

Brussels, 14.11.2018
C(2018) 7631 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.11.2018

**on the Annual Action Programme in favour of the ENI South countries for 2018 – Part
2¹ (including 5 actions on budget 2019 and 4 actions on budget 2020)**

¹ AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries – Part 1 : ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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on the Annual Action Programme in favour of the ENI South countries for 2018 – Part 2¹ (including 5 actions on budget 2019 and 4 actions on budget 2020)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012³, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action⁴, and in particular Article 2(1) for AAP, individual and special measures and Article 6(3)(a) for multiannual action programmes thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the “Annual Action Programme in favour of the ENI South countries for 2018 – Part 2”, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual⁵ financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁶.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020)⁷ and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2017-2020)⁸ which sets out the following priorities: (i) building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security; (ii) building a partnership for inclusive and

¹ AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries – Part 1 : ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.
² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018R1046>.

³ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

⁴ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

⁵ Multiannual financing decision shall always constitute a multiannual action programme.

⁶ 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.

⁷ http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/financing-the-enp/regional_south_strategy_paper_2014_2020_and_multiannual_indicative_programme_2014_2017_en.pdf

⁸ Commission Implementing Decision has still to be adopted.

sustainable economic development; (iii) building a partnership with the people; (iv) support to regional and subregional institutional co-operation.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2018 – Part 2⁹ to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument¹⁰ are to: give greater emphasis to green/circular economy; the protection of the Mediterranean and the sustainable management of water resources, safe, secure and sustainable transport systems and to support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and the European Endowment for Democracy and finally, to enable the swift preparation of actions and projects.
- (5) The first action entitled “EU for Green MED III and sustainable transport” aims at contributing to promoting resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, with a view to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and enabling the transition to a circular economy. The following domains will be addressed in priority: reduction of pollution, enhanced sustainable management of natural resources (in particular the sustainable use of water in the Mediterranean region), promotion of the ecosystem approach¹¹, preservation of biodiversity, all this in line with the objectives of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean.
- (6) The second action entitled “ENI South Global Allocation for 2018-2020” is a support measure giving the European Commission the possibility to finance small-scale measures that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities.
- (7) The third action entitled “EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for the period 2019-2021” will support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean through operating grants covering 50% of the cost of the organisation. The remainder of the resources necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat will be covered by the members of the Union for the Mediterranean through financial contributions and the secondment of staff. These operating grants by the EU together with the contributions from the members of the UfM will permit the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate for the period 2019-2021.
- (8) The fourth action entitled “Support to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) for the period 2019-2021” will contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of partner countries by supporting pro-democracy activists. The Commission aims to enable this support by providing funding for the functioning of the EED.
- (9) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 to the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED). The UfM is the sole forum for dialogue among 43 countries of the euro-mediterranean zone (EU member states, ENP South countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey and Mauritania) and complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern

⁹ AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries - Part 1 : ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.

¹⁰ 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).

¹¹ The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Source: Convention of Biological Diversity.

neighbours. The EED is one of the rare actors in the landscape of the organisations providing financial support in the Neighbourhood region to activists who cannot benefit from financial support from the donors community through traditional funding channels due to their size, legal status (e.g. non-registered entities or individuals), geopolitical context (e.g. civil war situation) etc. The specificity and sensitivity of this particular type of intervention requires a body with appropriate competence and mandate.

- (10) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (11) Entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management shall ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union as referred to in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046.
- (12) To this end, such entities have been subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and appropriate supervisory measures are in place in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046.
- (14) The actions provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme

The Annual Action Programme 2018 – Part 2 (including 5 actions on budget 2019 and 4 actions on budget 2020) in favour of the ENI South countries, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex I: EU for Green MED III and sustainable transport;
- Annex II: Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2018-2020;
- Annex III: EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for the period 2019-2021;
- Annex IV: Support to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) for the period 2019-2021.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018, 2019 and 2020 is set at EUR 124.13 million and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following budget lines of the general budget of the Union:

- Annex I - budget line 22.04.01.02 for an amount of:

- EUR 31 million from the general budget of the Union for 2018;
- EUR 9 million allocated to EGNOS from the general budget of the Union for 2018;
- EUR 8 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019.
- Annex II - budget line 22.04.03.04 for an amount of:
 - EUR 20 million from the general budget of the Union for 2018;
 - EUR 15 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019;
 - EUR 15 million from the general budget of the Union for 2020.
- Annex III - budget line 22.04.03.04 for an amount of:
 - EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the Union for 2018;
 - EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019;
 - EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the Union of 2020.
- Annex IV - budget line 22.04.01.01 (Regional South allocation) for an amount of:
 - EUR 2 million from the general budget of the Union for 2018;
 - EUR 2 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019;
 - EUR 2 million from the general budget of the Union of 2020.
- Annex IV - budget line 22.04.02.01 (Regional East allocation) for an amount of:
 - EUR 2.5 million from the general budget of the Union for 2018;
 - EUR 2.5 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019;
 - EUR 2.5 million from the general budget of the Union of 2020.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2019 and 2020 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in Annex I, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 5.3.1.3 and 5.3.2.1 of the Annex.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well

as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 to the bodies referred to in point 5.3.3.1 (b) of Annex I, 5.3.1 (b) of Annex III and point 5.3.1 (b) of Annex IV.

Done at Brussels, 14.11.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 1

of the Commission Implementing Decision
on the Annual Action Programme 2018 – Part 2¹ in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for EU for Green MED III and sustainable transport.

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	EU for Green MED III and sustainable transport CRIS numbers: - ENI/2018/041-200 - ENI/2018/041-362 (cross-subdelegation to Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises. financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Neighbourhood South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syria and Tunisia. Countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and Countries and territories neighbouring Neighbourhood South countries ³ : Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, non-autonomous territory of Western Sahara.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020).

¹ AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries - Part 1 : ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

³ In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 232/2014 (ENI Regulation).

4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Sector 3.3: Promoting Connectivity and sustainable use of natural resources.	DEV. Aid: YES		
5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 49,250,000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 48 million.</p> <p>This contribution is for an amount of EUR 40 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2018, and for an amount of EUR 8 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2019, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget.</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,250,000.</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.01.02</p>			
6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities	<p>Project Modality.</p> <p>Direct management, through a combination of grants – call for proposal, grant – direct award and procurement of services.</p> <p>Indirect management with the following international organisations: United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the UN Environment Programme (hereafter referred to as 'UN Environment').</p> <p>EGNOS – cross subdelegation to Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises.</p>			
7 a) DAC code(s)	<p>41010 Environmental policy and administrative management (68%).</p> <p>21010 Transport policy and administrative management (32%).</p>			
b) Main Delivery Channel	<p>20000 – Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society</p> <p>41116 - United Nations Environment Programme</p> <p>41123 - United Nations Development Organisation.</p> <p>50000 - Other</p>			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not	Significant	Main

		targeted	objective	objective
	Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	SWITCH to green			
10. Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	Main SGD s : 6 : Clean Water and Sanitation , 12 : Responsible Consumption and Production, 14 : Life Below Water Secondary SDG Goals : 15 : Life on Land, 11 : Sustainable Cities and communities			

SUMMARY

This action contributes to promoting resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, with a view to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and enabling the transition to a circular economy. The following domains will be addressed in priority: reduction of pollution, enhanced sustainable management of natural resources (in particular the sustainable use of water in the Mediterranean region), promotion of the ecosystem approach for the Mediterranean⁴, preserving biodiversity, all this in line with the objectives of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean. This will be achieved through three complementary and interlinked lines of action:

1. Depollution of the Mediterranean and reduction of water stress: this line of action aims at supporting the implementation of the Barcelona Convention for the protection of marine environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its protocols, and at improving water efficiency in the region. It will include specific measures to achieve good environmental status, reduce pollution (including plastic pollution, in line with the EU Plastics strategy⁵ and the Mediterranean Marine Litter Action Plan and Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan), support sustainable management of natural resources and the creation of a regional network of marine protected areas. The action will also promote sustainable use of water. To this end, the action will contribute to improving water management, mitigating the effects of water scarcity on the populations, the environment and on the economic activities. Particular attention will be given to improving water efficiency, water governance and regional co-operation. In general, the action will support the implementation of the environment and water agenda of the Union for Mediterranean.

⁴ Barcelona Convention COP 15 Decision IG 17/6.

⁵ Communication from the Commission and the European Parliament, the Council, and European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy COM (2018) 28 final, 16.01.2018.

- 2. Promotion of green and circular economy complements efforts on depollution, contributing in particular to preventing pollution and to implement sustainable consumption and production patterns. It will consist of policy advice and of measures addressing directly the private sector.*
- 3. Promote safe, secure, sustainable, and efficient transport systems based on harmonised transport standards as a condition for economic growth and integration of the region and contributing to reduction of emissions and pollution and improving the quality of life.*

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The action addresses Southern European Neighbourhood countries and it contributes directly to their efforts to achieve the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and its Sustainable development goals (SDGs). It contributes to achieving several SDGs at the same time; SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG14 on life below water, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG13 on climate action, and SDG 15 life on land.

The region is characterised by a fast growing population not matched by corresponding economic growth (3.3% p.a.) and with important inequalities. All the countries in the region are classified as low or upper middle-income countries (except Israel, high Income). Unemployment is high, in particular youth unemployment is at 28% and participation of women to economic activity is low. Southern neighbourhood economies have a limited trade and economic integration among them, limited export offer and are not very competitive on the global markets.

A healthy and productive Mediterranean Sea together with the sustainable use of natural resources contributes to economic and social development and an improvement in living conditions. However, at present the environment in the region is under significant pressure from growing population in particular in coastal areas, high pressure on scarce and limited natural resources, increased contamination, including through waste disposal and untreated waste water, nutrient over-enrichment and pollution caused by maritime industries, overfishing and destructive fishing, invasive species and degradation of transitional and estuarine areas. Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea is a common concern to all countries in the region and requires a concerted effort to address it. A primary vehicle for addressing it is through the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (1995) and its Protocols⁶. This action contributes to the implementation of those agreements and the related regional policies.

⁶ 1976 Barcelona Convention - 1/, 1976 Dumping Protocol - 2/, 1976 Emergency protocol - 3/, 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol - 4/, 1980 Land Based Sources Protocol – 5/, 1982 Specially Protected Areas Protocols

It is estimated that each year 650 million tons of sewage, 129,000 tons of mineral oil, 60,000 tons of mercury, 3,800 tons of lead and 36,000 tons of phosphates are discharged into the Mediterranean Sea⁷. The Mediterranean Sea is also a hotspot of biodiversity, but a fragile one. It hosts 28% of the World's endemic species, 7.5% of the marine fauna and 18% of marine flora. 19% of these species are threatened by extinction; another 19% are vulnerable at various degrees⁸.

The Southern Mediterranean region is among the most water scarce regions of the world with 180 million people considered water poor (with less than 1000 m³ water/capita/year) and 60 million under water stress. Water has the potential to trigger tensions and instability.

Economic activities consume raw materials, water and energy, that frequently could be used more efficiently. Consumption habits entail production of unnecessary litter, in particular due to plastics and industrial contamination. As a consequence, they contribute to pollution that could be prevented and/or drastically reduced. This can be achieved by promoting sustainable production through green and circular economy, sustainable consumption and management of resources, involving policy makers, businesses and consumers.

The Southern Mediterranean region is scarcely interconnected and networks not sufficiently efficient and interoperable. As a consequence transport contributes to pollution with emissions and accidental spills, and safety records are low. This action aims at improving the environmental and safety record of transport.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The EU and its Southern Neighbours (except Jordan) are parties to the Barcelona Convention. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Environment endorsed the "Horizon 2020 Initiative for the De-pollution of the Mediterranean Sea" (H2020)⁹ in 2006. The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Environment Ministers adopted a Declaration on Environment and climate change in 2014¹⁰. A Blue Economy declaration has as well been adopted in 2015¹¹. The action is consistent with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)¹² and the EU Biodiversity Strategy of 2011¹³. A pillar of

– 6/, 1995 SPA & Biodiversity Protocol – 7/, 1997 Offshore Protocol – 8/, 1996 Hazardous Wastes Protocol – 9/, 2008 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol 10/.,

Latest figures available. The new set of data will be available in 2019.

Source Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention.

Environment Ministerial Conference in Cairo November 2016 and UfM Environment and Climate Change Ministerial declaration in May 2014.

Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Climate Change – 13 May 2014, Athens – Declaration - http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/20140515_UfM_declaration_FINAL_compromiseditorial-changes.pdf

Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Blue Economy – 17 November 2015, Brussels – Declaration - http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/2015-11-17-declaration-on-blue-economy_en.pdf

Directive 2008/56/EC

EU environmental action is the implementation of the ecosystem approach and this action aims at reinforcing this approach in policy-making in the region.

In April 2017, UfM Ministers, agreed to develop an UfM Water Agenda, and accompany it with a financial strategy¹⁴. The EU objectives for the region are to improve governance that leads to securing the investment climate, support regional and sub-regional co-operation in the fields of water efficiency, pollution prevention and depollution, surface and groundwater protection, transboundary co-operation and capacity building.

In 2015 the Commission published its Circular Economy Action Plan, which targets primarily EU economies but inspires the green and circular economy measures in this document. In particular, the EU Strategy on plastics of 2018 is a component of the Action plan to which this action is connected.

This action contributes to improving more sustainable and efficient transport because together with production of energy, they are a major source of emissions and through accidental or intended spills generate marine pollution. This will support economic integration and contribute to the development of green economy in the region. The action is based on the conclusions of the first EuroMed Transport Ministerial Conference of Marrakech in December 2005, the UfM Transport Ministerial of November 2013 reaffirming the need for a safe, secure, sustainable and efficient transport system based on harmonised transport standards as a condition for economic growth and integration, as well as the UfM Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) 2007-2013.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholders will be those of regional environment and transport projects including national administrations, international organisations in charge of environment, agriculture/fisheries, water and transport, as well as those in charge of finance, trade and industry. Where possible and relevant, regional, local administrations communities and businesses, river basin authorities in charge of waste, water management, distribution and supply, and sanitation will contribute as stakeholders or beneficiaries of the projects and of the investments promoted.

