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## THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

## **ANNEX II**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2023

## Action Document to enhance EU capabilities for Early Warning and conflict analysis

#### ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

## 1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title	Enhance EU Capabilities for Early Warning and Conflict Analysis			
CRIS/OPSYS	OPSYS number: ACT-61695; JAD 1158009.			
business reference Basic Act	Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation			
2. Team Europe Initiative	No			
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in globally.			
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027			
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 1: Continuing to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms to better detect early signs of conflicts, monitor conflict and design appropriate responses			
	PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION			
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Peace, Stability, Conflict Prevention			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 16 Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15220 Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	918 EU Institutions 1000 International non-governmental organisations (NGO) 41000 United Nations Agency, Fund or Commission (UN)			

9. Targets	☐ Migration					
	☐ Climate					
	☐ Social inclusion and Human Development					
	⊠ Gender					
	☐ Biodiversity					
	☐ Education					
	☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance					
10. Markers	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective		
(from DAC form)	Participation development/good governance			$\boxtimes$		
	Aid to environment @	$\boxtimes$				
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment		$\boxtimes$			
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health					
	Disaster Risk Reduction @		$\boxtimes$			
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	$\boxtimes$				
	Nutrition @	$\boxtimes$				
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective		
	Biological diversity @	$\boxtimes$				
	Combat desertification @	$\boxtimes$				
	Climate change mitigation @	$\boxtimes$				
	Climate change adaptation @		$\boxtimes$			
11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective		
	Digitalisation @	$\boxtimes$				
		YES	NO	/		
	digital connectivity		$\boxtimes$			
	digital governance		$\boxtimes$			
	digital entrepreneurship		$\boxtimes$			
	digital skills/literacy		$\boxtimes$			
	digital services		$\boxtimes$			
	Connectivity @					
		YES	NO	/		
	digital connectivity		$\boxtimes$			
	energy		$\boxtimes$			
	transport		$\boxtimes$			
	health		$\boxtimes$			

	education and research			
	Migration @		$\boxtimes$	
	Reduction of Inequalities @		$\boxtimes$	
	Covid-19		$\boxtimes$	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s): BGUE – B2023-14.020230-C1 – STABILITY AND PEACE			
	Total estimated cost: EUR 2 700 000			
	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 700 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Service level Agreement (Administrative Arrangment) with the European Commission Joint Research Centre of the European Commission			
	Direct management through grants			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

As a global actor, the EU promotes prevention and resolution of conflicts as a means to support peace and prosperity around the world. Effective conflict prevention and resolution rely upon a sound understanding of conflict situations and drivers. For this reason, the EU promotes the use of early warning and conflict analysis, notably in fragile and conflict-affected countries, to inform its decision-making and its programming.

This Action aims to strengthen risk awareness of the EU, as well as the international community and third country local stakeholders, engaged in issues related to conflict prevention and peace, in particular enhancing the capacity to prevent the emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict by strengthening the translation of early warning systems and conflict analysis into early action and response. This will be achieved by providing policy makers with scientific and technical analysis on the basis of independent data, that will provide situational awareness and early warning that can inform EU policies and actions. Additionally, support to in-country analytical capacities and tools to detect, monitor, analyse and respond to conflict risks will also be included in this Action.

The Action will have a global scope with a focus specifically on countries at risk of emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict.

## 2 RATIONALE

#### 2.1 Context

Preserving peace, preventing conflict and strengthening international security is part of the EU core mandate, as set out in Article 21 of the Treaty of the European Union. In line with this and with the European Commission's priority for a Stronger Europe in the World, the EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) contributes to preserving peace, preventing conflicts and strengthening international security.

Early warning and conflict analysis are important tools that inform EU decision-makers, facilitate a common understanding of the crises among all EU actors and enhance identification of the range of options for EU action. Thereby early warning and conflict analysis can make EU diplomacy, missions and development cooperation more relevant, more effective and potentially more influential.

