Of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2020 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

Action Document for Resource Efficiency Initiative India phase II

1 Key identification data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the Action</th>
<th>Resource Efficiency Initiative India phase II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country/region/global</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector of intervention</td>
<td>Resource efficiency and circular economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative budget</td>
<td>Total: 2,500,000 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FPI contribution: 2,500,000 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other contributions N/A</td>
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<td>Duration and target start date of implementation</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Method of implementation</td>
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<td>DAC code(s)</td>
<td>41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management</td>
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</table>

Markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General policy objective</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Principal objective</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation development/good governance</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td></td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality</td>
<td></td>
<td>□</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RIO Convention markers

| Biological diversity | X            | □                     | □                   |
| Combat desertification| X            | □                     | □                   |
| Climate change mitigation |              | □                     | X                   |
| Climate change adaptation | X            | □                     | □                   |
2 RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1 Action summary

The proposed action will contribute to the promotion of EU standards and business best-practices in fostering an efficient and sustainable use of natural resources in India. It will facilitate the involvement of EU stakeholders active in the resource efficiency sector (including designers, producers, recycling industries, sustainability experts), thus helping boost jobs and growth in the EU through the transfer of circular economy solutions and best practices to India.

The EU Resource Efficiency Initiative objectives and its design respond to the priorities and objectives laid down in the EU’s external environmental and climate policy and diplomacy since 2011 and in particular the external dimension of the EU Green Deal, the EU Circular Economy Package and the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue. Statements made at several high-level meetings, including the two most recent EU-India Summits, the EU-India Joint Working Group on Environment, EU-India Environment Forum and the EU-India joint statement on energy and climate confirm the priorities and objectives, and frame the PI-funded action. Resource Efficiency stands high on the list of priorities of the EU’s foreign policy agenda. The EU-REI is building bridges between EU Institutions, NGOs, companies and stakeholders that are interested in fostering a circular economy model in India.

2.2 Background/Context/Rationale for PI funding

India is one of the fastest growing economies of the last decade. Although the country currently has one of the lowest material consumptions in the world, with an average of 4.2 tonnes per capita, the absolute materials consumption has increased sharply in recent times (from 2 billion tonnes in 1980 to almost 5 billion tonnes in 2010 and will further increase to approximately 15 billion tonnes in 2030). With growing demand, India has changed from being a net material exporter to a net importer, with imports’ growth dominated by fossil fuels and metals.

Resource efficiency will be crucial for India’s and Europe’s further development to:

- Help mitigate climate change and environmental degradation, waste generation, social impacts of resource development and use;
- Increase economic performance and competitiveness across sectors while reducing resource use;
- Create new opportunities for economic growth by bringing about greater innovation and business partnerships in Europe and India;
- Ensure security of essential resources’ supply in the EU and India;
- Reduce the risk of geopolitical imbalances at the global level by contributing to a better use of crucial resources for development, such as water, soil, land, metals and minerals.

India is rich in traditional primary materials such as coal, bauxite and iron ore. Currently, around 97% of all materials, including abiotic and non-renewable materials consumed in India are extracted domestically. The attention to resource consumption at the extraction phase is considerably high too. In India, extraction of primary raw materials increased by around 420% between 1970 and 2010 which is lower than the Asian average but higher than the world average. However, increased extraction also causes environmental damage and social pressures.

India has a relatively high extraction of material due to the increase in material use in India, but a relatively low productivity. It is further noted that India’s material footprint is the third largest in the world, and that this would continue to be the case as Indian economy tries to address the better living standards to the increasing population with manufacturing in India. In the area of steel, a Government
of India (GoI) stakeholder outlined that the demand for steel in particular would triple over the next years until 2030, which would have a very negative environmental and climate impact.