The Union for the Mediterranean provides a structure for regional discussion on the environment, with a large proportion of the work undertaken intended to implement UfM Ministerial declarations. UfM Member States and the Secretariat are also key players in the implementation of the H2020 initiative and the Barcelona Convention. In particular, the Secretariat is expected to contribute towards mobilising political support and disseminating and scaling up of the results of the action. The UfM working groups

¹³ EUR-Lex Document 52011DC0244

¹⁴. Ministerial Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Water Ministers on the UFM Water Agenda http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Ministerial-Declaration-on-Water_Union-for-the-Mediterranean.pdf.

are attended by the key stakeholders of this action including country focal points, regional organisations, donors and representatives of civil society.

The UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) co-ordinates the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, and promotes ecosystem approach as one of the policy frameworks for the activities set out in this action.

The beneficiaries of measures concerning the green economy will be primarily local businesses and local communities. Micro, small and medium enterprises, women and younger entrepreneur would be particularly targeted. The financial sector will be involved as it is expected to contribute to the development of green and circular economy, and to investments in particular on water, through the UfM financial strategy supporting the water agenda.

Involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will be sought in particular on projects designed and implemented with local administrations. They will benefit of workshops and trainings activities. Local communities will benefit through economic activities leading to better living conditions through a more efficient use of water.

Key stakeholders are brought together at meetings of the UfM Environment Working Group. At the latest meeting in February 2018 the participants highlighted some priorities for future co-operation and action, notably: i) the need to enhance actions to support the transition towards a circular economy including on plastics and marine litter, ii) the need for capacity building through the SWIM-H2020 support mechanism, iii) the need for a network of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean as an ecological and socio-economic asset. In parallel, the UfM Water Expert Group insisted on the need to work on the water-energy-food and ecosystem nexus as well as sustainable water management.

The private sector, through among others industries, green businesses and the freight companies will be an important actor of the transport component of the action. It will benefit from an environment conducive to investment training and incentives. The transport sector is part a source of pollution and emissions, and will benefit from the outcomes of this action to achieve a more efficient use of its resources. It will also benefit from increased efficiency and lower resource consumption levels. Transport activities will lead to more efficient transport modes that will benefit passengers, as well as transport companies and businesses.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The main upstream drivers of pollution generation and environmental pressures on the ecosystems in the Mediterranean Sea are the following consumption and production sectors: food production, fisheries and agriculture; goods manufacturing; tourism; and housing and construction. Waste pollutes water and land, and is carried into the sea from both land and sea based sources, is a significant contribution to marine litter. Plastic waste accumulates in the sea and is progressively fragmented resulting in micro plastics, affecting sea life and ultimately entering the food chain, with impacts on human health.

In other words,, natural processes do not reduce the existing stock of plastics already present in the Mediterranean Sea.

Investment for the necessary infrastructure for waste and waste water treatment need to be promoted, together with awareness raising, selective collection methods, incentives and a regulatory environment conducive to better waste management and waste water and reuse. In addition, measures to withdraw plastic from the sea will be investigated.

Biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea contributes to a healthy environment, and supports economic activities, in particular fishing and tourism. However it is threatened by pollution and by arrival of invasive, non-indigenous species. Marine protected areas contribute to preserving biodiversity, and they require that adequate legislation is adopted and enforced. Protection of the environment and biodiversity are essential sustainable development goals (SDGs) supported through this action, including with means to develop the necessary legal framework and administrative capacity. Therefore, the present Action aims at reducing pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, addressing in particular through prevention, with special attention to plastic pollution and to safeguarding biodiversity, in line with the Barcelona Convention.

This action also aims at improving efficient use of water. Availability of water depends on one hand on non-controllable events, such as weather and climate and on the other hand on human activity, including unsustainable management practices. Human behaviour affecting water security consists of the manners to manage the resource, i.e. water governance, including water economics, regional co-operation of shared aquifers, rivers and lakes. Water losses and leakages are particularly high in the region. Core activities on water must address sustainable transboundary management of water resources, the use of non-conventional resources (water reuse and desalinisation) and fight against pollution, as well as improving water management. Needs for investments are increasing but institutional and regulatory factors may be obstacles to investment.

Agriculture is a significant source of revenue in the regions, and consumes around 70% of fresh water. Lack of water savings and inefficient irrigation techniques lead to unsustainable use of water. Water loss is particularly relevant with high evapotranspiration levels as a result of the warm climate of the region, whilst effective irrigation methods exist but are not used due to insufficient awareness, and obstacles to investments.

Water re-use in the countries is also low. Desalination of sea water is also not widespread, despite the fact that the cost has been reduced significantly and that the process requires less energy than in the past. The environmental impacts remain, but methods to prevent and mitigate against them are now considered more effective.

Economic activities represent a significant source of pollution. In order to effectively reduce pollution, prevention is a priority. As regards waste, this requires reducing production in the first instance, increasing recycling, and improving re-use of secondary resources. This is in line with the EU's green and circular economy approach aimed at changing practices in the business sector and among consumers. This also requires improving the legal framework conducive to supporting a transition to a green economy,

improving awareness by industries as well as consumers, developing economic incentives and providing assistance to businesses to switch to sustainable production methods.

Transport infrastructure and regulations in the region are lagging behind and do not adequately serve the need of developing economies, where people and goods should move freely. Transport is polluting through emissions and accidental spills on land and sea. More efficient networks and regulation would improve the environmental footprint and facilitate exchanges. In particular, and despite the recommendations of the transport Ministers of the UfM and of the EU, there are no long range corridors or transport networks that would facilitate regional mobility and connection to the EU Trans-European Networks.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level	Mitigating measures
1. limited willingness of national actors to engage in regional co-operation on environment	M	The action is designed to accompany and reinforce UfM processes, support the implementation of the relevant UfM Ministerial declarations that constitute political commitments of the parties.
2. insufficient administrative capacity to implement the actions	M	Capacity building and institutional reinforcement are part of the action. Synergy with EU bilateral programmes and other donors is sought.
3. lack of willingness or capacity of the partners to engage in trans-Mediterranean transport projects	H	Technical assistance is redirected towards the objectives of environmental protection and security that are not functional to TMN-T ¹⁵ projects.
4. Political instability	M	Variable geometry of the action allows continuing co-operating with more resilient partners.
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries remain committed to implementing the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, as well as decisions and ministerial declarations made in that context and to remain active within the H2020 initiative. • Partner countries commit to ensure sustainability of the respective projects, by making available the necessary human, financial and material resources. 		

¹⁵ Trans-Mediterranean Networks – Transport.

- Adequate co-financing is ensured by national authorities, International and European Financial Institutions (IFIs, EFIs) and the financial sector shows interest to participate in evaluating the potential gains of environmental and water policies and offering the necessary financial instruments.
- The Union for the Mediterranean mobilises countries to pursue agreed policies.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The design of this action was fed by:

- The Evaluation of EU support provided at regional and bilateral level in the field of environment in the Neighbourhood South countries (2010-2017), conducted by the Commission and concluded early 2018;
- The evaluation of EU international co-operation on sustainable consumption and production, conducted by the Commission in 2017;
- The outcomes of the steering committees of projects on which this action is built;
- The revised European Neighbourhood Policy priorities in the field of connectivity and space technologies co-operation;
- The mandate of the 2013 UfM Transport Ministerial and the UfM Regional Transport Action Plan 2014-2020;
- The preparatory work on the evaluation of implementation the UfM Regional Transport Action plan 2014-2020;
- The conclusions of relevant UfM and EuroMed sectoral policy dialogue meetings, including transport and environment meetings.
- The agreement in 2017 of the UfM Ministers on a Water agenda.

The key conclusions and corrective actions foreseen are:

- Regional projects are effective in testing and disseminating innovations.
- Effective co-ordination between the regional, national and local level ensures complementarity and long term sustainability. To this end, more involvement is sought to involve civil society, local authorities and national administrations.

Demo projects are necessary, but suffered of not being sufficiently integrated into a wider strategy. The demo projects under this Action will respond to the overarching objectives of this action. The support mechanism will ensure adequate monitoring and dissemination of the lessons learned.

Capacity building is an indispensable component of successful environmental policies. This is a required action where appropriate, within the individual components. Additional instruments may be mobilised, such as Technical Assistance Information Exchange (TAIEX), twinning etc.

A high number of EU initiatives leads to confusion for the beneficiaries and visibility of EU action may be affected when large parts of the programmes are implemented by UN agencies. The architecture of this action is streamlined, the number of projects is limited and communication plans will be included in each contract.

Management of numerous and complex programmes may lead to heavy co-ordination requirements. Therefore, the number of contracts in this action has been reduced, and the co-ordination/support mechanism within the action is reinforced.

The creation and effective management of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) is highly relevant and should incorporate coastal zone management as it will allow a sustainable economic development. This will be taken into account in the support to the MPA.

The evaluation of the EU Switch to Green¹⁶ insisted on the need to concentrate the actions in specific sectors to be selected based on their economic importance and their contributions to pollution and environmental degradation. This is taken into account within the support to the implementation of the national action plans for Sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

The action will build on the achievements of past regional programmes and initiatives including the SwitchMed implemented from 2012, Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Programme- MeHSIP (2009-2018) Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) Support Mechanism (since 2012) and Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) implemented from 2009.

The design of this action is in complementarity with all other EU financed EuroMed projects, especially in the field of transport and environment. Measures for the depollution, in particular, are complementary to the Sustainable Blue Calls 2017 (notably Strand 2 - Marine Litter and Strand 4 – Restoring marine ecosystem in the Mediterranean, funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund¹⁷) and bring a specific focus to the actions of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) MAP supported by the Global Environment Facility. Synergies will be explored with actions under the Global Public Good and Challenges (GPGC) programme including the Marine Litter MED project and the project on Mediterranean implementation of the Ecosystem Approach, in coherence with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Co-operation with "neighbour of the neighbours" countries will also be assessed. Close co-ordination with the Secretariat of the UfM will be promoted to ensure consistency with UfM policies as well as with activities under the Barcelona Convention as well as to avoid overlaps with existing actions.

¹⁶ Flagship initiative developed by the Commission services Directorate General for International Co-operation and Development (DEVCO) and aiming at facilitating the transition to an inclusive green economy.

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/Marine_litter_med_project_20_4_2016.pdf

Other Switch programmes are in place in Asia and in the sub-Saharan Africa. EU for Green is an action comparable to SwitchMed in the neighbourhood east. Both are implemented by the same partners and are being extended. The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) ensures the co-ordination of the components in all cases.

Specific co-ordination will also be set in place to maximize synergies with on-going and future relevant EU bilateral and twinning actions, as well as projects of EU member states¹⁸. Potential bilateral synergies and complementarity are summarised in the table hereunder:

GreenMed III components	National actions	Complementarity
Pollution reduction and water efficient use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the EU Delegation is supporting investment in waste management through the NIP¹⁹ and other waste water treatment projects. - EU member states will fund projects on depollution and water use in the Mediterranean South Countries. - Some delegations, such as Tunisia and Morocco, are supporting Marine Protected Areas at national level. 	<p>The support mechanism will plan actions not foreseen in the bilateral actions but that will add value to the ongoing national projects. Country based activities from the Support mechanism will be approved by the EU delegations.</p> <p>EU delegations will be invited to participate to the guidelines and the evaluation of the demo projects.</p> <p>Preliminary discussions took place and complementarities will be sought during the project descriptions.</p> <p>A special co-ordination mechanism will be put in place with those delegations.</p>
Green economy	Some delegations are including green economy in their 2017-2020 single support frameworks.	Complementarity will be achieved by continued exchanges with the EU delegations. This will be taken into account in the detailed project description.
Safe, secure and sustainable transports	Transport is not among the priorities for bilateral co-operation in the region.	Regional projects in transport are complemented by twinning projects, notably in the field of aviation.

¹⁸ This concerns as an example SIDA support to the Union for the Mediterranean for environmental action, Spanish co-operation projects on water.

¹⁹ Neighbourhood Investment Platform

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The activities will contribute directly to improved environmental management.

This action will be implemented following a **rights-based approach**, encompassing all human rights, with a focus on groups and minorities including women and children who are in vulnerable situation. The five working principles below will be applied at all stages of implementation: legality, universality and indivisibility of human rights; participation and access to the decision-making process; non-discrimination and equal access; accountability and access to the rule of law; transparency and access to information.

Where possible, the programme activities will prioritise gender equality and the participation of women. Activities where women are involved will be encouraged, in particular with regards to green economy, together with youth unemployment and opportunities. The guidelines for action in the field and in particular demo projects will include criteria allowing better integration of women. Moreover, in the context of the development of marine protected areas, certain economic activities traditionally executed by women will be encouraged.

The components in this action addressing environment and water contribute to granting access to the *right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food*, as stated in Art 25 of the UN Universal declaration of Human rights.

The reinforcement of the capacity to measure and report data on environment contributes to improving access to environmental information, in line with the Aarhus convention²⁰.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The general objective of the Action is to support the depollution of the Mediterranean Sea through the implementation of certain aspects of the Barcelona Convention (depollution, monitoring, biodiversity), connected with efficient water management, and environmental friendly transport and by thus contributing to UfM agenda.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal(s) 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, 14: Life Below Water, but also promotes progress towards Goals 15: Life on Land, 11: Sustainable Cities and communities. This does not imply a commitment by the Countries benefiting from this programme.

²⁰

Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, Aarhus, Denmark, 25 June 1998.

4.1.1 *Depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and efficient use of water.*

Specific Objective 1: implement an integrated approach to pollution reduction and prevention in line with the Barcelona Convention, and contribute to reducing water stress.

