

Partnership Instrument

Multi-annual Indicative Programme for the period 2018-2020

1. Executive summary

The Partnership Instrument was created in 2014 as an instrument specifically designed to pursue EU strategic interests globally. The instrument is of world-wide application charged with the task of promoting cooperation and alliance-building on issues of EU or mutual interest and challenges of global concern. It is designed for the EU as a global actor partnering with third countries including middle-income countries - and in particular strategic partners - on a peer-to-peer basis. The Partnership Instrument is not subject to requirements for Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The Partnership Instrument is a policy-supporting instrument that has demonstrated its value as an instrument specifically designed to pursue EU strategic interests and values globally. The Partnership Instrument enables the EU to pursue partnerships with a wide range of strategic partners, supports the EU in its bilateral and international commitments as well as partners' expectations. It operates in support of EU foreign policy objectives under the framework defined by the objectives of EU external action under the Treaty, the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy (the 'Global Strategy'), the Commission's ten political priorities, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnership actions underpin bilateral and regional dialogues and bilateral and multilateral negotiations (for example trade negotiations), particularly by providing follow-up support and concrete policy deliverables, strengthening the position of the EU as a credible partner that delivers.

Several actions aim at developing common approaches with key partners to influence international processes and agendas, thereby underpinning multilateralism, fostering the building of partnerships and alliances in a global context, and contributing to a rules-based global order. Other actions enable the EU to promote its interests and values through public and cultural diplomacy, engaging with key decision-makers and target groups in strategic partner countries.

As such, the Partnership Instrument articulates and contributes to the implementation of the external dimension of internal policies. It brings coherence and adds value to the EU's action internally and externally, interconnecting between different policy areas, ensuring complementarity and bringing synergies with other instruments dealing with external action. Actions cover challenges of global concern like climate change and environmental protection;

the international dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive jobs and growth; improving access to markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies (with particular emphasis on SMEs). This responds to calls to strengthen the nexus between internal and external policies expressed in the Global Strategy and the reflection papers on the future of the EU.

This document provides a strategic outlook and proposes a Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the period 2018-2020. The Partnership Instrument will further build on and consolidate its efforts in the current four main intervention areas enshrined in the Regulation (global challenges, the international dimension of Europe 2020, trade & market access, and public & cultural diplomacy). All interventions will take into account relevant cross-cutting issues.

Within the four main intervention areas, the priorities for the Partnership Instrument for 2018-2020 are:

- Trade and economic diplomacy (including Responsible Business Conduct, and tax good governance);
- Environment, climate and energy (including water, ocean governance, circular economy, urbanisation aspects);
- Peace, security and defence;
- Digital (including cyber security, digital global governance);
- Global health (including Anti-Microbial Resistance).

The following cross-cutting issues are integrated or mainstreamed in the Multi-annual Indicative Programme:

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

Following implementation of the Partnership Instrument over the period 2014-17 which consumed about 52% of the overall budget of EUR 960.4 million for the MFF period 2014-2020, the remaining financial envelope for the period 2018-20 will be EUR 461 million.

A small proportion (EUR 20 million) of the budget will remain unallocated in the form of a reserve in order to allow swift and flexible responses to emerging policy objectives in external relations, or to deal with unforeseen challenges.

2. Overall context

Building on the objectives of EU external action under the Treaty, the Global Strategy provides an overall vision for a joined-up, credible and responsive EU engagement in the world. It sets out the EU's core interests and principles for engaging in a more complex, more

connected and more contested world. Its ambition is to make Europe a stronger actor, more united, influential and credible, on the world stage while keeping citizens safe and preserving EU interests and values. It defines five priorities of the EU's external action: the security of the European Union, state and societal resilience in our neighbourhood, an integrated approach to conflicts and crisis, cooperative regional orders and a renewed commitment to a multilateral, rules-based system of global governance. In order to translate this vision into action, it calls for combining internal and external EU policies, ensuring joined-up action and applying 'principled pragmatism'.

The Partnership Instrument contributes directly to the implementation of the Global Strategy. It promotes the EU's and mutual interest worldwide strengthening the **nexus between internal and external policies**, in particular in relation to challenges of global concern, notably in the context of the 2030 Agenda, international dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy, implementation of the EU trade policy.

The Partnership Instrument contributes to the **implementation of strategies, strengthening dialogues and fostering of partnerships** with like-minded countries, regional groupings, international organizations and cooperative regional orders such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and through the participation in relevant multilateral fora. The Partnership Instrument initiatives give substance to existing and new policy dialogues across the full range of EU bilateral, regional and inter-regional relations.

The **EU Economic Diplomacy (EED)** is at the core of the Partnership Instrument's actions, given the mutually enriching interaction between policy dialogues and business cooperation with partner countries. This strand of the Partnership Instrument aims at improving access to third-country markets by boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies. In addition, Partnership Instrument interventions on climate change, energy, resource efficiency and circular economy, environment, sustainable urbanisation and other policy areas often also offer parallel business cooperation components.

Public Diplomacy under the Partnership Instrument strengthens the EU's ability to engage meaningfully with selected audiences in third countries (i.e. students/academics, multipliers/influencers, civil society and cultural operators/artists) in order to increase mutual understanding, improve the perception of the EU and of its policies and, ultimately, to build trust and facilitate future cooperation.

In conclusion, the Partnership Instrument primarily serves EU interests through:

- Supporting bilateral, regional and inter-regional partnerships, political and policy dialogue, and reinforces cooperation on global challenges such as climate change, energy security, resource efficiency and the protection of the environment;
- Contributing to the international dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy in partner countries;
- Enhancing the EU's market access, trade, investment and business opportunities;
- Supporting public and cultural diplomacy and outreach activities.

State of play in terms of implementation

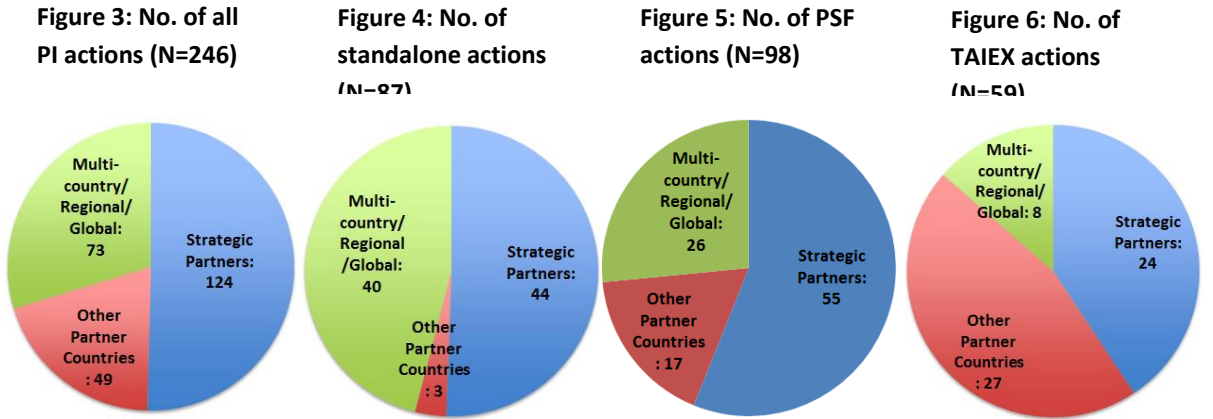
"Standalone" actions are the backbone of Partnership Instrument activities. They are of structural nature and of medium to long-term duration.

Besides the structural medium to long-term approach, the Partnership Instrument offers rapid-response tools that can be mobilised on short notice to respond with the necessary flexibility and rapidity to emerging political priorities: the "Policy Support Facility" (PSF) and "Technical Assistance and Information Exchange" (TAIEX). As well as providing ad hoc intervention, these tools can also serve as bridging facilities to grasp or maintain political momentum (for example in relation to a summit meeting or a negotiation) and prepare the ground for a longer-term structural action.

Emerging priorities and policy needs are identified by various EU services (i.e. the Commission or EEAS services) who submit proposals. Proposals are subject to accelerated internal procedures in consultation with all relevant services with the aim to ensure that actions are in line with strategic priorities, that there is no duplication with other interventions and that no other EU financing instrument could act as an alternative source of funding. So far, 98 actions have been financed under the PSF and 59 actions under TAIEX, with more in the pipeline.

Statistics (July 2017) for the total of 246 Partnership Instrument actions (standalone, PSF and TAIEX) are presented in figures below.

The number of standalone actions implemented solely in partner countries other than strategic partners is relatively low (3) in comparison with actions in strategic partner countries (where specific Commission staff is concentrated), suggesting the value of a specialist staff presence in EU delegations. TAIEX, on the other hand, shows the highest number of actions implemented in partner countries other than strategic partners.



Lessons learned

The midterm review¹ (MTR) of the Partnership Instrument, covering the years 2014-2017, concluded that the instrument is fit for purpose. The Partnership Instrument has proven its relevance to long standing EU priorities and demonstrated its flexibility through responses to new and changed policy priorities that have arisen since its adoption.

This flexibility is explicit in the Partnership Instrument Regulation (Regulation EU 234/2014), and is enhanced by the choices made on the actual implementation of the instrument. The high degree of flexibility is a major asset of the instrument and needs to be preserved.

To ensure that the limited funds create meaningful impacts, the decision-making process shall continue to concentrate on strategic EU priorities as established in the objectives of EU external action under the Treaty, the Global Strategy, the ten Commission priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A participatory decision-making process has ensured that the Partnership Instrument facilitates coherence, consistency, complementarity and synergies in its implementation, both internally and externally.