- Since 2014, the Government of India initiated the “Swachh Bharat Mission” (Clean India Mission). The Clean India Mission aims at improving the level of sanitation and cleanliness in the country with a vision to create a “Clean India” by 2019 by providing basic infrastructural and service delivery in the field of sanitation, and adopting scientific methods to collect, process and dispose municipal solid waste. Results of the Clean India Mission will be presented by the current government on October 2, 2019.
- The “Smart Cities Mission” launched in 2015, is an urban renewal program by the GoI with the mission to develop 100 cities across the country making them citizen friendly and sustainable. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is responsible for implementing the mission in collaboration with the state governments of the respective cities.
- The “Make in India” initiative was launched in September 2014 with the aim to transform the country into a global manufacturing hub. The initiative aims to increase the GDP and tax revenues in the country, by producing products that meet high quality standards and minimising the impact on the environment. The project is being led by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and is expected to create 100 million new jobs in India by 2022.
- The “Zero Defect Zero Effect” programme aims to achieve high quality manufacturing that is also green. The slogan “Zero Defect Zero Effect” was given by PM Modi and reflects (i) production mechanisms where products have no defects and (ii) production processes, which have zero adverse environmental and ecological effects. The model was conceptualised in 2014 and has since been taken forward by the Quality Council of India, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The “Technical Cooperation Programme” was launched in 2014 and aims to foster sustainable and inclusive development through capacity development and skill development. The Programme Advisory Committee is co-chaired by the MoEFCC and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The key thematic areas addressed are sewage treatment and solid waste management. The thematic areas are closely associated with the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the Swachh Bharat Mission. The pilot cities for the implementation of the project are New Delhi and Mumbai.

The above-mentioned missions of the Government of India are relevant to the implementation of the EU-REI as the project through its interventions leads to the mainstreaming of the Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy agendas in these related programmes.

- In November 2017, NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), along with the EU Delegation to India launched a Strategy on Resource Efficiency for India (RE Strategy) together with an Action Plan to implement the strategy. Both documents were developed under phase 1 of the EU REI project. The RE Strategy was a crucial document to set the agenda in India on Resource Efficiency (RE) and Circular Economy (CE). The Action Plan of the RE Strategy consists of a Core Action Agenda (2017-2018) and Medium-Term Action Plan (2018-2020) in the thematic areas of institutional development, promotion and regulation.
- At the launch of the RE Strategy (November 2017), the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced the creation of a Resource Efficiency Cell (RE Cell). In March 2018, the RE Cell was set up and convened its first meeting to coordinate and consolidate the efforts on RE in the MoEFCC. (The RE replaced the former Indian Resource Panel (InRP)).
- In 2019, NITI Aayog published a “Status Paper and Way Forward on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy”, along with sectoral strategies and action plans for RE in the following sectors: Steel, Aluminium, Construction and Demolition Waste, Electrical and Electronic
Equipment. All documents developed with support of the EU REI project, key partner ministries and Niti Aayog.

- In June 2018, at the World Environment Day Celebration in Delhi, the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the EU Delegation to India signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) for the implementation of the EU’s REI. In April 2019, MoEFCC approved an Action plan for the implementation of the REI project till June 2020. MoEFCC signed an MoU with TERI (The Energy & Research Institute) to be the knowledge partner of the RE cell. The REI action plan covers the support to TERI for the RE cell support and also covers other activities to the undertaken with MoEFCC viz. additional studies, capacity development, support to the implementation of the forthcoming RE policy and research and development on innovative technologies.

- In April 2019, a “Reference Document towards developing an integrated resource efficiency policy for India”, prepared by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute), as a REI consortium partner, was submitted to the MoEFCC. The MoEFCC is currently in the process of seeking public comments to the reference document for drafting India’s RE policy. The document aims to set the basis for a national RE policy.

These policy measures and strategies at the national and sectoral levels are crucial for scaling up and mainstreaming the Circular Economy transition in India, of which several were supported by the currently ongoing REI project.