Output 1: prevention, reduction, collection and recycling of marine litter, with a specific attention to plastic pollution.

Measures under this objective contribute to preventing pollution reaching the Mediterranean Sea, supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production. A particular attention will be given to preventing plastic pollution. In order to implement the ecosystem approach for a healthy and productive Mediterranean Sea, specific attention will be given to institutional reinforcement, capacity building of national and where possible local and port authorities based when available on pilot actions. Support will as well be given to means that will lead to reducing pollution from sea-based sources and land-based sources²¹ through the implementation of the national plans against pollution, the regional action plan against marine litter under the Barcelona Convention and of the EU waste hierarchy.

Reduction of plastic pollution can be achieved by, amongst other things, phasing out the use of certain types of plastics (e.g. plastic bags and single-use plastic), defining and implementing plastic management plans, extending products responsibility, initiating deposit return schemes for plastic and plastic waste, and organising plastic retreatment and recycling.

The action will also contribute to raise awareness among consumers and producers, information on the causes and the consequences of plastics in the environment and in particular in the Mediterranean Sea and aiming at behavioural change and innovation in product design for preventing plastic marine litter.

Output 2: Water efficiency. Water is used more efficiently; to this end, support is given to policy regional dialogue on water and efficient use of water. Special attention should be considered to improving water governance and transboundary co-operation.

Specific objective 2: Capacity building/institutional reinforcement to report on environment indicators and to developing regional network of marine protected areas.

Output 1: Environmental agencies/ministries will be better equipped to design policies with a view to measuring progress towards Good Environmental Status (GES); to better do the biodiversity monitoring and to control pollution (i.e. implementation of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP)). This will be done in line with their needs assessment under the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) Funding Strategy.

²¹

in accordance with Mediterranean Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production and the Mediterranean Action Plan for Marine Litter.

National and local administrations will also be better able to complete the legal framework necessary for the extension of regional network of Marine protected areas, and better able to enforce the regulatory provisions. Particular attention will be given to the reinforcement of the capacity to monitor the existing MPAs and contribute to overall biodiversity monitoring in the context of IMAP.

Protection of biodiversity with the aim of achieving Good Environmental Status is a primary objective of this component.

4.1.2 . *Green and circular economy*

Objective: reduce the environmental footprint of economic activities.

This action promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns that contribute to the development of green businesses. As a result, this action provides for employment opportunities, in particular for women and younger workers, and it contributes directly to reducing pollution from industrial activities and to increasing re-use and recycling of material to limit waste. New and durable employment opportunities contribute to further stabilise the region.

This action is the local version of the wider SWITCH initiative. Therefore it contributes to achieving the GPGC objectives concerning green and circular economy.

Output 1: The action contributes to developing an enabling environment, including institutional, fiscal, business environment, conducive to the development of green businesses and a circular economy, thus facilitating green production and consumption methods. The implementation of plans at national and sub-national level will include developing green public procurement as a driver of change. Green and circular economy measures will be mainstreamed into broader economic policy and plans.

Output 2: increased number of green businesses, including for young women and men, dissemination of the results achieved by the activities under the regional and the national²² SWITCH programmes and where necessary/appropriate co-ordination among the regional/national level.

Output 3: Civil society Organisations are supported for the actions in the area of green and circular economy. As a consequence, through the actions and outreach of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) awareness is raised on sustainable production and consumption and better resource management.

4.1.3 *Safe, Secure and Sustainable Transport*

Objective: promoting sustainable and efficient transport, with improved safety, security, and efficiency. This will be achieved promoting transport systems based on harmonised standards as a condition for economic growth and integration of the region.

²²

So far, Algeria and Lebanon are expected to launch national SWITCH projects.

Output 1: Improved aviation safety through continued co-operation with the European Aviation Safety Agency, technical assistance to accede to relevant conventions and to implement aviation agreements with the EU.

Output 2: Beneficiaries set up national logistics strategies in coherence with the regional developments and have improved training capacities in the domain of logistics throughout the region. A particular attention will be logistics zones and their maritime connections.

Output 3: Improved coverage of European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service, (EGNOS) Safety of Life signal on all priority airports in the region through the deployment and network integration of three additional Range Integrity Monitoring Stations.

4.2 Main activities

Component 1: depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and efficient use of water will benefit of a joint support activity: a support mechanism will include support the implementation of the H2020 initiative and water related projects. It will include; amongst other things, technical assistance to capacity building and institutional reinforcement, to developing schemes to promote separate collection of wastes in ships and ports, to developing fishing for litter schemes, and to managing waste water, sewerage and storm water. Activities will consist of policy advice and training to central and local authorities, port authorities, civil society including NGOs, professional associations (e.g. fishermen' associations) and citizens' associations including local communities. This capacity building will be based when available on pilot actions and study visits to best practices will be foreseen in Europe or in the partner countries.

Awareness raising and capacity building actions include support to advertising campaigns, fishers and port authorities will also be targeted and trained in prevention and sustainable handling of fishing gear waste.

Support will also be given to the European Commission in designing and launching an award for best practices, technologies, and institutional solutions, and the support to disseminate and scale-up the solutions identified. Innovative means to promote retrieving plastics from the sea may also be considered.

Support will also be given to the implementation of the UfM agendas, by providing input to the UfM Water Expert Group (WEG) and the Environment Working Group.

Specific activities will concern reduction of water stress, to be pursued through:

- Technical assistance, training to authorities, civil society.
- Identification and dissemination of means to improve water efficiency such as reduction of non-revenue water, technical and economic losses, and recommendations to stakeholders (utility companies, local administrations), promotion of water re-use and the appropriate implementation of non-conventional water use.

- Support the Commission in managing the call for demo projects (see below), support the implementation of the project to increase their impact and disseminate their results.
- The implementation of Demo projects for the identification and dissemination of technical and institutional solutions to optimise the use of water, facilitate the regulation and distribution of water among different uses, and optimise the three components of the water–energy–food nexus. Where relevant and in view to having a fully integrated approach, activities linked to sustainable irrigation, land protection and crop management may be addressed.

Component 2: promotion of green and circular economy, the objectives will be reached through technical assistance under a policy component, aimed at completing and enforcing the legal framework, addressing relevant national, regional and local administrations, support to consumer associations.

Measures directed towards businesses include training of trainers and of potential green entrepreneurs, realisation of environmental diagnostics in businesses (Med TEST²³), and support to organising the necessary investments in individual, selected businesses including women-led businesses.

Component 3: safe, secure and sustainable transports: its overall activities across the three projects will all contribute to the help beneficiaries implementing the UfM regional transport action plan. They will notably include:

- Awareness raising and best practice sharing at regional level on the implementation of international standards;
- Specific staff trainings with a focus on training the trainers;
- Support to the relevant UfM working groups;
- Technical assistance to specific administrations or projects.

4.3 Intervention logic

Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea is increasing because human activities produce litter, and in particular plastic litter, that is insufficiently treated and ends up in the Sea. This action supports partner countries in attaining good environmental status, implementing an ecosystem approach. The Barcelona Convention provides the framework for co-operation. Water scarcity is another environmental challenge, where governance and use of water are yet not sufficiently efficient. Transports are another specific cause of pollution through emissions and spills.

²³

MED TEST is UNIDO's Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST), an integrated approach that provides industries and small and medium enterprises with a set of tools to initiate a cycle of continuous improvements within their business operations to manage the transition towards a sustainable production.

It is therefore necessary to prevent plastic pollution from all sources, promote sustainable consumption and production patterns to support sustainable growth, to promote water efficiency, better waste management, and to develop efficient and sustainable transport solutions. The Mediterranean Sea is shared among EU and Southern Neighbourhood countries, and effective regional environmental action is necessary.

Through this action, the EU contributes to supporting capacity building and institutional reinforcement necessary to develop, complete and enforce the legal framework conducive to prevention and reduction of pollution, improve efficient use of water, and the shift towards greener economic activities.

The means to achieve the objectives consist of technical assistance to the relevant administrations in charge of mobility, depollution of the Mediterranean, pollution prevention, design and implementation of marine protected areas and monitoring of environmental indicators, as well as the administrations and utilities in charge of water management. Awareness raising activities towards the general public, civil society and businesses will contribute to drive change in behaviours. These will target possible efficiency improvements in all areas of the three components and will be achieved through identification and dissemination of best practices and demonstration projects.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this Decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU²⁴.

²⁴

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

5.3.1 Component 1: Depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and efficient use of water.

5.3.1.1 Grants: call for proposals «Efficient use of water – Demonstration projects» (direct management).

- (a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results.

A single call for proposals will be launched to finance a set of demonstration projects that implement innovative approaches or replicate successful practices. The main field of intervention will be the promotion of efficient use of water in urban and rural areas.

Emphasis will be placed on internal and external project monitoring so that lessons learnt can feed into the regional level and be disseminated in the region. Indicatively, it is expected to have up to five grant contracts.

- (b) Eligibility conditions

Eligible applicants have their place of establishment in EU member states, ENI countries or in countries having traditional economic, trade or geographical links with neighbouring partner countries and are not beneficiaries of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) or ENI. Eligible applicants are non-profit entities (local authorities, public bodies, international organisations, NGOs, academia...).

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 1,000,000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (co-ordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 36 months.

- (c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

- (d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

If full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%, the essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

- (e) Indicative timing to launch the call:

1st trimester 2019.

5.3.1.2 Procurement (direct management)

	Type (works, supplies,	Indicative number of	Indicative trimester of
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	services)	contracts	launch of the procedure
Support mechanism to depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and efficient use of water	Service	1	4 th trimester 2018

5.3.1.3 Indirect management with an international organisation.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with UN Environment. This implementation entails i) the support to the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) to measure the progress of the Mediterranean towards Good Environmental Status and ii) the support to the national and local administrations to extend the regional network of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean.

This implementation is justified because UN Environment provides secretariat services to the contracting parties of the Barcelona convention through its Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Co-ordinating Unit. This Unit is in charge of supporting the implementation of the action plan for the protection of the Marine environment and to implement the monitoring of the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation tasks: activities leading to a) implementation of Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme, in particular its biodiversity and contaminants aspects and b) the creation of new Marine Protected Areas and demonstration activities to improve the management of existing Marine Protected Areas and contribute to biodiversity monitoring within IMAP.

5.3.2 Component 2: Green and circular economy

5.3.2.1 Indirect management with international organisations

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with a delegation agreement with United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) or a co-delegation agreement with UNIDO and UN Environment.

This implementation entails the support to the private sector transition to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) practices, both by demonstration activities implemented directly with the private sector and support to the development of relevant policies and a legal framework. It will also include the support to the CSOs in the area of green and circular economy.

This implementation is justified because:

- UNIDO has an historical working relationship with the Ministries of Industry in the Mediterranean area as well with the Cleaner Production and Technology Centres. UNIDO has as well the capacity to successfully steer this programme, which is a scaling up of an ongoing project (SWITCH MED Demonstration and networking component) implemented by UNIDO;

- UN Environment has a clear institutional and legal mandate in the field, deriving from the Barcelona convention and its legislative framework. Moreover, the Economy Division of UN Environment has a recognised competency on sustainable consumption and production at methodological level;

The entrusted entities would carry out budget-implementation tasks for the up-scaling of the Green Entrepreneurship Programme and the implementation of Sustainable policies.

5.3.3 Component 3: Safe, Secure and Sustainable Transports

5.3.3.1 Grant: direct award "EuroMed Aviation Project" (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results.

Encourage co-operation with the EU Aviation Safety Agency, improve regional co-operation in the field of civil aviation and the promotion of EU and international standards for aviation sustainability, safety, and security.

(b) 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 the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

EASA has a *de jure* monopoly. Indeed, EASA is by its founding regulation and subsequent amendment the only authorised agency able to develop implementing rules and carry out inspections in EU Member States. This monopoly is also effective towards non-EU countries, which are far advanced in implementing the EU safety *acquis*.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 100%.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement:

4th trimester 2018.

5.3.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
EuroMed EGNOS - EUR 9 million to be managed by Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry,	Supply	1	1 st trimester 2019

Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (GROW) through a cross sub-delegation			
EuroMed Logistics – EUR 3 million	Service	1	Last semester 2019

5.4 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 provision.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution 2018 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution 2019 (amount in EUR)	Total EU Contribution	Indicative third party contribution, (amount in EUR)	Total
5.3.1. – Component 1: Depollution of the Mediterranean Sea and efficient use of water					
5.3.1.1 – Call for proposals « <i>Efficient use of water – Demonstration projects</i> » (direct management)		5,000,000	5,000,000	1,250,000	6,250,000
5.3.1.2 – Procurement « <i>Support mechanism to depollution of the Mediterranean and efficient use of water</i> » (direct management)	9,000,000		9,000,000		9,000,000
5.3.1.3 – Indirect management with UN Environment	4,000,000		4,000,000		4,000,000
5.3.2. – Component 2: Green and circular economy					
5.3.2.1. – Indirect management with UNIDO and UN Environment	15,000,000		15,000,000		15,000,000
5.3.3. – Component 3: Safe, secure and sustainable transports					
5.3.3.1 Direct grant " <i>EuroMed Transport Aviation Project</i> " (direct management)	3,000,000		3,000,000		3,000,000
5.3.3.2 Procurement " <i>EuroMed Transport</i> "		3,000,000	3,000,000		3,000,000

<i>Logistics Project"</i> (direct management)					
5.3.3.3 Procurement " <i>EuroMed Transport EGNOS Project"</i> (direct management)	9,000,000		9,000,000		9,000,000
5.8 – Evaluation, 5.9 - Audit	will be covered by another Decision			N.A.	
5.10 – Communication and visibility	N.A.			N.A.	
Totals	40,000,000	8,000,000		1,250,000	49,250,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The action as a whole will be managed by the Commission services. An appropriate inter-service consultation mechanism will be created to ensure the coherence of the project and synergies with similar projects.