The MTR suggests further enhancing the role of EU Delegations in the formulation of actions; to increase provision of resources by client services to implement the actions; and to improve the visibility of the Instrument, also within the EU institutions, to unleash its full potential. Increased visibility and communication efforts will be carried out so as to enhance the profile of the Partnership Instrument and boost awareness on its achievements.

The Partnership Instrument has demonstrated its fundamental value as an instrument specifically designed to pursue EU strategic interests globally. The Partnership Instrument enables the EU to pursue partnerships with a wide range of strategic partners, helps the EU to live up to its bilateral and international commitments as well as to the partners' expectations.

In its first years (2014-2017) the Partnership Instrument has successfully played a strategic role in supporting the implementation of the EU's external policies. It has also contributed to fostering close cooperation with EU Member States who participate actively in the implementation of projects.

The Partnership Instrument has been able to balance actions geographically in line with the programming document, promoting an increased participation of Latin-American countries to match the high demand from Asia.

While the Instrument has already been deployed with countries beyond the main strategic partners, there is unfilled potential in cooperation with a larger circle of countries.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/public-consultation-external-financing-instruments-european-union_en

Public Diplomacy activities under the Partnership Instrument aim at building trust and mutual understanding with key target audiences through long term engagement with the objective of improving the perception of the EU and its policies and to facilitate future cooperation. In order for the EU to further raise its profile in the world, more resources could be dedicated to public diplomacy and outreach activities.

In conclusion, the Partnership Instrument has proven an important tool to promote the EU as a strong global actor.

3. Strategic outlook and main priority areas

This strategy covers the remaining period of the Multi-annual Financial Framework (2018-2020). Ad hoc revisions of the strategy and priority areas might be conducted in case of need.

(a) Strategic outlook

Building alliances and a global governance for the 21st Century

Guided by the values on which it is founded, the EU is committed to a global order based on international law. Without global norms and the means to enforce them, peace and security, democracy and prosperity – EU's vital interests - are at risk.

Increased complexity of external relations accentuates the need for Europe to speak with one voice and to act with the collective weight of its individual parts. The EU will continue to **forge bilateral and multilateral partnerships** with a view to advance towards a rule-based multilateral order, one of its main strategic interests. The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity to develop further a shared agenda together with partners, in a manner consistent with pursuing the objectives of EU external action.

The EU has numerous international agreements and political dialogues with partner countries worldwide, which give the Union influence in virtually every field of international relations. Acting together with Member States on common policies and strategies, the EU has the critical mass to respond to global challenges. The Partnership Instrument will allow the EU to develop a proactive agenda of mutual interests with traditional and new partners.

As also highlighted in the Global Strategy, the EU shall deepen partnerships with civil society and the private sector, and support voluntary forms of regional governance, which offer states and peoples the opportunity to better manage security concerns, reap the economic gains of globalisation, express more fully cultures and identities. By increasing its participation and contributions to regional or thematically specialised organisations/fora the EU will have more possibilities to influence international agendas and project the EU's position.

The Partnership Instrument will equip the EU to follow through more consistently and with a view to a stronger political relationship the commitments it makes through Partnership and Cooperation/Framework Agreements, or via actions decided at bilateral, regional or global summits. In linking the promotion of its values and interests with specific activities bringing in state and non-state actors, the Partnership Instrument adds credibility and consistency to the EU's external action. This helps to support the EU's ambition to reinforce its position as a key political and economic player on the international scene both bilaterally and within

multilateral bodies such as the G7, the G20, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) or the United Nations (UN).

Global challenges

In 2015 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). 2030 Agenda is based on the concept of global partnership supported by a comprehensive approach and integrates in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimension of sustainable development. For the first time, the EU shares with countries around the world a joint framework and a comprehensive set of goals, which creates a shared interest for the EU and its partners to enhance their cooperation to progress in a range of policy actions. The Commission Communication on "Next Steps for a sustainable European future" of November 2016² is an essential guiding principle for the Partnership Instrument and other EU financing instruments. Partnerships with the emerging economies to implement the 2030 Agenda should be developed in a context of increasing awareness of limited and vulnerable natural resources and inequality challenges.

As for **climate change**, the European Union has historically been at the forefront of the transition to a low-emission, resource efficient and circular economy with its ambitious 2030 Climate and Energy policy framework. The 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change is a landmark in the global fight against climate change. The climate change challenge highlights the interdependencies between the EU and its strategic partners.

In line with the Global Strategy, the EU will therefore support the full implementation of the Paris Agreement, through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to tackle climate change on the ground. This work will also complement efforts towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Through its engagement on the climate and **energy** nexus, and keeping in mind our economic interests, the EU will continue to engage partners to support the ongoing energy transition, including the sharing of best policy and regulatory practices for a sustainable energy future. The EU will also continue to strengthen the energy security of both the Member States and the Union as a whole by promoting rule-based, open, fair and liquid energy markets globally, while also improving relations with energy producing and transit-countries. The diversification of energy supplies through the establishment of necessary infrastructures and appropriate rules will remain a key element of energy diplomacy in the coming years.

The rise of the middle class in emerging economies and developing countries will open-up new markets for consumer goods and services, but the rise in consumption will have a strong impact on the **environment** and will contribute to exacerbating climate change. Over the next 30 years, the global urban population is likely to grow with an additional 2.4 billion people. Waste management remains a challenge for all countries. Global solid waste generation is expected to almost double by 2025. More efficient resource use is an imperative and will become an increasingly important factor for competitiveness and growth with the **circular economy** being the key instrument to achieve resource efficiency.

² COM(2016) 739 final

Rapid **urbanisation** is likely to continue in Asia and Latin America, but increasingly also in Africa. Challenges such as access to clean water, sanitation, clean air and sustainable waste management remain a key priority in urban and rural areas in many regions worldwide. Cities and local governments are at the forefront of transition to a modern low-carbon, climate resilient economy, translating their climate targets and their energy transition into actionable policies and measures. The EU will continue its engagement to implement the Paris Agreement through the NDCs and the New Urban Agenda including through city-to-city pairings, sharing experience, best-practices and EU know-how.

Water is a precious resource for development, stability and peace. Water scarcity and water stress as well as access to clean water and sanitation are a global challenge. The 2013 EU Council Conclusions on Water Diplomacy³ underline the importance of transboundary water cooperation.

As the Third UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA3) has underlined, pollution (air, water, and soil pollution) is a global challenge that needs to be tackled to preserve our planet. Air pollution is one of the main avoidable causes of premature deaths globally. Reducing air pollution and improving air quality especially in cities are closely linked with efforts on climate change and urbanisation. It is therefore relevant to prioritise efforts that promote co-benefits between air pollution and climate change, transport, urbanisation, agriculture and health policies.

Considering the importance of the oceans as climate regulators, the considerable negative impacts of climate change on oceans, the increasingly worrying status of the oceans and that the confirmed negative trend, work on climate/implementation of the Paris Agreement should also go hand-in-hand with targeted initiatives with a view to achieving SDGs relevant to oceans, to reduce anthropogenic pressures on oceans and build resilience of ecosystems and of people who depend on them.

The EU is actively protecting the environment worldwide, which includes protection of the marine and coastal environment, **ocean governance** and better management of water and fishery resources, encourage the economics of biodiversity, facilitate more sustainable trade in such areas as wildlife (including the fight against wildlife trafficking), fish, timber, and sound management of chemicals and waste. The international dimension of the EU Strategy for Plastics, adopted in January 2018 will contribute to global efforts against plastic marine litter and microplastics, both at global and regional level. The Joint Communication on international ocean governance of 10 November 2016 provides the EU with a clear policy framework to ensure safe, secure, clean and, sustainably managed oceans.

Migration has emerged as a global challenge at the crossroads of internal and external policies. Long-lasting conflicts, dire human rights conditions, limited economic and social opportunities, lack of access to basic services or a degrading environment worked as strong push factors for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants. In the Joint Communication on a strategic approach to resilience in the EU's External Action of 7 June 2017⁴ interlinkages between migration, environment and climate change were highlighted. The Partnership Instrument can provide an important contribution by raising the awareness of this global

³ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138253.pdf

⁴ JOIN(2017) 21 final

challenge, foster best practices around the world, supporting improved migration management and facilitation of legal avenues for migration (including the attraction of talents), as well as common approaches on migration and mobility with partner countries in line with the European Agenda on Migration and the Partnership Framework with third countries⁵.

The **security** of our Union is one of the five priorities of the Global Strategy. The Partnership Instrument supports the EU in promoting security by translating into action its commitments and by stepping up its contribution to collective security. Beyond military power and diplomacy, the EU takes action on terrorism, cybersecurity, hybrid threats, economic volatility, climate change and energy security through its toolbox of external action instruments, including the Partnership Instrument. In terms of **defence**, the Partnership Instrument has already supported and will continue to support policy dialogues to foster concrete partnership initiatives around the world.

EU cybersecurity efforts have gained a new momentum with the recently adopted Cyber package and the Joint Communication "Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU"⁶. These new policy initiatives have set an ambitious vision to achieve better European preparedness in cyber resilience, addressing cybercrime and advancing the cyber security and defence capabilities.

The EU, through the external projection of its policies will have unprecedented opportunities to offer its policy-making and technological expertise in ways that underpin global security and prosperity in a sustainable manner. Many of these policy and technology solutions play to EU strengths in the fields of governance, regulation, research, innovation and business, which can reinforce both mutual interest partnerships with key global players and overall economic competitiveness.