This action is addressing specifically the fulfilment of Objective 1 of the PI Regulation, in particular the following points:

- Support for the Union's bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation partnership strategies, by promoting policy dialogue and by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern.
- Supporting the implementation of Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, action plans and similar bilateral instruments;
- Deepening the political and economic dialogue with third countries of particular relevance in world affairs, including in foreign policy;
- Supporting engagement with relevant third countries on bilateral and global issues of common concern;
- Promoting an adequate follow-up or coordinated implementation of the conclusions of international fora such as the G20.
- Reinforcement of cooperation on global challenges, addressing in particular climate change, energy security and the protection of the environment.
- Stimulating efforts in partner countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in particular by promoting and supporting adequate regulatory and performance standards;
- Boosting the greening of production and trade;

The action furthermore contributes to Objective 2 (by enhancing policy dialogue and cooperation with India, and by supporting regulatory convergence between both).

2.3 Lessons learnt

The Phase II of the project is designed based on the results achieved and lessons learnt under the REI phase I project.

The Phase I of the project showed that for a measurable impact, mid-term and long-term planning is needed, as changes in the policy framework take a long time in India. For a maximum impact, the EU has to maintain its commitment. The EU businesses have been very involved in the project
implementation and concrete business partnerships have been established. Private sector participation has been another key factor that has contributed to a successful implementation of the project; this need to be strengthened further by creating favourable market development, promotion of standards and laws/best practices based on EU experience.

The mid-term evaluation of Phase I of the project has identified the possible fields for further cooperation based on the stakeholders’ interests as well, which was taken into account in the planning.

2.4 Coherence and complementarity

Synergies will be sought with on-going actions.

Clean Energy and Climate Partnership with India is a complementary PI-funded action. This action aims to foster all relevant EU India cooperation of the green energy sector and to boost climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In 2019, the PI-funded action ‘Business Support to the EU-India Policy Dialogue’ was launched. It aims at strengthening the EU-India economic and project business ties in key sectors where EU-India have an already established policy dialogue, including environment, water, energy, ICT, urbanisation, sustainable mobility, transport and logistics. The project involves B2B workshops, roadshows and roundtables between EU businesses and Indian stakeholders.

SWITCH Asia promotes sustainable and inclusive growth, contributing to the economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Asia and Central Asia and to a transition towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy. Several individual projects under SWITCH-Asia are implemented in India in several sectors, including clean production, food and beverage, textile and leather industry, wood-based industry and the chemical sector. Some touch upon RE and CE, for instance the Bamboo4SD or Bhoomi Ka projects which focus on clean production or the WEEE Recycle project which tackled e-waste management issues.

The DEVCO initiative – Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) covers India since 2018. PAGE is coordinated by UN-Environment and has so far conducted consultations and studies to identify priority areas of intervention in the country, and resource efficiency has received quite a lot of attention during this work. As this project is also anchored with MoEFCC possible cooperation can be explored.

EU Member States will be associated with the REI on the basis of their policy dialogues and development cooperation activities with India, and the initiative will also provide the opportunity for them to promote the participation of their respective industries and other stakeholders through the Resource Efficiency Initiative (REI). GIZ through BMZ-funding (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development- Germany) is currently implementing a smart city project which also looks on material flow in selected cities. The project is implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India.

The project will also help to strengthen India’s position as a member of the G20 RE working group.

2.5 EU added value

As the EU has been progressively moving beyond traditional assistance-type relationship with India, the Partnership Instrument is increasingly playing an important role in providing new avenues for continued EU-India engagement. PI project interventions were initiated in a number of priority areas such as environment, energy, climate change, urbanization, aviation safety, migration and mobility, ICT standardization, CSO engagement, public diplomacy, etc.
The EU is the biggest trading partner of India. With the growth spurt the Indian economy is currently experiencing and the growing demand for material, goods and services, it is in both the EU and India’s interest to ensure the stable and sustainable supply and management of their resources.

The sustainable consumption and production (SCP) agenda is captured by SDG 12. Sustainable consumption and production has clear links to RE, as its implementation helps to achieve overall development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness and reduce poverty. Resource efficiency is recognised as part of the G20 Agenda, whereby G20 countries agreed to integrate RE and CE as part of the implementation strategies for the SDGs.