Steering Committees shall be established for each project within the action. It will be chaired by the Commission to ensure strategic guidance of the actions. The Union for Mediterranean will be part of the co-ordination mechanism and will be invited to attend the various Steering Committees. To ensure complementarity between the different components of the action, the different "projects" will invite implementing partners of other components within their Steering Committee.

5.7 Performance 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 partners' responsibilities. To this aim, each 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 (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). 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 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).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term (optional) and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

A mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving in case of the annual report or the steering committees indicate potential difficulties in one or several components of the action. A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and

learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the complexity and the various topics covered by the action.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least 1 month in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners 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 shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the projects.

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

5.9 Audit

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 for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing Decision.

5.10 Communication and 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

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

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Depollution of the Mediterranean through the implementation of certain aspects of the Barcelona Convention (depollution, monitoring, biodiversity), connected with efficient water management and environmental friendly transport.	Level of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea	2014 : TBD and to be agreed with UNEP, EEA	To be developed during project implementation	National data; European Environment Agency, UNEP MAP, Joint Research Center.	
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<p>SO1: Pollution reduction within the Barcelona Convention on the depollution of the Mediterranean Sea, and contribute to reducing water stress.</p> <p>SO2: Capacity building/institutional reinforcement to report on environment indicators and to developing regional network of marine protected areas</p> <p>SO3: Reduce the environmental footprint of economic activities and</p>	<p>- Volume of pollutants, disaggregated by type of pollutant weighted against changes in population and economic activity .</p> <p>- Reduction of water lost²⁵ weighted against changes in population and economic activity.</p> <p>More comprehensive and reliable reports on pollution, Surface of marine protected areas designed and implemented,</p> <p>Amount of resources savings generated by the</p>	<p>2018 : TBD (Report from EEA)</p> <p>- TBD – depending on UNEP MAP 2018 report on state of the Mediterranean</p> <p>- MPAs = 2017, 7% of Med Sea</p> <p>2018 is baseline</p>	<p>Tbd during project inception</p> <p>TBD together with UNEP MAP</p> <p>MPAs : >10% of Med. Sea. TBD during inception phase</p>	<p>UNIDO, national administrations, business associations.</p> <p>UNEP MAP, H2020.</p>	National administrations make available the necessary resources (human, material), and remain committed to the Barcelona Convention.

²⁵

Reduction in water consumption, even weighted, would be misleading, because ability to consume more water when needed is welcome outcome.

	consumption (Green economy). SO4: Promoting sustainable and efficient transport with improved safety, security and efficiency	companies involved in the project (material, energy, water). Score on the Logistics Performance index	year. 2018 data	TBD during inception phase	UNIDO, National available data. World Bank statistics (Logistics Performance Index)	
Outputs	SO1: Prevention, reduction, collection and recycling of Marine litter with a specific attention to plastic pollution. / Water is used more efficiently SO2: IMAP ²⁶ implemented / Existence of national legal framework on MPA; improved MPA monitoring system. SO3: existence of national framework facilitating green business / increased number of uptake of SCP practices by MSMEs ²⁷ /improved awareness on sustainable consumption.	Volume of waste and plastic waste treated / volume of water re-used... IMAP report / existence of MPA national legal framework ; improved MPA monitoring report Implementation of NAPs / Number of BDS ²⁸ and MSMEs supported by the action in the field of SCP. Level of regulatory convergence , level of	2018: TBC IMAP: 2018 – No MPA legal framework / current MPA legal framework and monitoring capacity. Number of current SCP NAPs (8, TBC) and level of implementation (TBD – if possible) TBD	TBD during inception phase IMAP is in place / Legal framework is in place and enforced; improved MPA reporting TBD during inception phase TBD during project design	UNEP, UNIDO. UNEP MAP, H2020, UNIDO , national data. EASA reporting	National and local administrations make available the necessary resources (human, material), and remain committed to the objectives of the project.

²⁶. IMAP: Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Program.

²⁷ MSME: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

²⁸ BDS: Business Development Services.

	SO4: Improved aviation safety; setting up of national logistics strategies / Improved coverage of EGNOS Safety of Life signal on all priority airport in the region.	<p>implementation of aviation agreements / Number of beneficiary countries with dedicated logistics strategy /</p> <p>Number of EGNOS rims installed and integrated in the network.</p>	4	7	<p>Official journals</p> <p>GSA report, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises (GROW).</p>	
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 2

of the Commission Implementing Decision
on the Annual Action Programme 2018 – Part 2¹ in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for the ENI South Global Allocation for 2018-2020

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	ENI South Global Allocation for 2018-2020 CRIS numbers: - ENI/2018/041-365 - ENI/2019/041-366 - ENI/2020/041-367 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Neighbourhood South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syria and Tunisia. Countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and the League of Arab States partner countries other than Neighbourhood South partner countries ³ : Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Montenegro, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. ENI wide Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Complementary support/Multi-sector aid

¹. AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries - Part 1: ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.

². This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

³. In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 232/2014 (ENI Regulation).

5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 52,500,000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 50,000,000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 20,000,000 from the general budget of the Union for 2018, - EUR 15,000,000 from the general budget of the Union for 2019, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget, - EUR 15,000,000 from the general budget of the Union for 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget. <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 2,500,000.</p> <p>Budget line: 22.040304</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – grants – calls for proposals; – procurement of services and supplies. 			
7. DAC code(s)	<p>43010 – Multi-sector aid</p>			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	<p>Not applicable</p>			
10. Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	<p>Not applicable</p>			

SUMMARY

The ENI South Global Allocation for 2018-2020 is a support measure giving the European Commission the possibility to finance small-scale measures that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Thematic area

Multisector aid: support to the project cycle management and studies, information and communication activities, organisation of meetings and training activities and Regional Economic and Political Research activities.

1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

Based on the “Common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action” (CIR)⁴, in particular Article 3 on “Support measures”, the ENI South Global Allocation for 2018-2020 provides funding to cover expenditure for the implementation of the ENI and for the achievement of its objectives⁵, including inter alia administrative support associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for such implementation, as well as expenditure at EU Delegations on the administrative support needed to manage operations financed under the Instrument.

The Strategy Paper 2014-2020 and Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-2020 for Regional South⁶ recognise the global allocation as one of its key tools to cover expenditures associated with the activities necessary for the implementation of the indicative programme, the organisation of regional ministerial meetings, working groups and related conferences as well as pilot activities in new areas of co-operation. The Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-2020 states that “better, clearer and tailor-made strategic communications, leading to more understanding of EU policies and increased credibility for the EU [...]” is a cross-cutting issue”.

1.1.2 *Stakeholder analysis*

The main stakeholders are the ENI Southern Partner countries, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia. Therefore and if relevant, countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and the League of Arab States partner countries other than Neighbourhood South partner countries⁷ (shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

The action is designed to support preparation, monitoring and follow-up of the EU co-operation programmes by the EU Delegations in the Southern Neighbourhood

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

⁵ See Article 2 of the ENI Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

⁶ The adoption of the Regional South AAP 2018 part 2 depends on the adoption of the MIP 2018 -2020 which will go to the same ENI committee in July

⁷ Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Albania, Mauritania, Montenegro, Turkey, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

countries and by the Commission Headquarters. The end beneficiaries are citizens in the partner countries, as projects will be better prepared, monitored and followed-up.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The EU Delegations and the Commission services can use the global allocation for support activities for the project cycle management and studies such as preparation, monitoring and follow-up of programmes, for information and communication purposes, for organisation of meetings and training activities and for Regional Economic and Political Research activities related to ENI and other EU funded/supported programmes and activities. These include:

- a) studies, meetings, training, exchanges of lessons learned and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the management of the actions;
- b) research activities and studies on relevant co-operation-related issues and the dissemination thereof;
- c) information, communication and awareness-raising actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication of the political priorities of the EU.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
N/A	N/A	N/A
Assumptions		
Given the experience from the global allocation funding under the former European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (2007-2013) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (since 2014), it is assumed that there is a genuine need for this instrument that allows Commission Headquarters and Delegations to plan co-operation related activities in a flexible way.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Given the support nature of previous and current global allocations, past actions are assessed against the consumption level of committed funds in the previous years. This is one of the criteria, along with priorities and needs, taken into account in the initial programming, as well as in the planning exercise once the Commission Implementing Decision is adopted. Reinforcement of budget is due to the yearly high level of demand for the global allocation that proved there is genuine need for this instrument as a flexible supporting tool at both Delegations and Headquarters' levels.

In addition, the need to have more funds available for locally designed and contracted communication and visibility activities in Delegations, has been broadly voiced by them and recognised by Headquarters. The global allocation will be used to reinforce communication capacities and in particular strategic communication to be contracted locally and over longer term by the Delegations.

Another reason for the increment of the total budget is the introduction of Component 4 "Regional Economic and Political Research activities" -funded with EUR 5 million from the regional envelope- in this Action Document.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

The global allocation is considered as a complementary action to the Technical Assistance allocations existing in the frame of the Single Support Frameworks.

Donor co-ordination is not relevant to an internal supporting tool for the Commission Services in Delegations and at Headquarters.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Cross-cutting issues as such are not directly built into the global allocation. They are nevertheless built into the EU funded projects and other activities that the global allocation supports.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The objective of this global allocation is to ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument which is capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations.

4.2 Main activities

The global allocation will be used as a framework for financing activities in the following fields:

Component 1 - Support for project cycle management and studies

This component includes activities linked to:

- i. identification and formulation of bilateral and regional projects which may result in funding from ENI (e.g. sectoral/thematic studies, country or region studies, studies on cross-cutting issues or specific co-operation areas, preparatory activities, including meetings with national stakeholders, etc.);
- ii. small projects and other small-scale activities to back up major bilateral, regional, ENI-wide and cross-border co-operation projects during their implementation;
- iii. audit, evaluation and impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule or is no longer available;
- iv. inter alia studies on relevant issues, data collection and processing and the dissemination thereof.

Component 2 - Information and communication activities

This component supports activities in the following areas:

publications, communication and awareness-raising activities to promote the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and enhance in particular the visibility of EU's activities in the Southern Neighbourhood countries. This includes Communication facility actions to help Delegations communicate more strategically with the aim of more understanding of EU policies and increased credibility for the

EU as a body in the eyes of the citizens of the countries of the Southern Mediterranean.

Component 3 - Organisation of meetings and training activities

This component covers the following activities:

organisation of different kinds of meetings in the framework of the ENP South region, including ministerial conferences conducted in co-operation with the EU presidency, thematic workshops and working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.;

training activities organised in the framework of the ENP South region, inter alia:

- i. Training seminars for League of Arab States (LAS) representatives and other joint activities in the priority sectors of co-operation between the EU and the LAS following the Declaration of the EU-LAS Ministerial meeting held in Athens, in June 2014.
- ii. Information and training seminars for diplomats coming from Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) countries.

If relevant, countries from the UfM and LAS⁸ shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

Component 4 - Regional Economic and Political Research activities

This component will reinforce policy dialogue and political and economic research on priority themes in the framework of the Union for Mediterranean framework and to ensure the dissemination of studies and research to civil society and policy/decision-makers in the North and South Mediterranean.

It supports activities in the following areas:

Economic and political research on key topics which are aligned with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) for the Southern Neighbourhood countries; policy briefs; support of policy dialogues; strengthen links between research networks, universities, academia, policy makers, civil society, non-governmental organisations and private sector.

4.3 Intervention logic

The utilisation of the global allocation funds by the EU Delegations in the Southern Neighbourhood countries as well as Commission services depends on needs arising in the project cycle management and studies, follow-up and monitoring needs, information and communication activities, organisation of meetings and training and Regional Economic and Political Research activities arising throughout the year. Each beneficiary Delegation and Commission service makes its initial annual plan for using the global allocation funds in the beginning of each year, and the plan is updated throughout the year when need occurs.

⁸

Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Montenegro, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is as follows:

For activities financed under budget 2018	48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document
For activities financed under budget 2019	60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document
For activities financed under budget 2020	72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this Decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁹.

The programme will be implemented through direct management using both grants and procurement contracts.

The Southern Neighbourhood global allocation is a Support Measure in the meaning of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014. It is meant to react with flexibility to evolving circumstances and unforeseen situations. Therefore, the separation of amounts and number of contracts is provisional and indicative. Numbers are based on previous years' experience.

5.3.1 Grants: calls for proposals (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grants is to ensure preparation of actions and projects by giving support to project cycle management, studies and information activities, organisation of meetings and training activities and Regional Economic and Political Research activities.

(b) Eligibility conditions

⁹ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

As foreseen in the ENI basic act.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80%.

If full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the calls

For activities financed under budget 2018	Last trimester 2018, trimesters 1 and 2 in 2019.
For activities financed under budget 2019	Trimesters 3 and 4 in 2019, trimesters 1 and 2 in 2020.
For activities financed under budget 2020	Trimesters 3 and 4 in 2020, trimesters 1 and 2 in 2021.

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Ensure preparation of actions and projects	Services and supplies	Up to 270	Between last trimester 2018 and 2 nd trimester 2021

5.4 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 provision.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

Component	EU contribution 2018 (in EUR)	EU contribution 2019 (in EUR)	EU contribution 2020 (in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution (in EUR)
Component 1: “Support for project cycle management” composed of:	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	
5.3.1 – Grants (direct management)	500,000	500,000	500,000	250,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	N.A.
Component 2: “Studies and information activities” composed of:	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	
5.3.1 – Grants (direct management)	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	750,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	N.A.
Component 3: “Organisation of meetings and training activities” composed of:	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	
5.3.1 – Grants (direct management)	500,000	500,000	500,000	250,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	N.A.
Component 4: “Regional Economic and Political Research activities” composed of:	5,000,000			
5.3.1 – Grants (calls for proposals)	5,000,000			1,250,000
Totals	20,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	2,500,000
Grants – total envelope, section 5.3.1	8,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	
Procurement – total envelope, section 5.3.2	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The EU Delegations and Commission services benefiting from the global allocation will prepare after the approval of this Commission Decision an initial plan for the utilisation of the funds and they are responsible for their contracting.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The monitoring of the implementation will be carried out, including periodic assessment of progress and delivery of the project results.