The Partnership Instrument underpins the endeavour of the EU Global Strategy to deliver global public goods and address common challenges. Anti-Microbial resistance is recognised as a major European and global challenge as it poses a fundamental threat to human **health**, development, security, and requires a global response. In this effort, the Partnership Instrument supports the EU to be a responsible global stakeholder through investment in key partnerships.

Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth⁷

Part of the growth that Europe needs to generate over the next decade will necessarily come from emerging economies, as European businesses can take advantage of opportunities and high growth rates in these markets. However, many of such markets are often characterised by low social and environmental standards, which put European companies at disadvantage. One of the critical objectives will be to build partnerships with key players to discuss issues of common concern, and promote **regulatory equivalence, mutual recognition and**

⁵ COM (2015)240; COM (2016) 385; COM(2017) 558

⁶ Joint Communication "Resilience, Deterrence and Defence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU", JOIN (2017) 450 Final, Brussels, 13.09.2017

⁷ The external dimension of Europe 2020

convergence, as well as the **adoption of global rules and standards** in order to ensure a level playing field for European enterprises. Also, social cohesion and the reduction of inequalities lead to a better state and societal resilience. Therefore the EU has an interest to engage in dialogues in the following policy areas promoting at the same time its own and universal values related to issues such as: labour standards, occupational safety and health, social dialogue, non-cooperative tax jurisdictions, prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, improving the scope and coverage of social protection, female labour market participation and tackling the gender pay gap, youth employment policies, social inclusion, health policies, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, agriculture and rural development, and disaster management.

Digital has become a central piece⁸ of our international relations. The EU Digital single market initiative has assumed a central role in the discussion around digital issues. With the achievements of the digital single market the EU stands at the forefront of developing a modern digital policy framework. The EU's international trading partners are also increasingly putting digital policy at the centre of their economic development or even their geo-strategic ambitions. This is done in recognition of the key role that communication networks and the internet play for all sectors of the economy, but also of the mounting importance of internet companies and platforms, as well as of the digitisation of more traditional industries. Digital includes amongst other the Commission priorities of promoting an open and free multi-stakeholder model of internet governance, building a global alliance on Artificial Intelligence, economic aspects of cybersecurity and supporting the EU media and audio-visual industry.

Supporting actions with stakeholders in key partner countries will enable the EU to step up its leadership in the intrinsically global digital economy. Cooperation with the USA remains a key objective, as well as cooperation with Canada, Japan, China, South Korea, India, ASEAN, and Latin America, as the latter prepares to formulate its own "Mercado Regional Digital". Digital cooperation with other emerging economies or regional entities or organisations will be of growing importance. The GCC and Russia are also showing interest in digital cooperation with the EU.

Prosperity, Trade and Investment

While the world has never been better connected, the return of isolationism has cast doubts over the future of international trade and multilateralism. Europe's prosperity and ability to uphold our values on the world stage will continue to depend on its openness and strong links with its partners. Standing up for free and progressive **trade** and shaping globalisation, so that it benefits all, will be a challenge.

At the multilateral level, the EU must continue to contribute to strengthening the global trading system centred on the WTO. At the same time, the Partnership Instrument is also designed to be used in support of EU trade agreements under negotiation (e.g. Japan, Mercosur, Indonesia, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand). Relevant areas would include compliance with international standards, customs procedures, legislative and non-tariff matters, trade and sustainable development, and investment. Similar initiatives to improve the implementation of agreements which are already provisionally applied or in force (e.g. the

⁸ Foreign Affairs [Council Conclusions of 28/11/2016](#)

Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the trade agreements with Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) or those which are subject to modernisation (Chile, Mexico), could also be supported by the Partnership Instrument.

Boosting trade is one of the few ways to bolster growth without drawing on public finances. Indeed, the contribution of external demand to economic growth is very important, as almost 90% of global economic growth in the next five years is expected to be generated outside Europe, a third of it in China alone. With this in mind, the EU has a strong interest in improving access to overseas markets. The Partnership Instrument will support the EU's efforts to roll out its economic diplomacy, for instance by promoting adherence to global standards through regulatory co-operation; by helping to strengthen EU Market Access Teams; by fostering policy dialogue and technical assistance on key issues such as stimulating investment for the purpose of job creation and economic development, sustainable supply and fair access to raw materials, transport policies, intellectual property rights (IPR); by promoting business co-operation, research, innovation and knowledge management; and by underpinning co-operation with international financing institutions. Targeted support activities for companies planning to extend their business beyond the EU, but facing market access challenges, are also envisaged, complementing Member States' activities in selected markets.

Public diplomacy

Building trust and mutual understanding with key audiences and potential partners is crucial to facilitate future cooperation across policy areas and support the achievement of EU policy objectives. This is even more important in today's complex and contested world as noted in the EU Global Strategy. In order to build common ground and project its values and interests, the EU will need to pay an increasing attention to **public diplomacy** and contribute creating, fostering and mobilising networks that share and EU policy priorities. The approach to Public Diplomacy under the Partnership Instrument will continue to focus on long term engagement of key target audiences worldwide based on local partnership and tailoring engagement initiatives to perceptions and specificities.

Within the broader set of Public Diplomacy initiatives, increasing attention will be put on **cultural diplomacy**. In this framework, consideration must be given to the political priorities defined by the Communication "Towards an EU strategy in international cultural relations"⁹. The Communication adopts an approach to cultural relations based on partnerships and concrete involvement of cultural operators and other stakeholder in order to create spaces for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Culture here is intended in a broader sense, including also education, training and the creative industries such as fashion, design and tourism, with particular regard to cultural heritage. Culture is not only a powerful instrument of aggregation and consolidation of societies but can also be a resource for the economy and an engine for development. The European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018) will allow consolidating and connecting current EU initiatives (and beyond) in the field of cultural relations and develop sustainable partnerships.

⁹ JOIN(2016) 29 final

The Partnership Instrument will also continue supporting EU's efforts in the field of **education, academic and scientific co-operation**. In this context, the Partnership Instrument will support the extension of opportunities under the "Erasmus +" initiative to certain third countries and support complementary actions to research and innovation international cooperation activities including Horizon 2020.

Films and audio-visual content cooperation as drivers of the digital economy and society and media pluralism are excellent means of communicating EU values and EU diversity and can create the occasions for exchange on broader policy areas. The Partnership Instrument public diplomacy efforts will be carried out in coordination with the activities available in the international dimension of the MEDIA programme.

Geographic priorities

The Partnership Instrument has a global reach and is intended to address issues and challenges at global, regional and bilateral level. The main partner countries and regions will include all strategic partner countries, as well other countries as appropriate, in line with the objectives of the instrument and its programming. Hereunder a short description by region:

Asia-Pacific: EU-Asia relations are expanding, and the EU is going beyond traditional cooperation, to encompass economic and fiscal dialogues, trade integration and political/security dialogues. Four of the main EU's strategic partners are from Asia: China, India, Japan and South Korea. Beyond these country partners, the EU will also need increasingly to work with regional groupings such as the ASEAN and to make full use of the ASEM as a region-to-region forum. Furthering strategic dialogues with key partners is a central priority, as well as facilitating the negotiation and implementation of Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Comprehensive Agreements on Investment (CAI), and bilateral investment negotiations and their implementation across the region.

PCA/Framework Agreement negotiations have been concluded or are ongoing with Australia, Brunei, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. The first EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with an Asian partner entered into force with South Korea in July 2011, followed by the conclusion of negotiations with Singapore in December 2012 and with Vietnam in December 2015. Further FTAs are being negotiated with India, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. Moreover, negotiations on investment agreements with China were launched in November 2013 and with Myanmar in 2014. An EU strategy on China was adopted in July 2016¹⁰. Finally, in September 2017, the European Commission presented two recommendations to the Council to launch negotiations for trade agreements with Australia and New Zealand.

Although the degree of like-mindedness of the EU's partners in the region varies, only through intensified ties and co-ordination with partners in Asia and the Pacific will the EU be able to address major global issues such as security (including cyber-security), personal data

¹⁰ Joint Communication JOIN(2016) 30 to the European Parliament and the Council on elements for a new EU strategy on China and Council Conclusions 11252/16 on EU Strategy on China

protection, trade, decent work, energy and climate change. The EU is also eager to enhance trade and investment links with this fast-developing region, as well as to further develop co-operation with countries such as China and India with regard to the management of mobility and migration. Fostering bilateral relations, peace, security and stability, human rights and democracy, and addressing environmental challenges, climate change, energy efficiency, water management, ocean governance, business and trade, market access, digital economy, financial crime, product safety, connectivity and regional integration are key priorities for the EU in the Asia-Pacific region.

Americas: Four of the EU's main strategic partners are to be found in the Western Hemisphere: Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States (US). The EU has also a long standing and well established engagement with other Latin America and Caribbean countries.

The EU will seek to advance further the transatlantic partnership with the US and Canada, on the basis of joint interests and commitment to shared values, bringing jobs, security and stability to citizens in both regions. The EU will continue to foster transatlantic cooperation and leadership on global challenges, and stronger ties also between businesses, civil society and citizens, in order to realise the full potential of the partnership.

EU-Canada relations have undergone a substantive upgrade with the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and a Strategic Partnership Agreement. The EU's partnership with the United States is irreplaceable and of unparalleled breadth and depth. The EU and the US share important foreign policy, security, social, economic and environmental challenges and continued strong EU-US cooperation is critical to promote stability and prosperity at home and abroad. The EU has a strategic interest in continuing to highlight the importance of this partnership.