The planned second phase will support the continuation of the ongoing project on resource efficiency initiative (REI) in India, which has been extremely successful so far and has contributed to a solid India-EU and intra-Indian policy dialogue, agenda setting and inter-institutional cooperation and resulted in a draft Indian Resource Efficiency Policy, inspired by EU experience.

2.6 Cross-cutting issues

The action will consistently mainstream cross-cutting issues, such as gender, resilience and innovation\(^1\). Consistency with the Paris Agreement shall be ensured by considering potential benefits for and impacts on climate mitigation and ensuring climate-resilience of all supported activities. The selected implementing partner will be required to demonstrate in the design of the project on how the relevant cross-cutting will be incorporated in this action when preparing and implementing individual activities.

3 ACTION DESCRIPTION

In responding to the global issue of resource efficiency, the REI II phase will continue to tackle the transition to a circular economy, economic partnerships, business, employment and regulatory cooperation with India. The project will contribute as well to a better market access for companies from the Union, including the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The initiative is meant to support the EU's environment policy dialogues with a key partner country in order to promote convergence of positions at multilateral environmental negotiations and facilitate the exchange of information and expertise on issues related to resource efficiency, such as environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation, the protection and management of natural resources, soil fertility, water security, biodiversity protection, and environmental elements of sustainable urban development. It will also help boosting the greening of trade and businesses by promoting the effective and smooth implementation of initiatives such as the integration of sustainability criteria in business models, sustainable production and consumption, standardization of secondary raw materials and the prevention, re-use and recycling of waste.

Phase II activities will focus on implementing India’s RE strategy and newly developed RE policy, by promoting EU standards and business best practices on resource efficiency. Phase II will continue supporting work in the key sectors from the phase I, including the key sectors of steel and aluminium, construction and demolition, e-mobility, and sustainable solar-energy systems, as well as addressing e-waste and plastic waste. Other new areas from the abiotic and biotic sectors will be covered in phase II, as per discussions with the MoEFCC, NITI Aayog and other related ministries and stakeholders. Another strand of work includes support to implementation of the forthcoming National RE Policy at State and local level.

\(^1\) Cross-cutting issues identified for the PI are: multilateralism, global order, EU principles and values, Resilience, Innovation
3.1 Objectives

The Overall Objective of the action is to promote EU standards and business best-practices on resource efficiency in this process.

The Specific Objective of this action is to make resource consumption more efficient in India, so as to contribute to the global agenda on sustainable consumption and production, to promote green economy thereby promoting a level playing field and opening business opportunities for EU companies in India and helping boost jobs and growth in the EU.

The action will aim at achieving the following results:

R1 – An assessment of India’s current and future needs for resources is carried out and, on the basis of policy inputs, strategies and action plans for resource efficiency are prepared and implemented for key sectors of interest.

The Resource Efficiency Cell at MoEFCC (as a follow-up of the Indian Resource Panel) is a newly set up entity and will later be accomplished by a National Resource Efficiency Authority (NREA). The cell as well as the NREA will benefit from increasing their knowledge in resource efficiency in specific sectors in India in order to influence the Indian legislations and development plans.

It is expected that sector specific studies (technical, financial, social and legal content) will be delivered in the course of the project's implementation period. The selection of the studies to be performed depends on market opportunities, political priorities and specific European experiences.

R1.1. Follow-up and monitoring studies for the sectors already covered in the first phase:

- Aluminium and Steel
- Electric and Electronic Equipment (life cycle approach)
- Construction Sector
- E-Mobility
- Photovoltaic
- Plastics

R1.2. Comprehensive assessments and studies on new areas.

Areas Including: Resource recovery from urban mining and the related urban-rural interface considering exploitation, use and reuse of natural resources; Food waste along the entire supply chain and closing the loop through CE & RE application or any other biotic resources; critical raw materials and its relevance for the Indian economy; Fiscal instruments with a special focus on existing instruments which are counterproductive for aiming towards CE and RE; Action Plan to mainstream RE and CE form the global and national level to state and local level.