5.8 Evaluation

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake an evaluation of this action or its components for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partners.

Where relevant, evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be

taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the action.

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

5.9 Audit

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 for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing Decision.

5.10 Communication and 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

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

This action already includes activities meant for supporting communication of the Delegations and the Commission Headquarters and in particular visibility of EU's activities in the Southern Neighbourhood. Action plans will be devised at country level through respective communication contracts, wherever relevant.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing Decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	<i>Intervention logic</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Sources and means of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
Overall objective	<i>To ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations.</i>			
Programme purpose	<p><i>To provide:</i></p> <p><i>1) Support for project cycle management (including identification, formulation, audit, evaluation, impact assessment of projects and small-scale projects/activities to back up major ENI programmes, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>2) Studies and information activities (including publications, awareness-raising, visibility, data collection and processing, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>4) Regional Economic and Political Research to reinforce policy dialogue and political and economic research on priority themes of the Union for Mediterranean countries</i></p> <p><i>3) Organisation of meetings and training activities in the framework of</i></p>	<p><i>Commitments rate of available budget to finance programmes through the ENI in the ENP South.</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge of the EU and of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in particular in partner countries (institutions, organisations, citizens, etc.).</i></p>	<p><i>CRIS</i></p> <p><i>Budget execution and amount of RAC (Reste à contracter).</i></p> <p><i>External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) as well as other yearly reports at HQ level.</i></p> <p><i>Mid-term evaluations of the programming documents.</i></p> <p><i>Participation of partner countries institutions, organisations and citizens in events organised by the EU Delegations.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback from participants in meetings and training activities.</i></p>	<p><i>Socio-economic and political stability of the partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Quality of the political dialogue with partner governments.</i></p> <p><i>Quality of the dialogue with citizens and non-governmental organisations.</i></p> <p><i>Quality of the past support provided to partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Relevance of the activities in the socio-economic and political context of the partner countries.</i></p>

	<i>the ENP South Region (also including activities for LAS and UfM countries representatives)</i>			
Expected results	<p><i>Projects funded from ENI South (e.g. sector studies, country or region studies, studies on horizontal and cross-cutting issues or in specialised areas, preparatory activities, etc.) identified and formulated. Monitoring and follow-up of the projects undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>Other small-scale activities to back up major projects during their implementation undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>Audits, evaluations and impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule, or is no longer available funded.</i></p> <p><i>Information and communication activities to (i) raise awareness and visibility of the EU and the European Neighbourhood Policy; (ii) to enhance the visibility of EU-funded activities; and (iii) to improve the understanding of EU co-operation policies in the Southern Neighbourhood region implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Policy recommendations concerning key regional economic, political and governance/ reform issues are produced</i></p> <p><i>Increased communication and dissemination of the outputs of the</i></p>	<p><i>Number of identification and feasibility studies.</i></p> <p><i>Number of projects identified and prepared in co-operation with institutions and organisations in the partner countries</i></p> <p><i>Design and formulation of good quality programmes within the set deadlines.</i></p> <p><i>Number of studies, audits and evaluations carried out and that cannot be financed with the allocated budget of the programmes.</i></p> <p><i>Number of communication activities launched</i></p> <p><i>Number of people reached</i></p> <p><i>Number of media reached</i></p> <p><i>Number of publications</i></p> <p><i>Number of events promoting visibility of the ENP.</i></p> <p><i>Number and quality of economic and political research studies produced</i></p> <p><i>Number and quality of policy</i></p>	<p><i>CRIS</i></p> <p><i>Budget execution and amount of RAC (Reste à contracter).</i></p> <p><i>External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) as well as other yearly reports at HQ level.</i></p> <p><i>Delay for the approval and comments by HQ on the action documents going through quality review.</i></p> <p><i>Minutes of the meetings with the counterparts on the implementation of the programmes.</i></p> <p><i>Programmes implementation reports.</i></p> <p><i>Media monitoring</i></p> <p><i>Views and interaction on social media</i></p> <p><i>Result-oriented monitoring (ROM) reports.</i></p> <p><i>Programmes evaluation reports.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback from participants in meetings and training activities.</i></p>	<p><i>Socio-economic and political stability of the partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Good quality of dialogue and co-operation between Delegations and counterparts in partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Good quality of terms of reference and work of experts in charge of the studies and of the technical assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Capacity and willingness of a constructive and substantial participation of the counterparts in dialogues, meetings, events, training, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Communication is perceived as a priority by the Delegations. It is not something that comes after, but is taken into account from the very start of a project or other action.</i></p>

	<i>research networks to a wider audience</i> <i>Organisation of meetings and training activities, thematic workshops and working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.</i>	<i>briefs produced and number of policy dialogues supported</i> <i>Number of meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. organised and number of participants.</i> <i>Number of trainings and number of participants.</i>		
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This Action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 3

of the Commission Implementing Decision
on the Annual Action Programme 2018 – Part 2¹ in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for the period 2019 - 2021

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation No 236/2014 in section 5.3.1 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) for the period 2019 - 2021 CRIS numbers: - ENI/2018/395-665 - ENI/2019/396-981 - ENI/2020/396-982 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	The action shall be carried out at the following location: countries as listed below. Neighbourhood South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syria and Tunisia. Countries neighbouring the Neighbourhood region ³ : Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Mauritania, Montenegro, Monaco and Turkey.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020).

¹ AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries - Part 1: ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

³ In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 232/2014 (ENI Regulation).

4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Support regional and sub-regional institutional co-operation	DEV. Aid: YES		
5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 25.26 million</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 12.63 million</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <p>- EU budget contribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2018, - EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2019, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget, and - EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget. <p>- UfM members for an amount of EUR 4.21 million per annum.</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.03.04</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management –grants – direct award</p>			
7 a) DAC code(s)	15110 - Public sector policy and administrative management			
b) Main Delivery Channel	47000 Other multilateral institutions			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public	N/A			

Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship	
10. Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

SUMMARY

The purpose of this action is to support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) from 2019-2021 through an operating grant covering 50% of the cost of the organisation. The remainder of the resources necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat will be covered by the members of the UfM through financial contributions and the secondment of staff. This operating grant by the EU together with the contributions from the members of the UfM will permit the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate for the years 2019-2021.

At the time of writing this action document, EU co-operation with Syrian governmental authorities is still suspended. In case this Decision is reversed, the Commission will assess the opportunity to involve Syrian authorities in the implementation. The political instability and/or security situation in Syria will be assessed prior to that in order to confirm the feasibility/opportunity to: a) engage the stakeholders and b) implement the activities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The situation in the region remains very complex with increased fragmentation. Despite the democratic gains in some countries, civil society organisations are concerned about shrinking space for them to operate in a number of countries of the region and a danger of reversal of the gains made at the time of the Arab transitions in 2011.

The economic situation remains challenging and social demands still focus on political dignity (freedom, human rights) the recognition of economic and social rights and improvement of economic situation, including job creation. The continued Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the ongoing conflict in Syria with its international repercussions together with continued instability in Libya overshadow the whole region. The region is considered to be the 'least connected' in the world in terms of infrastructure, trade and travel.

Since the Arab upheavals in 2011, the EU has intensified dialogue and co-operation with key regional actors. The EU as co-president of the UfM together with Jordan, along with the fruitful co-operation with the UfM Secretariat and its Secretary General, gave a new impetus to the organisation, a unique forum for dialogue among 43⁴ Euromed partners that shares and builds upon the goals of the Barcelona

⁴. Austria, Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco,

Declaration and complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours.

According to the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)⁵, the EU will give priority to the UfM in its Regional co-operation efforts between southern neighbours. In recent years, the UfM has also seen its role as a regional platform for political dialogue reinforced.

The new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is seeing to involve other regional actors, beyond the neighbourhood, where appropriate, in addressing regional challenges. There has been also renewed impetus for co-operation with the League of Arab States (LAS) which is a key forum for finding political and security solutions to conflicts affecting the region. The EU is also developing contacts with the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC).

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The policy of the European Union towards the Neighbourhood South countries seeks to encourage political and economic reform and **regional co-operation** between the countries of the region themselves and with the EU.

In late 2015, the EU completed its **review of its Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**⁶, with a series of new orientations for future co-operation with the region. Regional stability and security received greater emphasis than before and the regional institutions supported through this proposal have a vital role to play in this respect. The importance of regional co-operation is strongly endorsed in this document as well as in the **Council conclusions on the Review of the ENP** (14 December 2015) that acknowledges: "*The Union for the Mediterranean should be considered as a key regional framework for political dialogue and regional co-operation efforts, including through regular ministerial meetings*". The second edition of the Regional Forum was held in January 2017 in Barcelona, followed by series of conferences and panels entitled "Mediterranean in Action: Youth for Stability and Development". A Roadmap of proposed areas of work to deepen regional co-operation and integration was endorsed on this occasion by the UfM Ministers of Foreign Affairs or its representatives. Co-operation with regional institutions as well as in the different sectors of UfM priorities features strongly in the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Neighbourhood South 2018-2020.

The Global Strategy of the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy foresees also that, in its efforts to contribute to a peaceful and prosperous Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa, the EU will intensify its support for and co-operation with regional and sub-regional organisations, as well as functional co-operative formats in the region.

The Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and Libya as an observer. The participation of Syria is currently suspended.

⁵ JOIN (2015) 50 final, 18.11.2015.

⁶ Council Conclusions on the Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, Foreign Affairs Council, 14 December 2015, 15169/15.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, formerly known as the Barcelona Process, was re-launched at the Paris Summit in 2008 as the **Union for the Mediterranean**. The Paris Summit conveyed the importance of this Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in regards to the recognition it plays in establishing peace, security and shared prosperity in the Mediterranean.

The UfM Northern Co-Presidency was transferred to the EU in March 2012, allowing for more dynamic and co-ordinated political exchanges and better articulation of UfM activities with EU sector policies and programmes.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean was established by a Decision of Heads of State and Government of the UfM and its Statutes were adopted on the 3 March 2010 by virtue of a Decision by the Senior Officials of the members of the UfM in Barcelona.

The mandate of the Secretariat focuses on:

- 1) promoting regional dialogue among UfM member countries and with various partners active in the region following a multi-stakeholders approach; the UfM Secretariat offers platforms for dialogue in the priority areas and sectors of interventions to promote regional agendas and identification of common priorities. These platforms follow up on the implementation of the Decisions, commitments and tasks derived from the various Ministerial declarations;
- 2) identifying and promoting projects in line with the regional dialogue identified priorities, which enhance and strengthen regional co-operation and impact directly on the livelihoods of the citizens in order to improve socio-economic development, regional integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the members of the UfM.

The UfM Secretariat aims to act as a catalyst to bring Countries, National, Regional and International Financial Institutions, the private sector and civil society together around regional dialogue platforms and concrete projects of strategic importance throughout the region. Partners' participation in these projects could follow the principle of variable geometry depending on their needs and interests.

In light of the above, the EU has been providing support to the UfM Secretariat in the form of an operating grant since 2010 in co-funding with the members of the UfM.

The successful **UfM ministerial meetings** of the past years have consolidated the importance of the UfM as a political platform, reconfirmed the importance of regional integration and co-operation, and laid down the UfM work programme for the coming years. They have agreed to move forward on issues of common concern, inter alia, in the areas of employment, water, transport, energy, gender, industrial co-operation, environment and climate change, digital economy, blue economy and urban development.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The priority areas identified in the 2008 Paris Declaration of Transport and Urban Development; Energy; Environment including Climate Change and Water; Higher Education and Research, Social and Civil Affairs, Employment and Business

Development remain up to date, but the UfM Roadmap, approved in January 2017, by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, might extend this field of action.

The UfM resumed holding of several Ministerial meetings since 2013 on the role of Women (2013 and November 2017), on Transport (November 2013), Energy (December 2013 and December 2016), Industry (February 2014), Environment/Climate Change (May 2014) Digital Economy (September 2014), Blue Economy (November 2015), Regional Co-operation and planning (June 2016), Employment and Labour (September 2016), Water Issues (April 2017); Sustainable Urban Development (May 2017) and Trade (March 2018). This is a positive signal expressing a shared objective in establishing deeper regional co-operation both between EU and Southern countries and South–South co-operation.

In 2018 Ministerial Meetings on Industrial Co-operation and Transport are foreseen together with the UfM Regional Forum to be attended at Foreign Minister level, and others are in the pipeline for 2019.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
<p>The main risks and possible constraints derive from the fact that the global budget of the UfM Secretariat relies upon contributions from the European Union (around 50%) and the 43 UfM members. Any delay in the delivery of UfM governments' contributions or in the fulfilment of the corresponding commitments might lead to a disruption of the implementation of the approved work plan of the Secretariat.</p> <p>Disagreements amongst Member States can delay or prevent adoption of sectorial policy documents.</p>	H	<p>UfM Secretariat, as well as the two co-Presidencies, leads constant actions towards UfM members and other potential donors in order to secure regular funding. As a result, for instance, Sweden has signed a Co-operation Agreement contributing EUR 6.5 million over period 2017-2020 to UfM Secretariat dialogue activities. A similar agreement was concluded with Germany for an amount of EUR 2 million for 3 years (which will be provided in kind rather than directly to the UfM Budget).</p> <p>Intense work with Secretariat and amongst Member States to try to arrive at compromise solutions.</p>
Assumptions		
The UfM Secretariat will revise and adapt its work plan for 2019 and subsequent years if UfM governments' contributions do not reach the 50% of the budget foreseen.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The overall co-ordination and interaction between EU staff and the UfM Secretariat has dramatically increased since 2011 with regular exchanges and meetings on water, transport, energy, environment, private sector development, urban development, gender, climate change, blue economy, employment, energy and on regional co-operation and planning. The Secretariat's efforts to streamline and rationalise its internal procedures are also bearing fruit.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

There is a regular exchange of information between the UfM Secretariat, Commission services, the EEAS and other donors and international financing institutions. This flow of information is greatly helped by the secondment of an EU Official to the UfM Secretariat. The Secretariat has launched its own evaluation exercise of the added value of projects to be given the UfM endorsement (so called labelling) with Commission input, with a view to launch a reflection with member States on the concept of 'label', as foreseen in the agreed Roadmap.