The EU's engagement with Latin American and Caribbean countries is being further strengthened. Strategic partnerships are in place with Brazil and Mexico, focussing on implementation of common priorities, as established in the respective Joint Action Plans. Frameworks for cooperation and political and trade relations are being upgraded to respond to the more advanced nature of bi-lateral relations, e.g. the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement with Cuba, Ecuador's accession to the Multi-Party Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru, the adoption of the Association Agreement in Central America, the ongoing modernisation of the Association Agreements with Chile and Mexico as well as the negotiations of a free trade agreement with Mercosur. Relations with the Caribbean continue to advance in the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement and the Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy. The EU has also a clear interest in strengthening its cooperation with regional integration bodies, such as the Pacific Alliance, which have shown a high degree of dynamism towards closer economic integration.

Moreover, the EU established a comprehensive region-to-region partnership with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in 1999, since 2011 grouped under the CELAC, which provides a vehicle to advance dialogue and cooperation in areas of mutual interest, as identified by the EU-CELAC Joint Action Plan adopted in 2015.

The current moment provides a real opportunity for the Partnership Instrument to forge stronger and more comprehensive partnerships with countries and regional groupings in Latin America and the Caribbean, including those countries which have graduated from bilateral development cooperation or from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and

Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) list of developing countries. A shared commitment to open markets, data protection, digital cooperation, and inclusive globalisation could assist advancing negotiations and implementation of comprehensive political and trade agreements, dismantle obstacles to trade and investment, and promote innovation, bi-regional value chains and business-to-business cooperation. The countries of the region have become more assertive and influential in international fora, and are important allies in addressing global challenges such as peace and security, transnational organised crime, financial crime climate change, environment. Chile and Mexico are already OECD members and other countries in the region are in the accession process (Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru) showing a commitment to shared approaches to public policies and a readiness to cooperate with the EU to that effect. Moreover, the EU can assist the region in its desire to make the transition towards green and sustainable energy, having accumulated know-how and technology in that respect, while creating opportunities for business and investment. There are many significant energy exporters and some countries are also a vital source of raw materials for the EU. Such interdependence generates joint challenges such as green growth and corporate social responsibility.

On another dimension, leading Latin American countries have increasing capabilities in areas such as conflict prevention and crisis response, cyber-security, research, science and technology which make them important partners for the EU and a good basis to intensify policy exchanges.

Russia: Developments affecting the EU-Russia relationship require a flexible approach to adapt to changing circumstances.

A strong emphasis is called for in the field of public diplomacy. In this regard, cooperation with civil society organisations will be crucial to improve the understanding of the European Union's interests, values and positions in the Russian Federation, and of the EU's role in our common neighbourhood. More generally, the Partnership Instrument will support projects of EU interest in the context of the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation¹¹, adjusted for the post 2014 political context, like people-to-people contacts, academic cooperation, support for civil society, environment and cross-border cooperation.

Central Asia: The EU has a strong interest in a peaceful, democratic and economically prosperous Central Asia, adhering to human rights and the rule of law. Trans-regional challenges in Central Asia, such as illicit trafficking in human beings and substances, organised crime and terrorism, also affect the EU's interests. These issues are dealt with under various development and cooperation programmes. There is scope to reinforce co-operation with some of the countries in the region, which have significant energy reserves, on energy policy and improved market access, trade and investment conditions, as well as justice and home affairs. Recent political developments in the region indicate more openness and willingness to intensify regional cooperation on the challenges linked with sensitive issues as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation and enhancement of related capacities. The EU needs to make particular efforts to promote its values in the region, including via public diplomacy. Strengthening relations with the Eastern Partners and other

¹¹ COM (2011) 539 final

neighbours, in particular in Central Asia, is one of five guiding principles of the European Union's policy towards Russia.

The Arctic: Developments in the Arctic are of strategic, economic and environmental interest for the European Union. The EU has strong links with the Arctic: not only from the historical, economic and geographical perspective, but also as an importer of natural resources and through its wider concern and responsibility for the global environment. The EU believes it should act responsibly towards the Arctic by promoting environmental protection and sustainable development of the region. The impact of global warming in the Arctic should be addressed. The geopolitical aspect is also crucial: three Member States — Denmark (Greenland), Finland and Sweden — have territories in the Arctic. Two other Arctic states — Iceland and Norway — are members of the European Economic Area (EEA). Canada, Russia and the United States are the main non-EU stakeholders in the area. Japan, China, India and South Korea are also increasingly present in the region and interested in cooperation on Arctic matters in particular as regards research, maritime routes and other economic opportunities that should also be considered in the light of climate change, environment protection (including marine protected areas) and responsible and sustainable use of resources. There is also a need to improve international cooperation in the framework of the Arctic Council.

Gulf countries: The Gulf region includes major, reliable oil and gas suppliers, many of whom have invested heavily in the EU and themselves constitute attractive markets for EU exports. Some of them are beginning to invest in alternative energies for a post-hydrocarbon world. The Gulf countries are also starting to diversify their foreign policies, and are becoming more important as partners for the EU. Areas of common interest include energy security, climate change, environment, promotion of a culture of CBRN safety, security and risk mitigation, research and innovation, digital cooperation, regulatory co-operation, standards, market access, investment, and business development. The current EU Co-operation Agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is supported by a Joint Action Plan agreed at ministerial level. The EU has also been negotiating a trade agreement with the GCC countries. Given the situation in the region, targeted partnerships/dialogue initiatives, public diplomacy and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests in the region are increasingly important.

Iran: Following the signing of the Nuclear Agreement (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)) between EU and Iran and the lifting of the EU sanctions, EU and Iran have stepped up their cooperation in a renewed partnership in a number of areas. A Joint Statement has been endorsed in April 2016, paving the way towards closer collaboration in the areas of energy, transport, environment, science and innovation, migration, culture and others. The Partnership Instrument should support in this regard exchange of good practices, improvement of framework conditions and development of joint projects.

Untapped foreign policy instruments such as science diplomacy could be instrumental in promoting regional cooperation, confidence-building and EU mediation in this region.

Africa: Over recent years, economic growth in Africa has bucked global trends and has been boosted by a growing middle class, inflows of remittances, and foreign direct investment. While tough development challenges remain, these trends look set to continue in the medium term. The EU has invested in reinforcing its political and economic relations with the continent, not least via the African Union. The Joint EU-Africa Strategy aims at enhanced

political dialogue and co-operation beyond traditional development issues, and at building common positions on a range of common interests (including security, climate change, environment, energy, agriculture, migration, transnational organised crime, financial crime, trade and governance, science, technology and innovation, and digital policies).

South Africa is the most important EU Strategic Partner in Africa. An EU-South Africa Strategic Partnership has been established, and an Action Plan adopted for its implementation.

African partners still benefit largely from development cooperation. Nonetheless there are areas, which are in the interest of the EU, which are therefore not covered by such cooperation and hence the Partnership Instrument could intervene, for instance, market access for European companies, supporting Economic Partnership Agreement negotiation, security, attraction of talents/legal paths for migration, access to raw materials or political initiatives to enhance continental or regional security architectures.

Neighbourhood: the EU interest in the Neighbourhood zone is served by dedicated programmes such as European Neighbourhood Initiative (ENI) or the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA). In this part of the world, the Partnership Instrument will be called to intervene occasionally, and only for activities in line with its mandate.

(b) Programming principles

All Partnership Instrument actions, regardless of their nature, are conceived to:

- Add tangible results to the EU's bilateral and regional policy dialogues, strengthening the position of the EU as a credible partner and global actor that delivers;
- Bring coherence and add value to the EU's action internally and externally, including through interconnections between various policy areas and EU interests such as climate/energy or research and innovation, and jobs and growth;
- Underpin multilateralism and the building of partnerships and alliances in a global context, contributing to a global order based on international law. Several of the proposed actions aim to develop common approaches with key partners to influence international processes and agenda;
- Embed building resilience as a key principle of EU external action, as recognised in the Global Strategy, wherever possible;
- Offer avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation with key partners, including so-called graduated countries, also in the future;
- Enable the EU to engage and project its interests and values through public and cultural diplomacy with key target groups in strategic partner countries.

The programming of the Partnership Instrument adheres closely to the purpose and objectives of the instrument as set out in the Regulation itself. Given the changing geo-political and economic context, the Partnership Instrument must remain a flexible instrument to respond rapidly to new demands, and to help articulate and advance the EU's strategic objectives. The current setting combining short term (TAIEX), short to medium term (Policy Support Facility actions) and long term (standalone projects) actions will be maintained.

The Policy Support Facility was created 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 promote European interests. The Policy Support Facility is conceived as a rapid-response tool enabling targeted, flexible and tailor-made short- to medium-term actions. The TAIEX expertise is mainly provided by EU Member States public administration experts, to assist in the legal harmonisation process, provide technical assistance to implementing and enforcement bodies in support of alignment of partner countries towards EU standards, norms and regulatory framework 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. Both the Policy Support Facility and TAIEX proved to be very useful tools in the first years of implementation.