Further possible sectors or areas of cooperation (such as collection and sorting of post-consumer waste wood and paper and/or use of firewood or charcoal in and around urban areas) will be also explored during the implementation of the project, if in agreement with the Government of India.

R2 – Partnerships are established between European and Indian private and public sectors on resource efficiency.

Due to its cross-cutting nature, the concept of resource efficiency calls for an integrated policy approach and multi-stakeholder involvement. To bring about change in the way India uses its resources, there is a need to bring together government, business, civil society, applied research organizations and other stakeholders, to focus and develop a coherent policy framework for greater resource efficiency. Activities under result 2 will aim at bringing the various stakeholders from India
and the EU together on a platform and providing evidence to the need of adopting a resource efficiency approach for the country.

R2.1. Support to MoEFCC & NREA to further develop and implement the Resource Efficiency Policy and monitor its progress and impacts based on globally accepted best practices

R2.2. Facilitate a dialogue between the EU and Indian Government authorities at national, state and municipal level, private sector and any other relevant stakeholders (including EU India Environment Forum, workshops, study visits etc.)

R2.3. Support the setting up of possible pilot projects in collaboration with the ongoing Business Policy Support Project

R3 – Awareness is raised on the need for resource efficient approaches in India among key government and non-governmental organisations, business, students, media and the general public through promotion of EU standards and business best-practices on resource efficiency.

R3.1. In order to maximise its long-term impact, to gain political and social acceptance and to develop a market creating business opportunities, the Resource Efficiency Initiative will be supplemented with outreach and educational activities.

R3.2. Support setting-up an innovation lab which will be used to create and apply new forms of cooperation and communication in order to anchor and mainstream the concept of RE at a broader basis.

R3.3. Support institutions and academia to create educational course/ awareness campaigns on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

3.2 Stakeholders

The stakeholders for the action include EEAS; European Commission services; EU Agencies; EU Member States and their relevant agencies; Indian Ministries, Agencies and State-level governmental bodies; Industry Associations, Indian and EU think tanks, civil society, academia, private sector, local governments, and media. The above mentioned key stakeholders will be included in formulation and implementation of activities of their interest under the project in sectors of relevance to them. The key stakeholders include the European Commission (DG ENV, DEVCO, ENER), EEAS, EU Member States, Indian Government agencies (Niti Aayog, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climates Change, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, CSIR, BMTPC, TIFAC), Central and State Pollution Control Boards, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Consumer Affairs,), business representatives/associations (FICCI, CII, FISME, MRAI, etc.)

3.3 Risk assessment and management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk description</th>
<th>Risk level (High, Medium, Low)</th>
<th>Mitigating measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National and State Governments would not support the project.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>This risk is considered to be small given the obvious need for the initiative, the commitment previously expressed by the Indian Government and industry associations and the close cooperation which could be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Member states prefer to implement bilateral cooperation activities rather than being involved in an EU-wide initiative.</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>This risk will be mitigated by involving EU Member States experts closely in the work for the design and steering of the activities, and ensuring that Member States have the freedom to implement their own activities without interference from other partners (i.e. the cooperation should be loose and flexible). Communication between all partners and information on progress of activities will be ensured. Possible synergies between bilateral projects of the MS and EU-REI will be looked for.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no interest by EU businesses to get involved</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Companies will be hand-picked because of their specific added value to the policy dialogue. Business fora will take place back to back to high level political meetings and activities shall have as objective to create business opportunities. Business associations will be closely involved in this process. Cooperation with EU Business Partnership will further help to stimulate interest among potential European business partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of political interest in setting-up the NREA and delay in notification of the draft RE policy</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>In case there is a delay, the project will continue to work with MoEFCC RE-Cell and concerned stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High number of stakeholders and changing expectations.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>RE requires a multi-stakeholder approach as it is not a single sector specific concept. The project will give special attention to facilitate inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral cooperation. Support to RE-cell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
at MoEFCC but even more attention in support setting up of NREA will be key to mitigate friction among the different actors and to handle changing expectation due to changes of senior officers.

