to Atlanticism, with North-South and South-South relations at the core. The GMF-OCP Foundation partnership looks to move beyond the traditional northerly axis that has driven contemporary transatlantic relations. The initiative underscores the growing importance of Africa and Latin America as actors in the Atlantic space. It also focuses on the shared policy challenges shaping the future of four continents around the Atlantic Basin. From the rise of Brazil to the growing role of China, the Atlantic equation is evolving rapidly, and so is the need for a wider conversation about Atlantic futures³.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

- a) To advance the agenda outlined by the group of "Eminent Persons";
- b) To complement (and not duplicate) the work carried out through other initiatives run in related fields including those listed in section 2.4 of this document.

¹ These are 13 organisations (think tanks and universities) from across the Atlantic.

² "New Atlantic Community: A declaration and Call to Action". Eminent Persons Group. Available online: <http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/events/2014/Atlantic%20Basin%20Initiative%20White%20Paper.pdf>

³ Source: See more at: <http://www.gmfus.org/programs/wider-atlantic/#sthash.lo8JFTF9.dpuf>

3.2. Expected results and main activities

An expected result of the action is the promotion of a comprehensive approach to Atlanticism, with North-South and South-South relations at the core, and thus underscoring the growing importance of Africa and Latin America as actors in the Atlantic space. It would also serve to explore and shape responses to shared policy challenges around the Atlantic Basin.

The work should focus on the key areas outlined by the group of "Eminent Persons"⁴ including:

- An Atlantic Energy Renaissance;
- Economic Growth and Human Development;
- Our Common Heritage — the Atlantic Ocean;
- Human Security;
- Cultivating Cultures of Lawfulness and Effective Democratic Governance.

Main activities would include:

- Mapping out existing initiatives in a similar domain in order to avoid duplication, develop possible synergies and enhance impact;
- Organise up to 5 working groups meeting on the themes outlined above;
- Organise 1 very high level conference to showcase the results of the work carried out by the working groups;
- Publish a final report with policy recommendations taking into account also the results of other studies which are being developed in similar or related fields.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main risk is to develop a parallel track of activities and research to what is currently being carried out by DG RTD under the Seventh Framework Programme and other global initiatives. It is therefore crucial to map existing initiatives in this field and to establish dialogue and coordination with them and avoid any duplication and develop possible synergies.

3.4. Stakeholders

The key stakeholders are think tanks, governments and civil society organisations from the EU and countries having a direct stake in the development of the Atlantic basin.

BEPA, the EEAS and the European Commission services focusing on the areas outlined in section 3.2 will play a crucial role for the success of this initiative.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Method of implementation: Procurement (direct management)

Procurement (direct management)

- (a) The project will be implemented via an international service contract.

⁴ "New Atlantic Community: A declaration and all to Action". Eminent Persons Group. Available online: <http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/events/2014/Atlantic%20Basin%20Initiative%20White%20Paper.pdf>

(b) Indicative timing: call for tenders will be launched on 4th quarter 2014

4.2. Indicative budget

Method of Implementation	Amount in EUR million
4.1 Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension Service Contract - <i>Procurement (direct management)</i>	1
Totals	1

4.3. Performance monitoring

Monitoring performed by responsible BEPA, FPI, EU Delegations, concerned Commission DGs and the EEAS.

4.4. Evaluation and audit

Possible mid-term and final external evaluations of the projects should be envisaged.

Beneficiaries should submit interim and final audit reports performed by external auditors.

4.5. Communication and visibility

During the implementation of the action, in all activities carried out, the visibility and acknowledgment of EU support shall be ensured to all entities and stakeholders involved as well as in media, brochures and any other communication material. A specific web-page devoted to the proposed project will be created, possibly linked directly from the institutional home page.

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

All documentation and promotional material produced in the framework of the project shall bear the EU flag and mention that it is financed by the EU.