Turning specifically to standalone projects, the wide scope of the Partnership Instrument and its limited resources call for rigorous prioritisation, coordination and complementarity in accordance with the following basic programming principles:

- Clearly link activities to a well-defined EU strategic interest as enshrined in, inter alia, the Global Strategy, the Commission political priorities and other EU overall, regional, country specific or thematic strategies;
- The underlying approach of the Partnership Instrument is the promotion and defence of EU interest and as such it does not address challenges from a development aid perspective. Co-ownership of activities by third parties is recommended, but not a pre-requirement. Demonstrate, through improved external projection of EU policies and a stronger emphasis on the EU's interests, the added value of intervention at EU level, and provide indicators of efficiency, effectiveness and impact. Qualitative and, whenever possible, quantitative indicators will be gathered during the implementation phase, with specific attention paid to the evaluation of the impact of the actions.
- Coordination with the Civil Society Organisations – Local Authorities thematic programme will be ensured at country;
- The need for complementarity with other financing instruments is particularly important for the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)¹², European Development Fund (EDF), European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)¹³ and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)¹⁴;
- Graduated countries, in particular as far as implication of civil society organisations is concerned, notably in trade issues;
- Careful articulation needs to be assured including with the DCI's thematic "Global Public Goods and Challenges" (GPGC) programme. Though the scope of the Partnership Instrument is focussed on advancing and promoting EU and mutual interests, both programmes can effectively enhance the role of the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the new European Consensus on Development. Complementing the objective of poverty eradication and sustainable development of

¹² Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44–76.

¹³ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27–43.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11–26.

the GPGC, the Partnership Instrument will only address global challenges and sustainable growth (e.g. climate change, sustainable management of natural resources, energy, resource efficiency and circular economy, environment, water, social inclusion, decent work, etc.) from the perspective of advancing and promoting EU and mutual interests, where this cannot be done thematically or with sufficient flexibility by the DCI;

- As regards the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)¹⁵ and the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)¹⁶, the Partnership Instrument may act in synergy with them, if appropriate. This is consistent with the formers' legal basis;
- Complementarity will be sought with the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME)¹⁷, specifically the area in Supporting internationalisation and access to markets, as well as the EU promotion programme on information provision and promotion measures concerning agricultural products implemented in the internal market and in third countries¹⁸;
- To increase the impact of the actions aiming at facing the Global Challenges, complementarity and synergies will also be sought with the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020), which is also addressing the research and innovation dimensions of climate change, energy in the framework of Mission Innovation, environment and the circular economy, ocean governance, sustainable urbanisation, health, migration and security;
- Complementarity will also be sought with other internal financing instruments such as the EU Home Affairs Funds (the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund –AMIF and the Internal Security Fund -ISF) and the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020), notably in the fields of health, energy, transport, security and climate;
- Further principles for programming are: maintain a thematic approach (rather than country-focused) to programming in line with the four specific objectives; focus on first identifying EU's interests in the countries of strategic importance to the EU and/or with key partners, and only then, identifying concrete actions to promote them; avoid excessive fragmentation of activities in order to maximise impact; and establish an appropriate degree of flexibility to allow for effective response to changing environments;
- Despite the non-ODA nature of the Partnership Instrument some actions/projects may be categorised as “DAC¹⁹-able” ex post.

Within the 4 main intervention areas (global challenges, the international dimension of Europe 2020, trade & market access, and public & cultural diplomacy) priorities for the Partnership Instrument Multi-annual Indicative Programme for 2018-2020 are:

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 85–94.

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 1–10.

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) no 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) No 1144/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014

¹⁹ Development Assistance Committee (at OECD)

- Trade and economic diplomacy (including Responsible Business Conduct, and responsible taxation);
- Environment, climate and energy (including water, ocean governance, circular economy, urbanisation aspects);
- Peace, security and defence;
- Digital (including cyber security, digital global governance);
- Global health (including Anti-Microbial Resistance).

In each of the different parts of the Multi-annual Indicative Programme the following cross-cutting issues are integrated or mainstreamed:

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

4. Multi-annual Indicative Programme for 2018-2020 – objectives and priorities in the light of the Union's strategic interests

The Partnership Instrument priorities for 2018-20 that have been spelled out above will be translated into concrete actions based upon the four objectives enshrined in the Instrument basic Regulation.

Objective 1: Supporting the Union's bilateral, regional and inter-regional co-operation partnership strategies by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern

1. Main objectives

Effective multilateralism and regional governance

The EU will strive for a strong UN as the bedrock of the multilateral rules-based order and develop globally coordinated responses with international and regional organisations, states and non-state actors. This includes promoting shared interests such as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and international agreements. Across all regions the EU will invest in cooperative relationships to spur shared global responsibilities. The main objective is:

- Project the EU's values, goals and agendas by building alliances, participating or influencing relevant international and regional organisations, states and non-state actors and support the implementation of work programmes of these organisations to achieve progress towards a global rule-based multilateral order.

Climate / Energy Action and Sustainable Urbanisation

Within the frame of the EU policy on climate, the Partnership Instrument takes an active role in underpinning EU supported multilateral initiatives inter alia the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In support of the overall aim of implementing the Paris Agreement on **climate** change, the EU will need to advance co-operation with key players to put a price on carbon in fast-growing middle-income countries, notably through carbon market mechanisms, and to work on encouraging these countries to rapidly implement their commitment to a sustainable clean and low-carbon and climate resilient development. If global greenhouse gas emissions are to be held to a level low enough to avoid catastrophic climate change, it is crucial for the EU to forge alliances with major emitters and other key players in terms of policy development at the domestic level, building financial sector capacity and incentives to invest in low carbon and energy efficient and low-pollution sectors, and supporting long term business co-operation on low carbon solutions. The promotion of clean, secure, affordable and sustainable energy is crucial in these countries. The transition to a low-carbon, low pollution, climate resilient economy boosts economic growth and creates jobs. Cities and local governments are at the forefront of bringing forward sustainable urban development and promoting green and sustainable growth. The Partnership Instrument will actively intervene in these areas.

Objectives on climate:

- Fostering the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other multilateral and regional climate measures amongst major economies and key partner countries, including with regard to mitigation policy instruments, mid-century strategies, monitoring and reporting and adaptation planning. Emerging economies account for a quickly increasing share of global emissions due to their high economic growth and rapid urbanisation;
- Strengthen the policy dialogue on climate change with key partner countries in order to build support for EU objectives in the international climate-related negotiations, to promote best practice and learning in implementation, including in relation to mitigation and adaptation policies, preparation of long-term strategies and monitoring and reporting, and to raise awareness amongst public administrations, private actors and other stakeholders of the need to take climate change into account when elaborating development strategies;
- Foster investment opportunities related to clean, low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient technologies, environmental protection, renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency, nuclear safety and urbanisation partnerships, and of shaping the investment frameworks in and with key countries. The EU has led in innovation and deployment of low emission technologies, which offers considerable possibilities to combine climate change objectives with industrial policy objectives, also the need to strengthen the EU's role in relevant technologies in light of the recent trends in global investments²⁰.

Objectives on energy:

²⁰ See eg renewables' investments: <http://fs-unep-centre.org/publications/global-trends-renewable-energy-investment-2016>

- Support a sustainable global energy transition in close cooperation with the EU's climate diplomacy. In this context strengthen the global understanding of the geopolitical impact of the transition and the integration of energy diplomacy into the EU's overall foreign policy;
- Forge alliances with major emitters and other key players in terms of policy development at the domestic level, building financial sector capacity and incentives to invest in low carbon, low pollution and energy efficient sectors, and supporting long term business co-operation on low carbon solutions;
- Strengthen the EU's resistance to external energy shocks and disruptions by improving global market transparency, easing international market volatility and working towards a functioning and rule-based global energy market, with a focus on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) markets, in bilateral and multilateral settings;
- Continue to support the implementation of the external dimension of EU energy policy, focussing on issues related to energy security such as supply sources and routes.

Objectives on urbanisation:

- To promote and project the EU model of urbanisation to contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11 (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities); to harness the innovation potential of cities to enhance action on global challenges including climate change, energy and circular economy transition, resource efficiency, water, air, land use, and biodiversity loss and ecosystem services;
- Promote and harness synergies to air pollution;
- Promotion of sustainable management of waste in urban areas.

Environment / Water Diplomacy

The EU has a strong commitment to protect the environment and to promote multilateral effective action in this area. The Global Strategy acknowledges that environmental issues exacerbate potential conflict, in light of their impact on desertification, land degradation, and water and food scarcity, and calls upon the EU to invest in its partnerships to enhance environmental resilience and promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and appropriate governance. Under this strategic framework, the Partnership Instrument plays an important role in the protection of the global environment by trying to shape environmental rules in accordance with EU standards as enshrined in internationally agreed principles that the Partnership Instrument actively supports through multilateralism. The Partnership Instrument's approach to environment action covers a wide array of areas, from protection of biodiversity, ecosystems, and promotion of natural capital accounting to cooperation on resource efficiency/circular economy and sustainable and equitable management of natural resources, including water, forests and wildlife, consistent with the broad scope of the 2030 Agenda. Protecting the environment can play a key role in creating jobs, stimulating investment and making Europe more competitive. At the core of Partnership Instrument action, lays the promotion of green innovation and clean technologies thanks to which the EU today has some of the world's highest environmental standards.