The Heads of State and Government of the UfM members have established a co-presidency to ensure shared ownership of their co-operation. Senior officials convene regularly in order to prepare the ministerial meetings, endorse projects, take stock of and evaluate the progress of all components of the Union for the Mediterranean and review the annual work plan and budget. The UfM members co-finance it by making voluntary financial contributions and seconding officials to the Secretariat.

Close co-ordination between the Commission services is constant in order to ensure complementarities and synergies and avoid overlaps of specific activities or double funding.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Following the adoption by the Council of the EU of the tool-box "A Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, for EU Development Co-operation" in Council Conclusions in May 2014⁷, the European Commission committed to move towards a Rights-Based approach for development co-operation. Therefore grant contracts under this should follow as much as possible the working principles of the Rights-Based Approach, clearly identify the national and international legal basis of the rights addressed in the action and use relevant quantitative and qualitative indicators.

The 2008 Paris Summit declared that the UfM could play an important role in addressing common challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as regional security, sustainable economic and social development; food security crisis; degradation of the environment, including desertification, as well as addressing climate change in relation to promoting sustainable development; energy; migration; the fight against terrorism and extremism; and promoting dialogue between cultures. Emphasis will be placed on streamlining gender issues into relevant activities

⁷ Council conclusions on a rights-based approach to development co-operation, encompassing all human rights, Foreign Affairs (Development) Council meeting, Brussels, 19 May 2014.

following the Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment held in Cairo in November 2017.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The objective of the action is to support the UfM Secretariat in carrying out its mandate through an operating grant with co-funding from the members of the UfM.

It will help the Secretariat to perform the following tasks:

- a) To work with all structures of the process, particularly with the co-presidencies, e.g. drafting working documents for the senior officials and through them for the other decision making bodies, to ensure the operational follow up of the decisions of the Ministerial Conferences, and to act as an unique platform for dialogue and co-operation between stakeholders on thematic priorities for the region;
- b) To give an impetus to this process in terms of follow-up, promotion of new projects and wider sector initiatives and search for funding and for implementation partners;
- c) To be the focal point for multi-source funding of UfM projects;
- d) Increasingly interact with other sub-regional frameworks, while building on synergies.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal(s), including on clean water and sanitation and clean energy.

4.2 Main activities

The action will make an essential contribution to the attainment of the following results.

Result 1: The role of the Secretariat as a regional dialogue platform is reinforced.

Result 2: High quality regional projects and initiatives in the six priority areas (Transport and Urban Development, Energy, Environment including Climate Change and Water, Higher Education and Research, Social and Civil Affairs, Business Development and Employment) are given the UfM label and constitute an implementation of the political mandate provided by the Ministerial declarations.

Result 3: Relations and co-operation with international and bilateral financial institutions and the private sector are strengthened, notably to increase financing for projects.

Result 4: The internal functioning of the Secretariat is improved, in particular as evidenced by the supportive relations with Commission line DGs.

While consolidating the current strategic partnerships achieved with institutions such as European Commission, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction, Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and German Ministry of Co-operation (BMZ), the UfM Secretariat aims to scale up ongoing co-operation with key partners such as UN agencies, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, (OECD)

and the Islamic Development Bank. It will also continue to reach out to potential partners and network with other bilateral or regional institutions active in the region such as the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, the African Development Bank, the Swiss Development Co-operation Agency and others in the Gulf region. Financial partners will be more and more involved in sector UfM regional dialogue platform.

Activities will focus on the continuous upgrade of the procedures for processing projects submitted for 'labelling'. The manual of internal procedures includes all the policies and regulations needed for the smooth running of the organisation, and the workflows and internal control mechanisms introduced to increase efficiency and transparency in line with Commission rules. The on-line Project Monitoring System will continue to be consolidated as the unique tool of projects information internally and externally and will allow for a closer scrutiny of processes and follow up of implementation of projects. The projects submitted should take account of EU policies and priorities, particularly the revised European Neighbourhood Policy and the external dimension of EU policies on topics such as the environment, energy, transport, small and medium-sized enterprises, higher education, research and food safety. It is noted that the Commission will continue to contribute to a joint reflection on how to improve the relevance of UfM labelling. The UfM Secretariat is currently adopting policy documents on anti-fraud and anti-corruption measures, as well as an internal Code of Conduct, bringing it in line with other International Organisations, a welcomed initiative.

Apart from the projects activities, the UFM Secretariat, as an operational platform for co-operation between Northern and Southern rims of the Mediterranean, will continue encouraging consensus building, promoting the development of regional agendas, developing regional and sub-regional networks, and foster dialogue and exchange among all stakeholders from the Mediterranean region. This will be implemented through the organisation of specific dialogue meetings, high level conferences and experts fora/working groups or round tables in the areas of activity of the Secretariat's mandate.

4.3 Intervention logic

With a view at reaching the objectives and implementing the activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2, the present contribution will be delivered through 3 successive operating grants awarded to the UfM Secretariat and covering the period running from January 2019 until December 2021.

The purpose of the operating grant is to strengthen the Secretariat's internal capacities to deliver its action in terms of projects labelling, organisation of regional dialogues, implementation of ministerial mandates, preparation of senior officials meetings, etc.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries..

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out, is 42 months from adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Within this implementation period, 3 successive operating grants will be awarded, covering the following successive implementation durations: three times one year from January to December (years 2019, 2020 and 2021).

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this Decision and the relevant agreements; such amendments to this Decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁸.

5.3.1 Grants: direct award (direct management)

The action will be implemented under direct management through the award of 3 successive operating grants to the UfM respectively awarded for the following periods: 2019, 2020 and 2021. The grants will be funded by ENI South. Each successive award will be subject to (i) the submission by the grant beneficiary and approval by the Commission of a work programme and a budget; and (ii) the satisfactory implementation and performance, including in its financial aspects, of the predecessor grant(s) (including the current action grant). Satisfactory implementation may be assessed by the Commission through different means, which include: narrative and financial progress and final report(s); evaluation(s) including external evaluation; expenditure verification report(s); financial and/or system audit(s) including external audit(s); financial verification mission(s). Before the award of each successive operating grant, the Commission will recourse to some of these tools, choice of which will depend on previous year(s) assessment results and on specific risk assessments. In case of poor performance, the Commission may reduce the amount of a successor operating grant or not award it.

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the years and expected results

The objective of the grants is to support the Secretariat of the UfM in executing its mandate, in particular the work programmes from 2019 - 2021, through a financial contribution to the functioning of the organisation.

The field of intervention, priorities and expected results are those mentioned under sections 4.1 and 4.2.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

⁸

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

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 UfM is the sole forum for dialogue among the 43 countries of the euro-mediterranean zone (EU Member States, ENP South countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey and Mauritania) and complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours. **The UfM Secretariat** focuses on identifying and promoting **projects** which enhance and strengthen regional co-operation and impact directly on the livelihoods of the citizens in order to improve socio-economic development, regional integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the members of the UfM. In the last years, there has been increasing support of the Secretariat to regional policy dialogue (climate, energy, water, environment...) and the Commission has supported the idea of transferring several EuroMed dialogues and platforms (industry, urban development, transport) to the UfM framework, facilitated by the Secretariat.

The UfM was launched in July 2008 at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean. It builds on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), established at the Barcelona Conference in 1995.

As per the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean of 13 July 2008, the Secretariat is mandated to work specifically on a number of key initiatives in the following areas: De-pollution of the Mediterranean, Maritime and Land Highways, Civil Protection, Alternative Energies: Mediterranean Solar Plan, Higher Education and Research, Euro-Mediterranean University; the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative. Until now, the UfM has endorsed 51 projects; around half of which are under implementation (including, for some, with EU funding notably through the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP).

The EU has invested substantially and increasingly in the success of the Union for the Mediterranean – politically, financially and technically. The UfM Northern Co-Presidency was transferred permanently to the EU in March 2012. There is therefore a direct political interest for the EU in the efficient operating of the UfM Secretariat.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the UfM Secretariat.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed work programme to the Secretariat's mandate; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the work programme.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum rate of co-financing for this grant is 50%.

If full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreements

Period	Intended signature date	Eligibility period
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2019	Before end of December 2018	1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2019
2020	Before end of December 2019	1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2020
2021	Before end of December 2020	1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2021

5.4 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 provision.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution 2018	EU contribution 2019	EU contribution 2020	Total EU Contribution	Indicative third party contribution, (amount in EUR)	Total
5.3.1.1 – Grants Direct Award	4,210,000	4,210,000	4,210,000	12,630,000	12,630,000	25,260,000
Totals	4,210,000	4,210,000	4,210,000	12,630,000	12,630,000	25,260,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by the Commission services and, where relevant, in close collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (EEAS, European Parliament, EU Member States).

5.7 Performance 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 (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). 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 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).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, an ex-post evaluation will be carried out for this action, and previous EU support to the UfM Secretariat (counting since 2010) via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two weeks in advance of the dates foreseen 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 shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.9 Audit

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.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing Decision.

5.10 Communication and 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

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

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable

[APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ⁹]

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing Decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	With the long-term objective of reinforcing regional co-operation in the Mediterranean region and building up a common agenda, the UFM Secretariat satisfactorily fulfils the mandate it has been given by the Heads of State and Government of the UfM in 2008, and according to its Statutes adopted in 2010.	Co-operation frameworks, agreements, partnerships, programmes built and implemented in the Mediterranean region for better socio economic development.	NA	NA		- Sufficient political commitment by UFM Members
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	The strengthening of the activities of the Secretariat is accompanied by a strengthening of its internal capacity.	Outcome indicators (such as number of beneficiaries of UFMS labelled projects in the region in various sectors) will depend on the specific projects to be labelled and launched in 2019 (see output indicators below)				

⁹ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

Outputs	Activities in terms of projects labelling, regional dialogues, implementation of ministerial mandates, preparation of senior officials meeting.	<p>Regularity of Senior Officials meetings</p> <p>Occurrence of Ministerial Meetings in priority areas of the UFM</p> <p>Follow up in operational terms by the Secretariat of decisions made in the Ministerial declarations</p> <p>Number of regional platform dialogue events organised and number of regional participants</p> <p>Number of projects Labelled</p> <p>Number of projects launched/implemented</p> <p>Number of partnership agreements signed by the UFMS and external partners, and fund raised.</p>	See the approved annual activity report of previous year (2018)	See the approved annual work programme and budget for indication of the number of foreseen activities for 2018- On average, those figures should be at least maintained in 2019.	Sources of verification are the official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat	Financial contributions are effective in complement to this operating grant
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision
on the Annual Action Programme 2018 – Part 2¹ in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for the Support to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) for the period 2019 - 2021

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation No 236/2014 in section 5.3.1 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) for the period 2019 - 2021 CRIS numbers: - ENI/2018/397-096 - ENI/2019/397-097 - ENI/2020/397-099 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Countries and territories neighbouring the Neighbourhood region ³ : Turkey; Central Asia countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan; Gulf Countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates – UAE; countries from the Sahel: Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan; Iran, Iraq; non-autonomous territory of Western Sahara.
3. Programming document	Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020) - Regional East Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2017-2020)
4. Sector of	Regional South: Objective 3: Building a Partnership with the People

¹ AAP 2018 in favour of the ENI South countries - Part 1: ref. C(2017)7502 final adopted on 8.11.2017.

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.

³ In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 232/2014 (ENI Regulation).

concentration/ thematic area	Regional East: Objective 3: Enhance civil society's role as a vector for reform.			
5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 14 210 526</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 13 500 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 4.5 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2018; - EUR 4.5 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2019, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget; and - EUR 4.5 million from the general budget of the Union for financial year 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget. <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiary for an indicative amount of EUR 710 526.</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.01.01 (South allocation)</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.02.01 (East allocation)</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management – grants – direct award</p>			
7a). DAC code(s)	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society			
b) Main Delivery Channel	50000 Other			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and	N/A			

Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	
10. Sustainable development goals (SDGs)	16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

SUMMARY

The main objective of the action is to contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of partner countries by supporting pro-democracy activists. The Commission aims to enable this support by providing funding for the functioning of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED).

The EED is a private law Foundation under Belgian Law, autonomous from the European Union, whose main purpose is direct grant-making to organisations that work to promote democracy and human rights through specific flexible procedures.

The present contribution amounting to EUR 12 million will be dedicated to cover EED's operating costs over a period running from January 2019 until December 2021. These operating costs correspond to the functioning of the foundation and to the implementation of the other activities that the EED performs as part of its mandate: seminars, studies, conferences, publications, networking events, workshops, training and visibility activities, capacity building for beneficiaries etc. The direct support to target groups through grants will not be funded through the present financial contribution.

The present contribution, jointly funded by European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) South and ENI East, will be implemented under direct management through the award of 3 successive operating grants to the EED and covering the period running from January 2019 until December 2021.

1 SECTOR CONTEXT

1.1 Context

A thriving civil society empowers citizens to express their concerns, contributes to policy-making and holds authorities to account. It can also help ensure that economic growth becomes more inclusive. Key to making any of this happen is the guarantee of the freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Another challenge is to facilitate the emergence of democratic political movements that represent the broad spectrum of the views and approaches present in society so that they can compete for power and popular support. This challenge of fostering civil society and pluralism is felt throughout the Neighbourhood but is particularly acute for countries engaged in fast political change or where repressive political regimes continue to stifle pluralism and diversity.