The EU Conflict Early Warning System (EWS) <sup>1</sup>, first rolled-out in 2014, is a robust risk management tool that identifies, assesses and helps to prioritise situations at risk of violent conflict in non-EU countries. While it is hardly possible to predict the moment in which a conflict will break out, analysing the structural causes and monitoring important developments can help the EU better anticipate and prepare for potential future events. The EWS relies on evidence-based quantitative and qualitative risk factors, e.g. an economic shock or shrinking political space. It works with a time horizon of four years. The Global Conflict Risk Index (GCRI) provides the quantitative basis for the EWS, with a complementary short-term conflict anticipation model. Ultimately, the system supports the identification of conflict prevention and peace building opportunities.

Another feature of the EU conflict analysis and early warning set up is the Horizon Scanning, which takes stock and warns about situations of political instability, increased conflict risks or looming crises in third countries with a six-month time horizon with the aim of complementing the EU conflict Early Warning System, which is based on structural conflict risks on a longer term basis. The Horizon Scanning combines quantitative input, such as event data, qualitative reports and expert input.

The 2020 Guidance Note on the Use of Conflict Analysis in Support of EU External Action<sup>2</sup> introduces the key principles and the standards of conflict analysis, the official EU definition of conflict sensitivity and presents the methodology for conducting a comprehensive EU-led conflict analysis. As a response to the NDICI-Global Europe requirement for conflict analysis in fragile and conflict-affected countries to promote conflict sensitive programming, approximately 61 conflict analysis screenings are scheduled for 2020-2023. As of January 2023, 33 Conflict Analysis Screening (CAS) exercises have been concluded and validated, and another 18 screenings are ongoing. In the course of 2023, the remaining ten CAS will start.

Putting the needs and perceptions of local populations at the centre of conflict analysis is a key priority for reliable conflict analysis. Gathering and analysis of perception data will also form part of this action.

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

Early warning on conflict can allow for preventative action before a conflict or tensions erupt. Early and preventative action can prevent suffering and it is more cost efficient than actions in response to crisis that have already erupted. Likewise, sound conflict analysis makes it more likely that responses to conflict will have an impact. Early warning and conflict analysis are essential for the EU to i) shape conflict prevention and conflict resolution efforts; ii) ensure effective and conflict-sensitive engagement in countries at risk of violent conflict; and iii) strengthen coherence and coordination of its actions.

The GCRI plays a central role in the EU conflict EWS, the initial system was only updated once every year, whereas policy-makers often need more frequent and up-to-date risk assessments. The model also focused on the country level and did not indicate where within a country the risk of conflict was the highest. This represented a challenge as most conflicts do not affect entire countries but are limited to certain regions. Likewise, conflicts are often the result of specific local conditions that can be difficult to measure at the national level. Thirdly, the GCRI focused mostly on 'slow-moving' structural variables - such as population or democracy, which are important to assess a country's underlying risk, but are less useful to detect short-term changes in conflict risk. For these reasons, a Dynamic Conflict Risk Model (DCRM) should be further experimented to complement the existing GCRI model's early warning capacity. The new model estimates conflict risk at the sub-national level over the next 1-6 months.

Translating early warning information or conflict analysis recommendations into early actionable policy responses (political and supported by EU external action instruments) informed by local analysis and perspectives remains key to an effective EU foreign policy. Access to scientific and technical analysis, as well as to independent data for situational awareness and early warning is an important asset for the EU. Similarly, support to in-country capacities and tools to detect, monitor, analyse and respond to conflict risks and perceptions can be instrumental in designing timely and appropriate responses. The understanding of local populations' perception of security and insecurity factors can be particularly useful in this regard and allow for the adjustment of activities in a timely manner and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/guidance\_note\_on\_eu\_conflict\_analysis\_final\_-280421.pdf

improve the planning of future interventions.