3.4 Communication and EU visibility

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

This Action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action\(^2\), which came into force on 1 January 2018, shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

Communication and visibility will be an integral part of the project. The EU Delegation will participate in the dissemination of information in order to facilitate program implementation. Existing networks of stakeholders will be used for the dissemination of information and results to local actors. Existing networks of local authorities will also be involved.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Method of implementation

4.1.1. Procurement (direct management)

The project will be implemented through the procurement of services, either by extension of the current service contract as foreseen in AAP 2015, or by launching a call for tender. The indicative timetable for the call for tender, should this option be selected, is 3\(^{rd}\) Quarter 2020.

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\(^1\).

4.2 Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Implementation</th>
<th>Amount in EUR</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Procurement (Direct management)</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
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\(^1\) www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.
4.3 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

In REI phase I steering is provided between the Government and the EU-REI project through a number of different committees and groups which involve a range of different stakeholders, namely:

- The Inter-departmental Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Ratan Watal, NITI Aayog Principal Advisor, and include the MoEFCC, the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, as well as officers representing 8 other relevant ministries and departments of the government of India. The UN, World Bank, TERI, CII, FICCI also participate in the Committee. The Interdepartmental Committee has been guiding the implementation of the Action Plan in the RE Strategy. The Inter-departmental Committee meets 3-4 times per year.

- A RE Task Force was also set up in February 2018, to support the Inter-departmental Committee and functions as an expert secretariat, providing feedback for the finalisation of the four sectoral strategy papers. The Task Force is a Panel consisting of experts from business, government and EU-REI. Experts come from NITI Aayog, EU-REI, FICCI, CII, and the former InRP. TheTask Force holds 4-5 meetings annually. According to the GIZ, the RE Task Force became less active once the MoEFCC took over in April 2019.

- Taking into consideration the recommendations of the InRP, in 2017, the MoEFCC created a RE Cell within the MoEFCC to provide a platform to mainstream RE in public policy. The RE cell also includes officials from the EU-REI team, and formally includes TERI as a knowledge partner to the RE Cell (outside of the EU-REI) through the Joint Declaration of Intent signed between the MoEFCC and TERI in June 2018. The RE Cell enables the preparation of an overarching RE policy for India, and also supports the Steering Committee on RE (see next point). The RE Cell is chaired by the Additional Secretary of MoEFCC and convenes on a need basis. According to a GoI official, the RE Cell worked closely with the relevant line Ministries. Another GoI stakeholder noted the collaboration and communication between the GoI and the EU-REI team worked well.

- Within the RE Cell, a Steering Committee on RE was formed, consisting of 15 members, including from the former InRP, the MoEFCC, civil society, industry (e.g. CII), Toxics Link, TERI, EUD, UNEP. It is chaired by the MoEFCC and has been operationalised since May 2019 onwards.

The high level policy steering is subject to change under REI phase II, given that multi-sectoral/ inter-ministerial meetings would change after the RE policy is notified. The current inter-departmental meetings at Niti Aayog might not be undertaken anymore instead an inter-ministerial committee coordinated jointly with NREA is envisaged.

The PI project steering committee members will consist of the EEAS, FPI and line DG representatives, namely DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG DEVCO and DG GROW and DG RESEARCH.

4.4 Performance monitoring

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing entity’s responsibilities. To this end, the implementing entity 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. The progress and final reports shall provide quantified and qualitative data in relation to the logical framework indicators which will include relevant indicators from the list of core and corporate indicators.
The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the Action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the Action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional Action 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).

4.5 Evaluation and audit

For this Action, the Commission may carry out interim and/or final/ex-post evaluation(s) via independent consultants contracted by the Commission based on specific terms of reference.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this Action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments.

As the “N+1” rule applies for contracting under this decision, external evaluations and audits, as well as additional external monitoring referred to under section 4.4. above, will be funded from sources other than those allocated to this specific Action.