In such a context, the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) has the vocation to support those values and objectives, and to complement existing EU co-operation instruments by funding key political players and fostering democratic transition in the Neighbourhood region through rapid and flexible assistance.

The EED was established following the December 2011 ‘Declaration on the Establishment of the European Endowment for Democracy’ by the Council⁴, which declared that it shall operate as an autonomous International Trust Fund. It was formally established at the end of 2012 with the support of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission and the EU Member States. In line with the Declaration that the Endowment shall have legal personality under the law of one of the Member States, EED was registered as a *Fondation d’utilité publique* under Belgian Law and is governed by its own statutes and governing bodies. Although its Board of Governors is composed of members designated by or representatives of all Member States, nine members of the European Parliament (MEPs), of a member designated by representative(s) of European External Action Service (EEAS) and a member designated by the European Commission, EED is formally autonomous from the European Union.

Following the approval of key documents, and the recruitment of staff through an open competition, the EED Secretariat commenced full operations on 1 July 2013. The EED Secretariat became instantly operational, with the application process for grants launched in August 2013, and the first grants awarded in September 2013.

EED’s governance structures have operated smoothly since the start of operations of EED. The Chair of the Board of Governors was re-elected in December 2015 for a final three-year term. Meanwhile, the members of the Executive Committee were re-elected in December 2015 for a further three-year term.

According to the EED statutes, the focus of the EED was initially, although not exclusively, in the Neighbourhood. In a meeting of the Board of Governors on 3 December 2014, the Board of Governors of EED formally lifted the geographic limits of EED’s work and decided that the Endowment would implement and finance a limited number of activities outside of the European Neighbourhood.

From 2016 onwards, the Board of Governors decided that the allocation of funds and key priorities for the EED operations and especially those outside the Neighbourhood area shall be determined in the EED General Guidelines.

The EED General Guidelines, as approved by the EED Board of Governors in December 2015 states that the Endowment ensures, as much as possible, geographical balance of engagement and funding between the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood. In addition, EED grants can be provided for actions beyond the European Neighbourhood, especially the “neighbours of the neighbours”, depending on needs, available funds and EU political priorities.

In the June and December 2017 Board of Governors meeting, the members of the Board endorsed the proposal from the European Commission for EED to expand its operations to the Western Balkans.

Irrespective of decisions allowing the Foundation to operate in other regions, and in particular in the Western Balkans and Turkey, the present support will cover the functioning of the EED linked to its activities targeting the Neighbourhood countries, as well as a limited number of activities targeting the countries outside the Neighbourhood which are listed above.

⁴ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/126505.pdf

Support for the Endowment's functioning in the Western Balkans and Turkey shall be provided by a parallel contribution to the EED operating costs from the Instrument for Pre-Accession.

The EED has been successful in attracting funding from its Member States, with the number of contributors rising from 11 in 2013 to 23 by the end of 2017. However, there is a rising tendency for contributions to be earmarked for specific geographic or thematic themes, in particular focusing on the Eastern Neighbourhood, which has reduced the flexibility of the EED operational model, and posed challenges in ensuring the balancing of activities between the South and East.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The events of 2011 in the Neighbourhood, in particular in the Southern Mediterranean but also in Eastern Europe, prompted a rapid response from the European Union. The Joint Communications on a *Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity for the Southern Neighbourhood* and on *A New Response to a changing neighbourhood* issued in March and in May 2011⁵ reaffirm the crucial importance of striving for deep and sustainable democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law as fundamental pillars of the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy and of the partnership with Neighbourhood countries. The Joint Communications sent a clear message of solidarity to the peoples of the Neighbourhood, assuring them that their democratic aspirations and their fight for human rights will be heard and supported, confirmed by the "ENP Review "A Stronger Partnership for a Stronger Neighbourhood" adopted in November 2015?

As a consequence, the European Commission and the High Representative jointly proposed to support the establishment of a European Endowment for Democracy, to support political actors striving for democratic change in their countries (especially political movements and non-registered Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), social partners, bloggers, etc.). One year later, the Joint Communication on *Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy*⁶ reaffirmed the EU's support to democratisation and human rights, including through its "more for more" approach, by which only those partners willing to embark on political reforms and to respect the shared universal values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law would be offered the most rewarding aspects of the EU policy. Democratic aspirations will be supported in those countries and societies that are going through a period of transition or are struggling for their democratic aspirations by advancing towards higher standards of human rights, and placing a strong emphasis on human rights within the political dialogue.

The establishment of the EED also received political support from EU Member States, through a political Declaration endorsed in December 2011 by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER)⁷. In that Declaration, the objective was set for the EED to foster and encourage deep and sustainable democracy in transition countries, focusing initially, but not exclusively, on the countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy. Subsequently a working group was established by EU Member States, representatives of the European Parliament, European

⁵ COM(2011) 200, 8 March 2011 and COM(2011) 303, 25 May 2011 respectively.

⁶ JOIN(2012) 14, 15 May 2012.

⁷ <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st18/st18764.en11.pdf>.

Commission and EEAS to draft the EED statutes. The statutes were approved by the Working Group on 20 June 2012, which was subsequently noted by the COREPER.

The proposed action is also in line with the Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan: chapter I.b ("invigorating civil society"), and more particularly objective 8 "Empowering Civil Society Organisations defending the rights of women and girls" and chapter II (Addressing Human Rights Challenges) particularly Objective 14 "Promoting gender equality, women's rights, empowerment and participation of women and girls" that includes empowerment objectives for young women and men. This initiative is in line with the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) II which establishes gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE) as an essential means for achieving peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The direct beneficiary of this action is the European Endowment for Democracy. The EED is a private law Foundation under Belgian Law, autonomous from the European Union, governed by its own statutes and governing bodies. The Foundation's main purpose is direct grant-making to pro-democracy activist and/or organisations struggling for democratic transition in the European Neighbourhood and beyond, through specific flexible procedures.

The direct beneficiaries of the Endowment's activities include: pro-democratic movements and other pro-democratic actors in favour of a pluralistic multiparty system on democratic ground; social movements and actors; civil society organisations; emerging leaders, independent media and journalists (including bloggers, social media activists, etc.), non-governmental institutions, including foundations and educational institutions functioning also in exile; provided that all the beneficiaries adhere to core democratic values, respect international human rights standards and subscribe to principles of non-violence.

EED supports groups and individuals, who seek to employ innovative, as well as traditional, means of communication and public expression to raise public awareness, assist observance of fundamental freedom and human rights and consolidate democracy. These actions are carried out on the basis of assessments of requests for help.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

A number of Neighbourhood countries continue to have restrictive legal frameworks for the protection of freedom of assembly and association and much remains to be done across the region to ensure that this freedom is fully guaranteed in law and in practice and to secure the necessary space for civil society to play its crucial role. In many countries, freedom of expression, civil society activity and peaceful demonstrations have often been countered by repression and continue to be severely curtailed. Civil Society organisations in many countries refer to the "shrinking space" which is available for them to operate and increasing obstacles being placed on their ability to receive funding from outside the country concerned.

In Ukraine, for instance, civil society actors play a very important role. A number of NGOs directly or indirectly focus their work on the consequence of conflict in eastern Ukraine. Some of them work on protection of vulnerable population affected by conflict through areas as diverse as pension rights, social entitlements, arrears, recognition of documents and degrees, basic human rights, property rights, international humanitarian law, right to vote as IDP, etc. These civil society actors

can provide fast and professional advice on the spot, typically to the people belonging to poor and often underprivileged strata of the society.

In addition, more efforts are needed to ensure respect of the rule of law, overseen by an efficient, impartial and independent judiciary, with guarantees for equal access to justice and respect for due process and fair trial standards as well as to pursue the reform of the security sector.

There has however been some progress in the respect for other human rights in some countries. There is increased respect for minority rights in Armenia and Morocco. However, torture and degrading and inhuman treatment continue to be perpetrated by security forces in a number of countries and the situation for civil society and free expression and participation in political activities have deteriorated in countries like Azerbaijan, Algeria and Egypt. Similarly, discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, ethnic origin and sexual orientation remains widespread and trafficking in human beings continues to be a serious problem in many countries.

Countries such as Egypt, Algeria and Azerbaijan have imprisoned a significant number of civil society activists and have adopted restrictive laws for international support to civil society and for the operation of civil society. In such an environment, EED and its flexible approach to support to civil society is crucial to ensure, in complementarity with EU existing mechanisms, that civil society and activists still receive support and can sustain their activities despite the severe repression.

Countries with deteriorating security situations like Libya, Ukraine (Crimea and East Ukraine) and Syria pose increased challenges for donors to support civil society. In Libya for instance, conditions for any advocacy work inside the country have deteriorated and any kind of activism on civil liberties represents a live threat. In the difficult Ukrainian context, judicial reform processes, fight for respect for fundamental freedoms, right to free and fair elections, against arbitrary detention and torture, and fight against discrimination need extra support and attention.

Finding peaceful solutions to protracted conflicts remains a key challenge throughout the Neighbourhood. The main responsibility for this lies with the conflicting parties which must enhance their efforts to find agreements in a genuine spirit of compromise. Without that, continued international mediation efforts in established formats cannot be expected to lead to a breakthrough. In the case of Syria, the EU has strongly condemned the systematic human rights violations by the Syrian regime and suspended all types of co-operation, imposed restrictive measures and kept them under constant review. The EU has only maintained aid that benefits the Syrian population, students, human rights defenders and the opposition.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk linked to the fact that the budget for EED's main activity (support to activists) is based on voluntary contributions of EU Member States or other sources, which are not scheduled in a 	H	EED, helped by EU Parliament and European Commission, leads constant advocacy actions towards EU Member States and other potential donors in order to

<p>regular manner and might tend to be somewhat ad-hoc. The absence of reliable and recurring financial commitments from its contributors or default in fulfilling those commitments might jeopardise the flexibility of the Endowment and its ability to respond immediately to support requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds from Member State "ring fenced" to reflect national priorities. • Support given to political actors, leaders of political movements and emerging leaders is a highly sensitive issue. Even if the EED is autonomous entity acting independently of the EU, the latter has to be systematically informed and aware of the possible political consequences that could result from the action of the EED. • The purported added value of the EED is its ability to act swiftly and to offer dedicated and rapid funding in risky environments. However, sound financial management requires a minimum level of procedural and regulatory conditions and transparency, which should also be applied by the EED. Also, any EU funds to the EED should be delivered and managed according to EU financial rules. The principles of sound financial management may therefore limit the flexibility and swiftness expected. 	<p>H</p> <p>M</p>	<p>secure regular funding.</p> <p>Awareness-raising at Member State level of need for EED to be able to assist human rights defenders across all geographical fields of activity.</p> <p>Headquarters and Heads of EU Delegations should be kept systematically informed of EED action and training activities in order to ensure coherence and efficiency between their respective actions. Especially Heads of Delegations should be alerted when EED interventions may raise concerns and questions from partner authorities, in order to be able to respond to the latter in a proper way.</p> <p>Close co-operation between EED and European Commission allows efficient sharing of information about financial procedures and requirements. EED staff demonstrates to be strictly observing applicable legal and financial rules. Audit, expenditure verification and evaluation are also valuable tools of mitigation</p>
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient funding will be provided by EU Member States or other 		

contributors to cover the funding needed of the EED to deliver its core action which is the direct support to activists. Funding should be enough to meet the growing number of grant requests.

- Politically the EED will continue to be seen as an autonomous body which is not an EU institution although acting at “arm's-length” distance from the EU.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The EED established itself as a functioning democracy support organisation, and has provided grants in all countries of its mandate (Neighbourhood countries): as of 1 March 2018, EED has funded 551 initiatives, 218 initiatives from the Southern Neighbourhood (particularly Tunisia, Egypt and Syria) totalling EUR 14.3 million and 268 initiatives from the Eastern Neighbourhood (particularly Ukraine and Azerbaijan) totalling EUR 16 million (EUR 12.2 million not earmarked).

EED is mandated to act as a “gap filler” providing value added compared to other donors through emergency funding, broad eligibility criteria (including individuals, unregistered organisations), support to emerging actors, core funding of NGOs, small size of grant, and support in politically sensitive environments. Support has been provided to democracy actors on the ground in politically sensitive environments and during times of crisis and war, and to local democracy actors who do not have the elaborate administrative infrastructure to manage European grants and reporting requirements.

Demand for EED support has been high. Between the launch of the application process in August 2013 and 1 March 2018, 4,306 requests for funding have been received (an average of 80/month): 2244 from the Eastern and 1322 from the Southern Neighbourhood countries (plus 300 for the “Neighbours of the Neighbours” and around 300 for other regions)

Crucial funding in various emergency situations has been provided within short period of time from the moment EED received the request for support / needs were expressed to EED. 12% of all EED grants were approved in this way, for example to provide solar panels to the Aleppo Media Centre just before the siege in Syria, in the aftermath of the Euromaidan protests, or following increased repression of activists in Russia.

EED contributes also to build capacities of democracy actors by providing coaching and trainings on subjects such as financial management, strategic planning or application to EU grants. To increase the awareness of democracy support issues, EED organises and co-hosts democracy-related discussions, as well as closed-door co-ordination meetings on sensitive countries, with partner organisations. Such events contribute to the exchange of best practice and latest developments in democracy support in the EU Neighbourhood, as well as increased co-operation with other democracy support actors.

Effective working relationships have been established with the European Commission services and the EEAS. Strong co-operation and exchange of information exists with EU Delegations across the neighbourhood, and regular contact is made while assessing applications to co-ordinate support and actions towards activists.