Objectives are:

- Promote the EU's position and create convergence of positions at multilateral environmental negotiations on issues such as environmental sustainability, the protection and sustainable management of natural resources (including water, land and soil, forests, wildlife), circular economy, safe management of chemicals, low pollution, ocean governance, water security, and biodiversity and environmental elements of sustainable urban development;
- Foster investments in sustainability and environmental protection, low-carbon, low pollution technologies, clean renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency, nuclear safety and urbanisation partnerships, keeping in mind the EU's economic interests. Strengthen the EU's role and leadership in relevant technologies;
- To promote investment in environment and nature in general, to promote conservation of biodiversity and ecological restoration and building resilience, the development of green infrastructure, nature based-solutions, inclusion of ecosystems and services into decision making, and promoting natural capital accounting and innovative finance for biodiversity and ecosystems in emerging economies;
- To support EU initiatives in the field of water security and diplomacy on the basis of EU policy, such as the Council conclusions on EU Water Diplomacy of 22 July 2013²¹ in order to use water as a catalyst of cooperation instead of a driver of conflict;
- To implement Joint Communication on international governance of the oceans of 10 November 2016. The Communication establishes 14 sets of actions in three priority areas: 1) improving the international ocean governance framework; 2) reducing pressure on oceans and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy; and 3) strengthening international ocean research and data.
- To support the initiatives aiming at strengthening regional ocean governance and the follow-up of ocean-related Agenda 2030 at the regional level
- To protect oceans from anthropogenic pressures (such as over-exploitation, pollution, including plastics and micro-plastics in line with the EU Plastics Strategy²², relevant UNEA resolutions, etc.), from climate change impacts (including sea level rise, oceans' acidification, oceans' warming, deoxygenation), to protect and restore marine biodiversity and build resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems, and of the people who depend on them;
- Reduce the demand, improve international cooperation on enforcement and strengthen international efforts against money laundering and corruption connected to wildlife and timber trafficking²³;
- Support initiatives to address land degradation, deforestation and forest degradation associated with various drivers, in particular illegal logging and agricultural expansion (e.g. related to palm oil production).

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

To support the global transition to a circular economy, the Partnership Instrument will continue to promote a number of key policies, including on resource efficiency, and circular

²¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138253.pdf

²² Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions " A European Strategy For Plastics In A Circular Economy" (COM(2018) 28)

²³ In line with the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade FLEGT Action Plan and the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking

economy, plastics management, sustainable consumption and production, uptake of clean technologies, adoption and implementation of the waste hierarchy and extended producer responsibility schemes, supporting measures for a shift towards a low-carbon and low-pollution economy. The EU's policy dialogues with partner countries²⁴ and relevant regional organisations²⁵ are important fora to promote circular economy policies and to engage in discussions on the benefits of a transition to a global circular economy. The EU delegations in third countries have a key role to play, notably in supporting circular economy initiatives abroad in the context of the EU Economic Diplomacy.

Objectives are:

- Supporting circular economy developments and the transition towards a low carbon, low pollution, resource efficient and circular economy through dedicated actions of EU interest in strategic partners / key regions, including through circular economy platforms;
- Working with international promoters of the circular economy model towards responsible business practices in promoting sustainable consumption and production in third countries;
- Effective and smooth implementation of initiatives such as the integration of sustainability criteria in business models, sustainable production and consumption, prevention, re-use and recycling of waste in a circular economy, and support to the EU Plastics Strategy;
- Supporting countries where the extraction of raw materials is a key component of their economies to promote diversification and an alternative model of sustainable economic development in line with the circular economy model and EU priorities;
- Continuing engaging in the G7, in particular through the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency, to meet the objectives of the *Toyama Framework on Material Cycles* and carrying out the activities identified in the *Bologna Roadmap*;
- Supporting G20 Presidencies in making the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue a success in contributing to the global circular economy transition, in particular by proposing dialogue areas of EU interest;
- Availing of existing and upcoming Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on regulatory cooperation and/or on trade and sustainable development and their implementation structure to engage with partners on the circular economy, in particular concerning trade barriers for environmental goods and services, so as to encourage trade partners to develop policy / legislative frameworks that support the circular economy.

Migration Management and Mobility

The Partnership Instrument supports EU efforts to address migration as a global challenge in line with the EU's European Agenda on Migration and, the Partnership Framework with third

²⁴ The EU has partnership and cooperation agreements (PCAs) with numerous countries in the world. Most of them include elements related to resource efficiency but not on circular economy.

²⁵ For example the ASEAN and the African Union (AU).

countries²⁶, which frame the overarching framework of the EU external migration and asylum policy. Under the Partnership Framework, the EU seeks tailor made partnerships with key third countries of origin and transit using all policies and instruments at the EU's disposal to achieve concrete results on saving lives at sea, increasing returns, enabling migrants and refugees to stay closer to home and, in the long term, helping third countries' development in order to address root causes of irregular migration. In line with the Commission's strategic approach, the Partnership Instrument will underpin the Global Strategy by strengthening cooperation with international partners to ensure shared responsibility and solidarity in response to global migration and by establishing more effective partnerships on migration management with key players.

Objective is:

- Enable migration cooperation with the EU's partners through support to political processes and tools both at bilateral, regional and global levels in the spirit of the Partnership Framework.

Security

The security of the Union is one of the five priorities of the Global Strategy. The Partnership Instrument supports the EU in promoting security by translating into action its commitments and by stepping up its contribution to collective security. The EU takes action on terrorism, cybersecurity, anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing, hybrid threats, economic volatility, climate change and energy security through its toolbox of external action instruments, including the Partnership Instrument.

Objectives are:

- Enhancing the EU's own security by politically supporting regional security initiatives, the participation of the EU in such initiatives, or the participation of external partners in European security initiatives;
- To support preventive measures to protect the financial system from money laundering and terrorist financing and promote transparency of beneficial ownership.

Global Health

The Partnership Instrument underpins the endeavour of the Global Strategy to deliver global public goods and address common challenges. As highlighted in the 2030 Agenda, anti-microbial resistance is recognised as a major European and global challenge as it poses a fundamental threat to human health, development, security, and requires a global response. In this effort, the Partnership Instrument supports the EU to be a responsible global stakeholder through investment in key partnerships.

2 Potential priority actions

Actions and priorities could include:

²⁶ COM (2015) 240; COM(2016)385; COM (2017) 558

- Promote and support cooperative regional orders worldwide to address transnational conflicts, challenges and opportunities;
- To support energy, climate change, urban and environment policy dialogues, initiatives and pilot projects with key partners also in the framework of international bodies and fora to pursue sustainable development and enhance resilience;
- To develop mutually beneficial energy partnerships with key players;
- To accelerate technical and human preparedness of partner countries to fully implement the different commitments of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda in terms of administrative, statistical and policy making capacity;
- To support a number of flagship initiatives such as a “sustainable urbanisation” initiative focusing on sustainable, low carbon and low emission, green and resource and energy efficient growth, sustainable mobility solutions, and sustainable management of water and waste involving major cities in middle income countries, and Clean Energy Centres and/or Clean Technology and Innovation Actions in key partner countries;
- Support for the development of carbon market mechanisms in key partner countries;
- Support for green trade via such initiatives as sustainability schemes, recycling standards, and environmental footprint methodologies;
- To implement the Joint Communication on international governance of the oceans of 10 November 2016. The Communication establishes 14 sets of actions in three priority areas: 1) improving the international ocean governance framework; 2) reducing pressure on oceans and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy; and 3) strengthening international ocean research and data;
- To promote the implementation of international commitments at UN level or under the G7 and G20 processes related to plastic marine litter and microplastics and of the international dimension of the forthcoming EU Plastics Strategy;
- To support initiatives in the field of environment, water security and water diplomacy, in particular by sharing EU experience and know-how, promoting international agreements, integrated sustainable transboundary water management, and enhancing partnerships as well as coordinating and collaborating with EU Member State bilateral programmes;
- Support further development of environmental provisions in trade agreements and their implementation, including new elements, to ensure setting high environmental standards while securing sustainable economic development and to counter possible negative consequences of increased levels in trade;
- Enhance migration and mobility management, especially regarding legal ways of migration/attraction of talents;
- To promote global maritime security in line with the key objectives of the EU Maritime Security Strategy²⁷, as well as relevant regional and sectoral policies, in particular the EU Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa²⁸ and the EU Strategy Gulf of Guinea²⁹;

²⁷ Joint Communication To The European Parliament And The Council For an open and secure global maritime domain: elements for a European Union maritime security strategy /JOIN/2014/09 final

²⁸ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%2016858%202011%20INIT>

²⁹ Joint Communication To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions Elements for the EU's Strategic Response to the Challenges in the Gulf of Guinea JOIN/2013/031 final

- To promote the application of existing international law, norms and confidence building measures in cyberspace as well as disseminating the EU best practices, education and training in cyber security;
- To promote the implementation of the EU action plan on terrorist financing³⁰ and the EU policy to enhance transparency.
- Strengthening resilience of partner countries by enriching sectoral policy dialogue drawing upon the EU's experience in promoting resilience in its domestic policy, and its research base, including critical infrastructure protection, civil protection, economic resilience, employment, and global health risks;
- To increase global health security through the World Health Organisation (WHO) "One Health" approach, support good governance in health globally through the application of International Health Regulations and contribute significantly to the achievement of universal health coverage to address the global threat posed by anti-microbial resistance and preparedness for disease outbreaks with pandemic potential.
- To liaise with existing multi-lateral initiatives and programmes in research and innovation, in particular in health, such as the Global Research Collaboration on Infectious Diseases Preparedness and the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases;
- To feed into the existing Research and Innovation policy dialogues with third countries and regions.

3. Expected outcomes and indicators:

The expected outcome under Objective 1 is that EU bilateral, regional, inter-regional and multilateral cooperation and partnership strategies are enhanced through:

1. Reinforced policy dialogues and/or
2. Collective approaches and responses to challenges of global and/or mutual concern, in particular in the areas of climate change, energy and the protection of the environment, developed/adopted/implemented.