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

EU institutions - EU policy-makers and institutions including the European Commission, European Parliament, EEAS, and EU Member States will benefit from a strengthening of the global risk awareness for those engaged in issues related to conflict prevention and peace.

National and local civil society actors, as partners of direct beneficiaries: they have extensive networks with local communities, local and national authorities that allow them to detect early signs of conflict at local, regional, national level and analyse conflict dynamics. They are therefore key partners in conflict analysis and early warning.

The final beneficiaries are the populations of countries at risk of or affected by conflict or on post-conflict situation.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

## 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to enhance the EU's ability to preserve peace, prevent conflict and strengthen international security through an enhanced capacity to detect early signs of conflict and to be better equipped to develop options for prevention and response to conflicts.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

- 1. Further develop the EU crisis preparedness and response, notably through the production of the Global Conflict Risk Index and crisis mapping;
- 2. Improve access to data, especially from local sources, for situational awareness and early warning and to gain knowledge, more skills and tools to detect, analyse and monitor risks of conflict and to inform EU early action and prevention.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- 1. Contributing to Specific Objective 1:
- 1.1 EU policy makers have access to timely and relevant early warning data and conflict analysis tools based on scientific and technical analysis;
- 1.2 EU policy makers are better informed and equipped for managing and mitigating risks of violent conflicts, leading to timely prioritisation of resources and preventive responses.
- 2. Contributing to Specific Objective 2:
- 2.1 EU policy makers have access to data, including local perceptions, to detect, monitor, analyse and respond to conflict risks;
- 2.2 Increased knowledge and availability of new tool(s).

#### 3.2 Indicative Activities

Indicative activities related to specific objective 1

Output 1.1:

- Regular updates and enhancement of the Global Conflict Risk Index;
- Development of a dynamic conflict modelling;

#### Output 1.2:

- Maintenance and development of a user-friendly web-depository for the analysis produced: the Science for Peace Portal:
- Crisis and security monitoring mapping and management of a geospatial catalogue of crisis maps.

Indicative activities related to specific objective 2

#### Output 2:

• Organisation, collection and analysis of data, including local perception, from conflict affected region(s);

## 3.3 Mainstreaming

## **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

The relationship between climate change, environmental degradation, and conflict is recognised as being complex and multi-layered. On one side, the effects of climate change can cause sudden and unplanned movements of people, which then can cause competition over the use and availability of resources, use of land and housing. On the other side, environmental degradation, including biodiversity loss, pollution, and natural resources depletion, can exacerbate tensions in fragile contexts. Vice-versa, conflicts often create displacements (both internally as well as across borders), which can put the environment and limited natural resources under stress. Indicators related to the effects of climate change have been recently introduced in conflict analysis methodologies. This action will support the EU integrating this further into its conflict analysis and prevention work.

#### Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. The Action will include gender and inclusion as mainstreamed elements in the analysis. It will consider the role of women in conflict prevention. The Action will gather data around violence targeting women and girls and analysis of the impact that sexual and gender-based violence can have during conflict and, more broadly, during political violence.

## **Human Rights**

Conflict represent a significant challenge to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Violations of human rights are often considered as indicators of potential risks of conflict. Moreover, violation of human rights themselves can be a conflict trigger. The Action will rely on the international human rights framework as reference framework for all types of analyses.

## **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that project activities should aim to tackle challenges relating to disability and enhance the participation of people with disabilities when appropriate and relevant for the objectives of each project.

## **Reduction of inequalities**

The Action will include analysis on how the socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, households or groups are impacted specifically by conflict and, more broadly, during political violence. It will also consider the resilient and strategies that the poorest groups developed to deal with violent conflits as well as the role that poor households can have in conflict prevention.

#### **Democracy**

The Treaty of the European Union recognises that in its relation with the wider world, the EU shall uphold and promote its values, including democracy, human rights and rule of law. The EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy and the European Consensus on Development recognise the importance of ensuring that the EU's

external action is conflict sensitive, especially in fragile contexts. It also confirms that exclusion, inequality, impunity and absence of the rule of law are primary drivers of conflict.

## Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action will contribute to enhance the capacity of both the EU and its partners to carry out conflict analysis in a robust, timely and inclusive way and to integrate the results and recommendations of this analysis into programming and policy and political dialogue. Conflict analysis needs to inform conflict sensitive programming. It is crucial to understand the context of intervention to maximise positive impacts and minimise potentially negative impacts,. Besides identifying weaknesses, conflict sensitive approaches look for entry points to strengthen resilience. The Action will be implemented through a Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus approach, ensuring coordination, coherence and collaboration in order to reduce overall vulnerability of unmet needs, strengthen risk management capacities, build resilence and address root causes of conflict.

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Data related to natural disaster will be taken into consideration by implementing partners in their analyses.

#### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks  The security and	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures  Flexibility will be embedded in the design
	political situation in selected countries deteriorates and local partners are not allowed or not able to carry out conflict analysis without risks to people's lives.	172		of the action so that sufficient levels of analysis can still take place regardless of the security situation. Partner organisations will regularly assess risks and will build in the necessary contingency plans as well as the necessary coping measures to ensure effective and timely implementation.
4	Partner organisations will not have access to data and will therefore struggle to produce relevant analyses.	M	Н	Coping measures will be in place to keep access to quality data, notably with secure remote access technologies. Partner organisations will be selected according to their presence in the field and/or their access to relevant networks.
2	A high number of analysis are produced duplicating analyses and developing multiple and potentially contradictory messages.	L	M	Partner organisations will fully assess the operational context and which synergies can be built with other organisations operating in or on the same country/context, especially local partners who can be associated to activities.

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

Conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity have become essential elements of the EU's external action. One of the

recommendations of the external evaluation of the EU's Support to Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding 2013-2018³ was for the EU to develop conflict sensitivity in a more proactive way and to embed it more deeply into its external action. The EU structural risk assessments of conflict rely notably on the capacity to access systematically quantitative data on political violence and disorder in real-time around the globe to develop technical and scientific analysis.

The technical and scientific analysis can be complemented with inputs provided, for example by local civil society organisations, to better aligning conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches with the needs and perceptions of the local populations. This will allow the EU to better capture different perspectives on existing or emerging crises and conflicts, and therby, to develop better responses.

## 3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is the following:

IF the EU early warning system relies on strong scientific and technical analysis as well as granular local information,

THEN the EU will have better capabilities to detect early signs of conflict AND will be able to better develop options for prevention and early response to conflicts.

This is BECAUSE EU policy makers have access to better informed and equipped to manage prevention of and/or responses to violent conflicts, leading to more effective responses and deployment of resources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/external-evaluation-eus-support-conflict-prevention-and-peacebuilding-2013-2018">https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/external-evaluation-eus-support-conflict-prevention-and-peacebuilding-2013-2018</a> en

# 3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To enhance the EU's capacity to detect early signs of conflict and to be better equipped to develop options for prevention and response to conflicts.	The intervention contributed to a multilateral approach to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and stabilisation in the given context of the action (Y/N)  The intervention minimised risks and maximised positive outcomes on peace and security (Y/N)  Number of persons directly benefiting from the intervention (M/W/B/G)			Final report(s)	Not applicable
Outcome 1	Provide scientific and technical support to the EU crisis preparedness and response notably through the production of the Global Conflict Risk Index and crisis mapping	Number of products released  Number of products consulted in the Science for Peace Portal	To be defined	To be defined	Final report(s)	Continuous political buy-in and engagement of the EU policy-makers, as well as local and global partners, in conflict early warning
Outcome 2	Provide EU policy-makers with access to data, especially from local sources, for situational awareness and early warning and to gain knowledge, more skills and tools to detect, analyse and monitor risks of conflict and to inform EU early action and prevention.	Number of data sets available  Number of data analysis used	To be defined	To be defined	Final report(s)	Continuous commitment and engagement of local, national and international stakeholders, in particular EU policy-makers, in conflict early warning related activities.

Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	EU policy makers have access to timely and relevant early warning and conflict analysis tools based on scientific and technical analysis.	Number of Conflict Indicators Table Number of Composite Indicators and Country Profiles for the 138 countries of the GCRI. Number of Regional Risk Tables based on the updated GCRI.	To be defined	To be defined	Final report(s)	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	EU policy makers are better informed and equipped for managing risks of violent conflicts, leading to timely prioritisation of resources and preventive responses.	Number of days in producing the products Number of map products and atlases available through authenticated access to the Science for Peace (S4P) portal.  Number of training on the Science for Peace Portal to different audiences.	To be defined	To be defined	Final report(s)	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	EU policy makers have access to data, including local perceptions, to detect, monitor, analyse and respond to conflict risks	Number of analysis with local-level sources produced	To be defined	To be defined	Final report(s)	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	Increased knowledge and new tools are available.	Number of sentiment data analysis  Number of access and downloads of data  Number of Knowledge Management workshop organised	To be defined	To be defined	Final report(s)	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

## 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country /territory.

## 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of the adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

## 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

## 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

## **Grants: (direct management)**

#### (a) Purpose of the grants

The grants will contribute to achieving specific objectives indicated in section 3.

#### (b) Type of applicants targeted

The type of applicants targeted for these direct awards are non-governmental and not for profit organisations.

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

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to non-governmental and not for profit organisations selected using the following criteria: high-quality data capture based on a rigorous methodology, including track record of data gathering, experience in supporting of locally based analysts, capacity to access, disseminate and analysise data from and to different sources.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action requires specific technical competence, specialisation and expertise in conflict and risk data analysis as well as global and local resources in this field, as per article 195, paragraph f) of the Financial Regulation.

#### (d) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

The Commission authorises that the costs incurred may be recognised as eligible as of 1 March 2023 to avoid disruption of the provision of key data for conflict analysis.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case the selection of implementing partners as per the criteria and conditions set out above might not prove successful, changes from direct to indirect management mode will provide the possibility to identify other types of applicants according to the same criteria. Specific expertise on peace and security, data collection and conflict analysis will be used as identification criteria to identify partners for either direct or indirect management.

#### 4.3.3 Other actions or expenditure

Part of this action may be implemented through a Service Level Agreement with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in order to mobilise its expertise for the further development and maintenance of the Global Conflict Risk Index, its dynamic modelling, as a scientific tool and the production of crisis maps.

## 4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

## 4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)		
Specific Objective 1: Provision of scientific and technical support to the EU crisis preparedness and response through the production of the Global Conflict Risk Index and crisis mapping			
Other expenditure: Service Level Agreement (Administrative Arrangement with the JRC) – cf. section 4.3.3	1 700 000		
Specific Objective 2: Provision of data, especially from local sources, for EU situational awareness and early warning and to gain knowledge, and tools to detect, analyse and monitor risks of conflict and to inform EU early action and prevention			
Direct management with grants cf. section 4.3.1	1 000 000		
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	May be covered by another Decision		
Totals	2 700 000		

#### 4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The action is managed by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) as contracting authority, in collaboration with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant EU Delegations. In order to promote synergies with other actions, other relevant Commission services and the EEAS will be regularly updated.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

## 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Selected implementing partners will be responsible to collect, analyse and monitor data based on a monitoring and evaluation plan developed prior to the start of the implementation of activities. The monitoring and implementation plan will include a baseline assessment of performance indicators. Indicator values will be measured on a country-by-country and on an aggregated basis.

#### 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

#### 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies,

international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are **in principle** no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead-be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

## Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options);

Act	Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)					
$\boxtimes$	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action				
Gre	oup of actions level (i.	e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)				
	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):				
Con	ntract level					
	Single Contract 1					
	Single Contract 2					
	()					
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)						
	Group of contracts					