While the current financial support will be dedicated to cover the EED operating costs, the direct support to target groups through grants will continue to be covered exclusively by Member States or other stakeholders' voluntary contributions. As of December 2017, 23 Member States have in total pledged over EUR 57 million in contributions to EED towards grants for the period 2013-17. In addition, Canada has provided a grant of CAD 1 million per year for projects in Ukraine.

However there is a regional misbalance. While as stipulated in its General Guidelines, EED is to ensure a balanced approach to funding the Eastern Partnership and Southern Neighbourhood, at present the majority of funding comes from Member States whose democracy support priorities are focused on the Eastern Partnership countries. An important challenge for EED remains to secure predictable, reliable and regular voluntary funding from donors. Indeed the Commission financing is predictable and secured but cannot be used to provide direct support to final beneficiaries of EED's action. The EED has to permanently look for sufficient other contributions in order to guarantee enough funding to be granted to pro-democratic activists.

An Inception Phase Review⁸ commissioned by the EED and carried out in 2014 by an independent expert based on external interviews and online survey of EED beneficiaries, provided an overall assessment of the effectiveness of the inception phase as very positive, highlighted the quality of the EED decision-making process and the high standards with regards to reviewing proposals.

A Mid-Term Evaluation⁹ of the period until mid-2015 concluded that EED has become a relevant democracy-support actor that fills gaps, complements the work of other EU donors, and is responsive to the needs of (potential) grantees. It also concluded that EED has provided flexible, demand-driven support to pro-democracy actors who would otherwise have been un(der)supported. With this support, some results have already been achieved that have the potential to positively contribute to democratisation processes.

A Full-Term Evaluation of the period 2013-16¹⁰ concluded that EED has successfully contributed to filling gaps and managed to complement existing EU instruments well. Further, it noted that EED has been responsive to the needs of the supported pro-democracy actors, already effectively supported pro-democracy actors and activities in the EU neighbourhood countries and the "neighbours of the neighbours". In some cases, it concluded, very significant results have been realised.

Specific recommendations from the evaluators included:

Monitoring & Evaluation and learning: a reinforced monitoring approach, and enhanced sharing of lessons learned.

Gender: enhanced focus on a gender-sensitive approach in the application phase.

Sustainability of grants: strengthen EED's focus on supporting its grantees, in a more structural way, to help grantees achieve financial, organisational and social sustainability.

⁸ Inception Phase Review - European Endowment for Democracy: 7 June 2014.

⁹ Mid-Term Evaluation of the European Endowment for Democracy - 2 June 2015

¹⁰ Full Term Evaluation of the European Endowment for Democracy: 7 April 2017

Human resource management and operational processes: initiatives currently being undertaken to improve the work environment, operational processes & tools should be followed-up to further strengthen EED's efficiency

Evaluation cycle – independent external evaluations should only be held every three years.

Funding EED: Board members should improve the predictability and long-term funding of EED and provide non-earmarked support.

In June 2017, the EED Board of Governors decided that the next comprehensive evaluation of EED should take place in 2020.

EED needs to continually reflect on the most appropriate approach for each country given rapidly fluctuating political situations. Increasing activism and emergence of new actors in some Neighbourhood countries requires a tailored and co-ordinated approach to sustain democracy activism in critical situations where there is harsh repression from the authorities.

In 2016, the EED Board of Governors approved the Strategic Reflection Meeting. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for deeper reflection between EED Board Members (or other Member States representatives) and the EED Secretariat. They focus in a more comprehensive way than possible during Board meetings on the context of the diverse political and social backgrounds in each of these countries and the strategies behind EED's work. The meetings will have a view of optimising the use of the resources the Endowment has at its disposal and will focus on looking into how EED works in different countries, what priorities it pursues and how it can best deliver on its mandate. Two meetings per year have been held per date, focusing in turn on the Southern Neighbourhood and the Eastern Neighbourhood. These evaluations and reflections have been integrated into the EED's procedures for prioritising subject areas and revised working methods. Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

EED uses its network of contacts and extensive links with EU institutions, other donors, embassies and international organisations working in the European Neighbourhood to identify most promising actors and help them strengthen their capacity and enhance their activities and impact on local communities or nation-wide policies.

In this context, the EED is not aiming to replace existing mechanisms supporting democratic transition financing Decisions but to offer additional support to those to whom the existing instruments are not able to provide assistance due to time, administrative or other constraints. In the delivery of its activities, in line with its statutes, the EED strives to avoid duplication and to ensure coherence, synergy, complementarity and added-value with the activities carried out under EU financial instruments which are already providing very valuable outputs. These include, in particular, the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Instrument for Stability (IfS), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) including the Civil Society Facility (CSF), the Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI) including the Civil Society Organisations and the Local Authorities (CSO-LA) thematic programme.

EED pays due attention to ensure good complementarity with EU actions, information and consultations with EU Delegations on general action, trainings

activities and holds regular informal consultations within the framework of selection of beneficiaries.

The EED Secretariat has prioritised, ensuring added value and avoiding duplication from the very beginning of its operations. All proposals are intensely scrutinised on this point to identify the added value of EED funding and explain why a proposal is not or cannot be funded by other donors. Good relations with other donors have been established as a pre-requisite for implementing this role.

All EU Member States have declared their political and technical support to EED. Member States are regularly encouraged to highlight to their embassies in the region, about the EED mandate and how EED can play a role to complement that of bilateral donors in the countries of EED operations. EED organises regular consultation meetings with Member States Embassies, including during missions to the countries of operation.

3.2 Cross-cutting issues

Given that the primary aim of the Endowment is the fostering of democratisation, respect for human rights and good governance will be part of the objectives to be achieved.

Building sustainable democracy also means ensuring gender equality and increasing the participation of women in political and economic life. In some countries, legislative provisions enacted with the aim of ensuring a more balanced composition of parliaments have encountered resistance in practice and therefore have not had the desired effect. Local and regional authorities have a key role to play in narrowing the gap between the population and institutions, promoting a culture of political participation at local level and ensuring that policy decisions take local needs into account.

In achieving its objectives, the Endowment will also pay specific attention to young people who are key actors in the Neighbourhood. Support to young activists will be promoted and, where possible, prioritised.

Funding requests covering environmental issues, including sensitive areas such as transparency and inclusiveness in the control and management of natural resources, including extractive industries will receive specific consideration.

Due attention will also be given to activists with disabilities and/or activists striving for the defence of people with disabilities rights. In addition, attention should be focusing as well on responding to the needs and challenges faced by groups living outside the capitals and in remote areas.

As part of the context scrutiny and knowledge, due attention will also be given to conflict sensitivity and economic and social standards.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The main objective of the action is to contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of partner countries by supporting pro-democracy activists. The result of the action is to enable the functioning and activities of the European Endowment for Democracy as an actor to foster and encourage

democratisation and deep and sustainable democracy in countries in political transition and in societies struggling for democratisation.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal 16, "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. This does not imply a commitment by the Countries of the European Neighbourhood region benefiting from this programme.

4.2 Main activities

The current financial support to the EED will be dedicated to cover its operating costs over a period running from January 2019 until December 2021. These operating costs correspond to the functioning of the mechanism of financial support (direct grant support to beneficiaries) and to the implementation of the other activities that the EED performs as part of its mandate: seminars, studies, conferences, publications, networking events, workshops, training and visibility activities, capacity building for beneficiaries etc.

The direct support to target groups through grants which is the main purpose of the EED is not funded through the present financial contribution: the funding of this direct support originates from the voluntary contributions received from EU Member States and other stakeholders.

The EED shall deliver its activities in the most flexible and effective manner in order to reflect the situation, the operating environment and the needs of its beneficiaries. All the activities of the Endowment shall be carried out on a not-for-profit basis and they shall be implemented in a spirit of transparency, pluralism and in a non-partisan manner.

4.3 Intervention logic

With a view at reaching the objectives and implementing the activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2, the present contribution will be delivered through 3 successive operating grants awarded to the EED and covering the period running from January 2019 until December 2021. The award of each new operating grant will be subject to satisfactory performance of the EED under the previous contract(s) in reaching these objectives and implementing these activities.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is until 31st December 2021. Within this implementation period, 3 successive operating grants will be awarded, covering the

following successive implementation durations: three times one year from January to December (years 2019, 2020 and 2021).

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this Decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

The envisaged assistance to the European Neighbourhood region is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU¹¹.

5.3.1 *Operating Grants: direct award to the benefit of the European Endowment for Democracy (direct management)*

The action will be implemented under direct management through the award of 3 successive operating grants to the EED respectively awarded for the following periods: 2019, 2020 and 2021. The grants will be jointly funded by ENI South and ENI East. Each successive award will be subject to (i) the submission by the grant beneficiary and approval by the Commission of a work programme and a budget; and (ii) the satisfactory implementation and performance, including in its financial aspects, of the predecessor grant(s) (including the current action grant). Satisfactory implementation may be assessed by the Commission through different means, which include: narrative and financial progress and final report(s); evaluation(s) including external evaluation; expenditure verification report(s); financial and/or system audit(s) including external audit(s); financial verification mission(s). Before the award of each successive operating grant, the Commission will recourse to some of these tools, choice of which will depend on previous year(s) assessment results and on specific risk assessments. In case of poor performance, the Commission may reduce the amount of a successor operating grant or not award it.

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

To support the functioning and activities of the European Endowment for Democracy as an actor to foster and encourage democratisation and deep and sustainable democracy in countries in political transition and in societies struggling for democratisation.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

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 EED is one of the rare actors in the landscape of the organisations providing financial support in the Neighbourhood region to activists who cannot benefit from financial support from the donors community through traditional funding channels due to their size, legal status (e.g. non-registered entities or individuals), geopolitical context (e.g. civil war situation) etc. The specificity and sensitivity of this particular type of intervention requires a body with appropriate competence and mandate. In this

¹¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

respect, the EED offers trustful credibility and reliability thanks to its particular institutional set-up, being steered by representatives of the European Parliament, of the EU Member States, of the European External Action Service and of the civil society of the Neighbourhood countries. This unique position, combined with a good track-record despite their short existence, with efficient award procedures (that are nevertheless compliant with the general principles applicable to the use of public funds) and with a standing good reputation, makes of EED an adequate vehicle for providing financial support to local beneficiaries at a micro- or mini-scale, allowing beneficiaries such as non-registered associations, political movements, individual activists, bloggers etc. to benefit from the donors community funding where this would not be possible through more traditional funding channels. The EED has also the further advantage of being "European-labelled".

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed work programme to the objectives of the action; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the work programme.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 95% of eligible costs of the action.

If full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreements

Period	Intended signature date	Eligibility period
2019	Before end of December 2018	1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2019
2020	Before end of December 2019	1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2020
2021	Before end of December 2020	1 Jan. to 31 Dec. 2021

5.4 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.

In accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 and with regard to the aim of ensuring of coherence and effectiveness of EU financing and fostering regional and trans-regional co-operation, the Commission decides that natural and legal persons from the following countries, territories or regions shall be eligible for participating in procurement and grant award procedures: Bahrain, Chad, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mauritania, Niger,

Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates – UAE, Uzbekistan, Non-autonomous territory of Western Sahara. The supplies originating there shall also be eligible.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Budget, Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution 2018	EU contribution 2019	EU contribution 2020	Total EU Contribution	Indicative third party contribution, (amount in EUR)	Total
5.3.1(b) – Grants Direct Award	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	13,500,000	710,526	14,210,526
Totals	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	13,500,000	710,526	14,210,526

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by the Commission services and, where relevant in close collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (European Parliament, EEAS, EU Member States).

5.7 Performance 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 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. To this end 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 report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details of the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire financial period of the action implementation.

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).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an intermediate and final or ex-post evaluations, will be carried out for this action via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The intermediate evaluation will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular for assessing whether it is justified to sign the successive operating grants. and will look into issues such as EED's effectiveness, added value and complementarity to other democracy support instruments and actors.

The final or ex post evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the EED at least 2 weeks in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The EED 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 its premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with key stakeholders where relevant. The EED and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation(s) and, where appropriate jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the work programme(s).

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

5.9 Audit

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 for one or several of the successive operating grants. Audits constitute, as indicated in section 5.3 above, one of the tools that can be used by the Commission for assessing whether it is justified to sign the successive operating grants

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing Decision.

5.10 Communication and 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, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and to be funded as part of the budget indicated in section 5.6. above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission and/or the EED. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in the successive grant contracts.

The Communication and Visibility requirements for EU External Actions shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan and the appropriate contractual obligations.

However, in view of the nature of the operations that EED manages, and in particular the risks for those who benefit from the EED grant support and its other activities towards target groups and individuals, visibility may, where or when relevant, be reduced vis-à-vis media and political decision makers or adapted in the light of specific situations.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ^{12]}

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing Decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	The main objective of the action is to contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of partner countries by supporting pro-democracy activists.	Greater freedom of action for human rights defenders, increased space for civil society activity.	NA	NA	Reports from EU Delegations, UN organisations and Human Rights NGOS	EED, helped by EU Parliament and European Commission, leads constant advocacy actions towards EU Member States and other potential donors in order to secure regular funding.
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	The result of the action is to enable the functioning and activities of the European Endowment for Democracy as an actor to foster and encourage democratisation and deep and sustainable democracy in countries in	Number of grants awarded to human rights defenders				Awareness-raising at Member State level of need for EED to be able to assist human rights defenders across all geographical fields of activity.

^{12]}

Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

	political transition and in societies struggling for democratisation.					
Outputs	<p>The current financial support to the EED will be dedicated to cover its operating costs over a period running from January 2019 until December 2021. These operating costs correspond to the functioning of the mechanism of financial support (direct grant support to beneficiaries) and to the implementation of the other activities that the EED performs as part of its mandate: seminars, studies, conferences, publications, networking events, workshops, training and visibility activities, capacity building for beneficiaries etc.</p>				Sources of verification are the official communication and reports from the EED	Financial contributions from Member States are effective in complementing to this operating grant