The following indicators will be considered:

- Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced;
- Number of processes related to non-state level partnership/agreements which have been influenced;
- Number of processes related to partner country approaches to challenges of global concern which have been influenced;
- Number of processes related to partner country practices on challenges of global concern which have been influenced;
- Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up to or during regional/international fora which have been influenced.

³⁰ Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament And The Council on an Action Plan for strengthening the fight against terrorist financing COM/2016/050 final

Objective 2 "A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" Implementing the international dimension of "Europe 2020"

1. Main objectives

Responsible Business Conduct and Decent Work

Partnership Instrument actions under this strand underpins the Global Strategy in its endeavour to fight inequality, promote responsible business and champion decent work opportunities, notably for women and youth, and contribute to creating a level playing field. In a world that is facing uncertainties and crises, growth can be stronger, more durable and more resilient through inclusive economies and societies.

Objectives are:

- An enabling environment for innovation, new economic models and inclusive employment, respectful of human and consumers rights is fostered;
- To protect, defend and empower European citizens, especially the most vulnerable, and to work together with relevant players to harness globalisation, reflecting the confluence of EU values with international agreed standards.

Digital Single Market

As envisaged by the Global Strategy, the Partnership Instrument supports the EU as a forward-looking cyber player, protects EU critical assets and values in the digital world, and promotes data protection and a free and secure global Internet. Through the Partnership Instrument, the EU engages in cyber diplomacy with key partners and supports multilateral digital governance and a global cooperation framework on cybersecurity, respecting the free flow of information. Actions are in support of the external dimension of the Commission's Digital Single Market (DSM) Strategy and in line with the Communication on "ICT Standardisation priorities for the DSM" and the recently adopted Communication on "Exchanging and protecting personal data in a globalised world".

Objective is:

- Forward cooperation promoting EU policies to develop the digital economy and society, this includes amongst others promoting digital trade, a high level of personal data protection, secure digital networks for all and ICT standardisation with key partners.

2. Potential priority actions

Specific priorities in line with the above objectives will include policy dialogues, technical assistance, and or bilateral and multilateral initiatives to develop cross-cutting policy

approaches and exchange of best practice (including through training and secondments) in areas within the scope of the Europe 2020 strategy³¹.

Actions and priorities could include:

- Support for the implementation of EU framework agreements and political declarations with key partner countries, with the aim of translating political commitments falling under the remit of the Partnership Instrument Regulation into concrete actions;
- Support the external dimension of the EU Industrial Policy Strategy³² to improve the business environment, notably for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally, in particular by supporting the internationalisation of SMEs;
- Support for comprehensive policy dialogues and possible technical assistance or bilateral/multilateral initiatives on employment and inclusive growth aimed at strengthening social cohesion, decent work and social protection;
- Support for multilateral and bilateral initiatives to develop cross-cutting policy approaches and exchange of best practice in the area of gender equality, with a particular focus on promoting female labour market participation, tackling the gender pay gap, enhancing gender balance in company boards, and combatting violence against women;
- Support for the accession to and implementation of multilateral agreements on civil judicial cooperation, private international law and personal data protection;
- Support for the international dimension of the EU's Digital Policy Agenda³³ with key partner countries by promoting the EU values on the internet governance and by working with third countries to improve international trade conditions for digital goods and services, including with regard to intellectual property rights;
- Support the international dimension of Digital Single Market priority with particular emphases on connectivity and interoperability, standards, cybersecurity, Cloud, digitalisation of industry and Internet of things, eGovernment and eSkills component;
- Support for comprehensive policy dialogues, technical assistance and / or capacity-building initiatives, including support for bilateral/multilateral initiatives, for instance aimed at facilitating data flows while ensuring a high level of data protection;
- Support for comprehensive policy dialogues on research and innovation with key partners and regions, including facilitating the implementation of political commitments with regard to the development of knowledge-based co-operation and the export of EU know-how and policy advice in the field of regional (sub-national) innovation and smart specialisation strategies.

3. Expected outcomes and indicators

³¹ EUROPE 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth /* COM/2010/2020 final

³² President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union Address 2017

³³ Communication From The Commission To The European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic And Social Committee And The Committee Of The Regions "A Digital Agenda For Europe" (COM(2010) 245)

The expected outcome under Objective 2 is that approaches and practices beneficial to the achievement of EU 2020 strategy are taken up in partner countries.

The following indicators will be considered:

- Number of processes related to partner country approaches beneficial to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy which have been influenced;
- Number of processes related to partner country practices beneficial to the achievement of Europe 2020 strategy which have been influenced.

<p>Objective 3: Improving access to third country markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for European companies (including SMEs) by means of economic partnerships, business and regulatory co-operation</p>
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Inter alia, the Partnership Instrument's interventions support the negotiation and implementation of EU trade agreements and contribute to the creation of a level playing field to boost competitiveness of EU businesses abroad, especially SMEs, by promoting transparency and fair competition. It is an important tool in achieving the objectives set out in the trade and investment policy strategic Communication "Trade for All"³⁴ as well as the Communication on "A Balanced and Progressive Trade Policy to Harness Globalisation"³⁵.

1. Main objectives

Support for the implementation and negotiation of EU trade and investment agreements

While new trade negotiations are essential to prepare for the future, an effective way to boost the contribution of trade to growth in the short term is to ensure adequate implementation of the EU's existing trade and investment agreements, and robust enforcement of the EU's rights under current rules. Proper enforcement of trade rules under bilateral and multilateral agreements is an indispensable pillar of trade policy. It ensures that trade and investment agreements on paper can be translated into concrete results for people and companies on the ground. This is particularly relevant for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs), which need particular help in taking full advantage of the opportunities arising from EU trade and investment agreements.

Objectives are:

- To support the systematic implementation and possible updating of all trade and investment agreements by the EU's partners. The effective functioning of specific FTA and investment provisions and the achievement of the policy objectives incorporated

³⁴ COM(2015)497 of 14 October 2015

³⁵ COM(2017)492 of 14 September 2017

therein serves the overall EU interest, while proper implementation of bilateral agreements is also in the interest of the EU's partners;

- To support specific aspects of the EU's ongoing bilateral trade and investment negotiations with partner countries;
- To support the anchoring of emerging economies into the global trading system. Like other advanced economies, the EU is more open to trade than its emerging partners. The ultimate objective is to rebalance the current asymmetry and to bring the emerging economies to the EU's level of openness, thus promoting a more level playing field.

Regulatory co-operation, standards, market access, investment, and business development

The EU's ability to benefit from emerging markets will be an important benchmark of the contribution made by trade to jobs and growth in Europe. The EU stands to gain from an active trade policy vis-à-vis emerging economies, where there are both significant growth prospects and much potential for further trade opening.

Objectives are:

- To support market access for EU products and services in global markets and strengthen the presence of European companies and their access to third country markets, especially for SMEs;
- Improve the EU's capacity to tackle barriers which block trade and investment by EU businesses and undermine innovation. This includes the promotion of regulatory convergence to help reduce non-tariff barriers faced by European companies;
- To promote the development at the global level of international standards based on EU standards. This includes the development of fair tax competition as outlined in the Communication on an External Strategy for Effective Taxation³⁶;
- To promote raw materials diplomacy based on strategic partnerships, policy dialogues and structured relations with key partners and stakeholders.³⁷

Furthermore, as underlined in the Global Strategy, sustainable access to global commons through open sea, land, air and space routes is essential to advance shared prosperity. EU policy seeks to promote and support transport systems that meet the major challenges of ever more mobile societies. At the same time, transport is a major contributor to the EU economy and sustains over 11 million jobs in Europe. The inter-linkage between the promotion of transport policies that are efficient, safe, secure and sustainable and the creation of conditions for a competitive industry that generates jobs and prosperity are key to Partnership Instrument interventions in this sector.

Objectives are:

- Ensure access to foreign markets (transport and aviation);

³⁶ COM(2016) 24 final of 28 January 2016

³⁷ Including in the framework of the 2014 Joint Commission/HRVP Communication on 'Responsible sourcing of minerals originating in conflict-affected and high-risk areas: towards an integrated EU approach', COM (2014) 111.

- Support open-skies negotiations and agreements;

2. Potential priority actions

Actions and priorities could include:

- Support for actions ensuring the proper take-up of trade agreements by major trading partners;
- Support for the implementation of trade and investment agreements which have already been concluded;
- Support for awareness-raising and coalition-building in partner countries to address particular stumbling blocks in a given negotiation and counterweight possible protectionist policies.
- Support for trade facilitation measures agreed in international fora such as the WTO, or in regional or bilateral agreements, including on issues of transparency and public procurement;
- Identification of economic sectors, including public procurement, that would most benefit from liberalization of trade in goods and services, as well as the analysis of their economic impact;
- Support for the reinforcement of EU Market Access Teams (MAT), in particular in countries identified in the Commission's Trade and Investment Barriers Report;
- Delivery of up-to-date and specialized information in the areas prioritised for the policy dialogues, on a complementary basis with the work carried out by EU Chambers of Commerce and Trade promotion agencies;
- Targeted, value-added business support programmes in particularly challenging markets, especially in Asia and Latin America. These programmes will, where appropriate, take into account and make best use of the structures of the Enterprise Europe Network, already established by the Commission in Europe and in many third country markets under the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) programme;
- Support for actions to promote and facilitate effective implementation of provisions under the Sustainable Development Chapters of the EU trade and investment agreements;
- Support for specific technical studies aimed at better understanding the scope of partner countries' legislation and markets, and defining ways to reinforce their compatibility/alignment with international and EU standards;
- Support for actions focussing on: convergence/alignment with the EU's standards in areas such as environment, energy, resource efficiency, agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, sanitary & phytosanitary standards, customs cooperation, removing technical and "invisible" barriers, promoting the use of European technology and developing an attractive investment climate for EU companies;
- Awareness-raising and capacity-building support for the establishment and enforcement of appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks in such areas as Intellectual Property Rights, competition policy and state aid;
- Targeted, value-added business support programmes in particularly challenging markets, especially in Asia and Latin America. These programmes will, where appropriate, take into account and make best use of the structures of the Enterprise

Europe Network, already established by the Commission in Europe and in many third country markets under the COSME programme.

