PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT

PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT FOR COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

What is the PI?
The Partnership Instrument for Cooperation with Third Countries (PI) is an instrument specifically designed to promote the EU's strategic interests worldwide by reinforcing external strategies, policies and actions.

It has four main objectives: (1) offering policy support and responding to global challenges; (2) projecting the international dimension of Europe 2020; (3) enhancing market access and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies; (4) promoting public diplomacy and academic cooperation.

Specific objectives
- To support the EU’s bilateral, regional and interregional cooperation partnership strategies by promoting policy dialogues and developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern.
- Implementing the international dimension of Europe 2020 – a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Improving access to non-EU markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for companies from the EU, while eliminating barriers to market access and investment, by means of economic partnerships, business and regulatory cooperation.
- Enhancing the widespread understanding and visibility of the EU and its role on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, education/academic/think-tank cooperation and outreach activities to promote the EU’s values and interests.

Why is it necessary?
The PI has been designed to advance and promote the EU’s and its partners’ mutual interests abroad by supporting the external dimension of EU policies, in particular the Europe 2020 strategy, and by addressing major global challenges, at both the bilateral and the multilateral level. Contrary to many traditional financing instruments, the PI promotes peer-to-peer relationships globally, although with a specific focus on the EU’s designated strategic partners. The PI also aims to improve market access and to develop trade and business opportunities for EU companies through economic partnerships, business and regulatory cooperation. Finally, the PI is intended to enhance the widespread understanding and visibility of the EU on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, education/academic cooperation and outreach activities.

The EU has numerous international agreements with partner countries all over the world that are not matched by individual Member States, giving it influence in virtually all fields of international relations. By combining the weight of all Member States acting within common policies and strategies, only the EU has the critical weight to respond to global challenges. The EU as a global player has a credibility and a neutrality that is not available to individual Member States. The EU is also in a unique position to promote EU standards, and to turn them into global standards through international cooperation.

Outlook for the 2021–2027 period
Under the new multiannual financial framework, the PI is included within the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument.

Budget implementation (in million EUR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXECUTED COMMITMENTS</th>
<th>EXECUTED PAYMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>144.8</td>
<td>116.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>149.0</td>
<td>130.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>164.3</td>
<td>128.9</td>
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The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments is the lead service for the implementation of the programme. The programme is implemented through two different management modes, depending on the specific circumstances of the action required: direct management (both centralised in Brussels and decentralised to EU delegations) and indirect management (by partner countries or bodies designated by them), international organisations and the development agencies of EU Member States.

Evaluations/studies conducted
An external evaluation of the PI was carried out in 2017. For further information please consult: https://europa.eu/!Tv79JW

Annex 3 – Programme performance overview
Key performance indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>PROGRESS TO TARGET</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating emissions trading schemes for greenhouse gas mitigation outside the EU / European Economic Area</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>&gt; 100%</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 compared to a target of 26</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and regional authorities signing the Covenant of Mayors (1)</td>
<td>6 270</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>10 270</td>
<td>9 984 out of 10 270</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International agreements on migration and mobility signed with the strategic partners</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19 out of 20</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide level of implementation of international safety standards in civil aviation</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>&gt; 100%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>69% compared to a target of 65%</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
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(1) Latest results from 2019.

% of target achieved by 2020

Where are we in the implementation?

- The 100% execution of commitment appropriations reflects the full implementation of the allocated envelope for PI actions. The 56% execution of payment appropriations reflects the way the PI is implemented through annual action programmes and multi-year contracts (on average 4 years). Consequently, PI project implementation will continue over the coming years, with the last contracts ending around 2025-2026.

- The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the financial implementation of the PI was limited thanks to the measures taken to ensure business continuity regarding the instrument's functioning and operations. In 2020, 11 new actions (EUR 50 million) were programmed with a focus on the response to the pandemic. In addition, 59 ongoing actions (EUR 7.6 million) were reoriented to cover COVID-19 aspects.

Performance assessment

- During the 2014-2020 period, the PI was a policy-supporting instrument that strengthened the EU by promoting its interests, values and visibility externally. It operated as such under the framework defined by the EU global strategy and other EU policies (the Commission's priorities, Agenda 2030 and the sustainable development goals) and in support of EU foreign policy objectives.

- Programming was driven by thematic rather than country-focused considerations. For example, PI actions underpinned bilateral and regional dialogues in multiple areas of strategic EU interest and multilateral negotiations. It did so by providing support for concrete policy deliverables, thereby strengthening the position of the EU as a credible partner. Other actions aimed 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 the rules-based global order.

- In the area of trade policy, the PI provided unprecedented support to the EU's trade agenda around the world, focusing on countries/regions where trade and investment agreements exist or are being negotiated. Further actions enabled the EU to promote its standards abroad, help develop a level playing field, create opportunities for its companies and enhance its image and perception abroad through public and cultural diplomacy, engaging with key decision-makers and target groups in strategic partner countries.

- The PI has been successful in negotiating the promotion of climate and environmental protection goals with strategic partners, as indicated by the operating emissions trading schemes that have been implemented as planned and the number of signatories to the Covenant of Mayors.

- The implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy has largely shown good progress, with most indicators meeting their target and all indicators showing a positive trend. It can therefore be considered successful.

- The PI is primarily aimed at supporting the EU's external policy and promoting its international visibility. As such, the focus of the PI’s actions lies on outputs and not necessarily on results, which is further reflected in the PI-specific cumulative performance indicators adopted in 2016 (see ‘Concrete examples of achievements’ below).

- PI actions aim at presenting the EU as a reliable, credible partner that can deliver, and at strengthening multilateralism. This is achieved through bilateral and regional dialogues in multiple areas of strategic EU interest; bilateral and multilateral negotiations by providing support for concrete policy deliverables; and developing common approaches with key international partners.

- The PI facilitates the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the context of strategic partnerships, notably by supporting EU negotiators, spreading knowledge about new opportunities brought about by the agreements and setting up specific public diplomacy actions. The challenges remaining for the PI are to respond quickly to fast-changing foreign policy needs, to ensure funding in anticipation of the EU’s strategic priorities and to respond strategically in a coordinated fashion, bringing together the European External Action Service and Commission services.

Concrete examples of achievements

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<tr>
<th>80</th>
<th>85 000</th>
<th>EUR 400 million</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>3.6 million</th>
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<td>Pairings were established in 2020 between cities in EU and non-EU countries in Asia and the Americas in the context of the new urban agenda under the international urban cooperation programme.</td>
<td>Viewers watched the online EU film festival organised with the support of the PI in 2020.</td>
<td>In estimated investment was generated in Brazil through the low-carbon business action in 2020.</td>
<td>Major agri-businesses with supply chains across the Asian region and reaching Europe committed to improving responsible business conduct and the implementation of due diligence in 2020.</td>
<td>People in total participated in the events organised under the instrument between 2014 and 2020.</td>
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