3. Expected outcomes and indicators

The expected outcome under Objective 3 is that conditions for accessing partner country markets are improved.

The following indicators will be considered:

- Number of processes related to the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries which have been advanced;
- Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business which have been influenced;
- Number of processes related to the removal of barriers to market access, investment and business which have been influenced;
- Change in EU companies' perceptions of the business, trade and investment climate in partner countries.

Objective 4: Enhancing widespread understanding and visibility of the Union and its role on the world scene
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Public and Cultural Diplomacy

As the Global Strategy notes we live today in a more connected, complex and contested world. It follows that the way the EU engages with citizens in third countries needs to adapt. Public Diplomacy under the Partnership Instrument supports the implementation of EU Foreign Policy objectives by strengthening the EU's ability to engage meaningfully with selected audiences in third countries (i.e. students/academics, multipliers/influencers, civil society and cultural operators/artists) in order to increase mutual understanding, improve the perception of the EU and of its policies and, ultimately, facilitate future cooperation.

The implementation of Public Diplomacy activities follows the structured approach adopted by the Commission services and the EEAS and is based on four strands which allow engaging with key target groups including: Academics & students (via strand 1: Jean Monnet Centres, Networks, Projects, Modules, Chairs); Policymakers, multipliers and influencers (via strand 2: Policy and Outreach Partnership), Civil society (via strand 3: Civil society Engagement), and Cultural operators and stakeholders (via strand 4: Cultural Diplomacy).

1. Main objectives

Education/academic co-operation

Education and training are vital for innovation, productivity and growth. Enhancing cooperation in higher education is achieved as follows:

- Erasmus + international credit mobility and joint masters: to support 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 + Jean Monnet activities: research and debate are funded under Erasmus+ by promoting teaching to increase knowledge about European integration in strategic countries,. The streamlining of EU's academic outreach in the field of EU affairs through the Jean Monnet programme will reinforce the dialogue between academics, students and decision makers in the EU and abroad and will increase widespread understanding and visibility of the EU and its role on the world scene.

Objectives are:

- To engage with partner countries across the world in order to promote the EU's values and expertise via policy dialogue, mobility for students, researchers and academic staff leading to academic recognition, internationalisation of higher education, and enhancement of higher education quality;
- To enhance the attractiveness and excellence of EU higher education through peer learning and exchange of good practice.

Public diplomacy and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests

In order to promote the EU's interests in line with the objectives of the Partnership Instrument, the EU will need to make co-ordinated and targeted use of the tools of advocacy and public persuasion. This work needs to be inspired by the promotion of EU values based on contributing worldwide to the delivery of peace, security and prosperity.

To be effective, public diplomacy and outreach activities must make full use of the EU's network of Delegations and be implemented in close co-ordination with the EU's Member States. These efforts should target not just policy-makers and the media, but also think-tanks, academia, opinion-formers, legislators, the business community, and the general public. Civil society can also be an important vector for public diplomacy and the implementation of the Partnership Instrument will take it into account. Full use should be made not only of traditional means such as publications, seminars and conferences, but increasingly also the internet and social media platforms. One size does not fit all, and public diplomacy and outreach activities will also have to be tailored to the specifics of the audience concerned in each relevant partner country. Cultural diplomacy is also a core element of public diplomacy. The expediency of culture as a tool for persuasion through attraction and as a common ground for dialogue is now widely recognised and deserves more attention in the framework of public diplomacy. It has been recognised as an important area of engagement in the Global Strategy.

Objectives are:

- Promoting the EU as a major and reliable partner in supporting human rights, democracy, good governance, the rule of law and a rules-based global and multilateral order;
- Promoting the EU as a global economic power responding to the crisis;
- Promoting the EU as a major partner in tackling global challenges such as climate change, energy security, migration and global security threats;
- Promoting the EU as an attractive destination for investment, education and tourism;

- Promoting the EU as a forward looking, innovative and creative power/actor;
- Promoting the EU as a partner in cultural activities, in the perspective of supporting cultural diversity, inter-cultural dialogue, multilingualism, the protection of cultural heritage and cultural rights and the promotion of the use of culture as a tool for the consolidation of societies.

2 Potential priority actions

Actions and priorities could include:

- To promote the international dimension of higher education, Partnership Instrument funds will be channelled to the “Erasmus +” programme to fund learning mobility of students, doctoral candidates and staff;
- To promote, through such mobility, transparency, mutual recognition of qualifications and periods of study, research and training, and portability of credits, as well as improving mutual understanding of issues relevant to relations between the EU and the partner countries;
- Targeted public diplomacy and outreach initiatives in support of the other objectives of the Partnership Instrument, especially green and climate change diplomacy and human rights diplomacy;
- Targeted support for people-to-people initiatives which improve mutual understanding between key constituencies in the EU and selected partner countries;
- Support for cultural diplomacy and international cultural relations as part of or in coherence with broader public diplomacy activities, in synergy with the activities of EU Member States, including their national cultural institutes, in particular where it is based on political commitments taken with key partner countries;
- Intensified public and cultural diplomacy efforts to expand partnerships with third countries beyond government and improve understanding and visibility of EU's actions.
- Development, support, and mobilisation of networks of non-governmental stakeholders (e.g. business leaders, academics, civil society leaders, young leaders, ex-alumni networks, etc.) in support of the EU's agenda in third countries;
- Support for educational programmes (e.g. Model EU, competitions, curricular development, teacher training, etc.) and initiatives to inform young people about the European Union;
- Support the interchange of the audio-visual and media sector with third countries.

3. Expected outcomes and indicators.

The expected outcome under Objective 4 is that the understanding and visibility of the EU and of its role on the world scene is enhanced and widened.

The following indicators will be considered:

- Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge a positive change in their perception of the EU and/or international policies and standards;

- Percentage of participants targeted by outreach and advocacy events who acknowledge having engaged further on the topic on their own initiative as a result of their exposure to the events;
- Number of articles published in media as a result of an event.

5. Reserve of un-programmed funds

The Partnership Instrument Regulation provides that a reserve for unallocated funds may be established in the multi-annual indicative programmes. This reserve will allow to respond in an effective and prompt manner to evolving policy developments in its relations with partner countries, or to react to unforeseen circumstances/needs as they arise.

Out of an overall budget for 2014-2020 of EUR 922.2 million, EUR 48.2 million was set aside as reserve. For the remaining period of the MFF, EUR 20 million is maintained as reserve.

6. – Indicative financial allocations 2014-2020

The indicative financial allocations for the period 2014-2020 are mentioned below. The first table contains the initial figures for 2014-20 while figures in brackets show funds used during the period 2014-2017. The second table contains the revised figures for the period 2014-20.

Original MIP + actual consumption	Global challenges	International dimension of Europe 2020	Trade & market access		Public & cultural diplomacy		Total per region
	Energy security, climate change, environment, urbanisation	Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	Standards, market access, investment, business development	Support for the implementation and negotiation of EU trade and investment agreements	Education/academic co-operation	Public diplomacy	
Asia & the Pacific	142 (76.6)	68 (41.7)	75 (63.3)	45 (20.9)	35 (21.2)	35 (10.4)	400 (232.9)
Americas	126 (46.9)	60 (31.6)	55 (8.0)	25 (6.6)	33 (20)	29 (14.2)	328 (131.3)
Russia, Central Asia and the Arctic	51 (1.5)	10 (0.0)	20 (0.0)	5 (0.0)	14 (8.5)	19 (5.6)	119 (11.1)
Gulf countries	12 (3.6)	3 (3.0)	2 (0.0)	2 (0.0)	6 (1.8)	2 (0.0)	27 (7.9)
Multicountry/Multilateral/Global	0 (50.8)	0 (9.0)	0 (0.0)	n/a (14.2)	0	n/a (22.2)	0 (96.2)
Total per priority	331 (179.4)	141 (85.3)	152 (71.3)	77 (41.7)	88 (51.5)	85 (52.4)	874 (481.6)
Total per objective	331 (179.4)	141 (85.3)	229 (113.0)		173 (101.6)		874 (481.6)
Reserve							48.2
Total operational appropriations							922.2
Total administrative support							38.2

New proposed MIP	Global challenges	International dimension of Europe 2020	Trade & market access		Public & cultural diplomacy		Total per region
	Energy security, climate change, environment, urbanisation	Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	Standards, market access, investment, business development	Support for the implementation and negotiation of EU trade and investment agreements	Education/academic co-operation	Public diplomacy	
Asia & the Pacific	128	68	89	45	35	25	390
Americas	100	60	30	20	36	35	281
Russia, Central Asia and the Arctic	10	2	5	2	14	15	48
Gulf countries	8.6	4	2	2	4.4	2	23
Multicountry/Multilateral/Global	80	13	5	27	0	35	160
Total per priority	328	147	131	96	89.4	112	902
Total per objective	326.6	147	227		201.4		902
Reserve							20.2
Total operational appropriations							922.2
Total administrative support							38.2
Grand total PI – MIP 2014-2020							960.4