



Brussels, 26.10.2018
C(2018) 6948 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 26.10.2018

on the special measure in favour of Israel for 2018

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 966/2012¹, 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 action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of this special measure, it is necessary to adopt a financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2018. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The EU and Israel agreed an Action Plan in April 2005 with the purpose of building a strong partnership and gradually integrating Israel into European policies and programmes.⁴ In the absence of a multi-annual programming document this action is proposed as a special measure on the basis of Article 2(1), third paragraph, of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.
- (4) The objective pursued by this special measure, to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁵, is to continue developing closer relationships between the

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁴ http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/pdf/action_plans/israel_enp_ap_final_en.pdf

⁵ 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).

EU and Israel, aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening political co-operation.

- (5) The action entitled "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan" to promote legislative approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes) and strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels. The measure will be implemented in direct management through Twinning grants and service contracts.
- (6) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (7) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament and the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.
- (8) The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C- 205/05 shall apply for all actions under this Special Measure 2018, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with Article 137 of the EU's Financial Regulation.
- (9) This Decision shall be implemented in conformity with the European Union's position that the territories which came under Israeli administration in June 1967 are not considered as being part of the State of Israel.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The measure

The special measure 2018 in favour of Israel, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The special measure shall include the following action:

- Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the special measure 2018 in favour of Israel is set at EUR 1.8 million and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 22 04 01 02 : EUR 1.8 million.

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

Article 3

Non-substantial changes

Increases⁶ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, 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 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes, do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 26.10.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

⁶ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the special measure in favour of Israel for 2018

Action Document for "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan"

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

This document constitutes the annual work programme 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 N° 236/2014.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support to European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan CRIS number: ENI/2018/041-315 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Israel The action shall be carried out at the following location: throughout the country. ¹	
3. Programming document	N/A	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	All sectors	DEV. Aid: NO ²
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 1,800,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 1,800,000	
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management: - Grants – call for proposal - Procurement of services	
7 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – Multisector Aid	
b) Main Delivery Channel	10000 – Public Sector Institutions	

¹ The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Number 2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013) shall apply to the call for proposals linked to this Action Programme. This notice, entitled "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards", can be consulted at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG

² Official Development Aid is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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	N/A		
10. SDGs	Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Partnerships for the goals			

SUMMARY

Israel is part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), though, being a member of the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD)³, it receives limited funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). Institutional Twinning modality is used in ENI co-operation with Israel.

There is no Single Support Framework for Israel (SSF). Co-operation is based on the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan⁴, agreed in 2005 and the validity of which has been extended annually⁵. The set of common objectives and commitments laid out in the Action Plan provides the basis for increased co-operation and exchange of views, with an aim to explore the possibility of legislative and regulatory approximation in jointly identified priority areas.

The actions⁶, financed through special measures, have to reflect Israel's interest and capacity to implement the jointly agreed priorities and have to follow the rules set for institutional Twinning instrument on the EU *acquis*.⁷

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The ENP applies to Israel although the country receives limited funding from the ENI as it is a member of the OECD. There is no Single Support Framework for

³ Israel is a member of the OECD since 2010.

⁴ http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/pdf/action_plans/israel_enp_ap_final_en.pdf

⁵ The extension process is currently under way.

⁶ All activities are implemented within internationally recognised Israeli borders.

⁷ See the Twinning manual available at https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/twinning_en

Israel. Co-operation is based on the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan, agreed in 2005 and the validity of which has been extended since. No Association Committee and Association Council meetings were held in the past six years, however co-operation actions and policy dialogues in areas belonging to the EU-Israel Action Plan continued actively throughout, including in 2017.

While Israel pursues efforts to diversify its trade, the EU continues to be its largest trading partner. Israel's high-tech/start up economy offers opportunities for enhanced EU investors and co-operation in the area of research and innovation. Energy cooperation has significant potential in Israel too. Important measures were approved by the government in the areas of environmental protection, money laundering and education. The EU has been actively engaged in supporting ongoing market and policy reforms including through sharing of best practices.

The Israeli economy has showed strong resilience during the global economic downturn of last decade and despite a relative slowdown Israel has maintained high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates (reaching 3.7% in 2017). Israel's debt/GDP ratio is lower than in most OECD countries thanks to its solid macroeconomic situation characterised by fairly low expenditure and high tax collection.

Institutional Twinning and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) are the modalities used in ENI co-operation with Israel. Israel made use of TAIEX and Twinning instruments to increase legislative approximation in areas such as market regulation, statistics, agriculture policy and, most recently, environment. All cooperation is subject to the requirements set out in the "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards."⁸

A review of the modalities of the European Union's engagement in Israel and Palestine⁹ is being carried out to ensure that all EU actions are supporting the achievement of a two-state solution in the context of the EU's Middle East peace policy (MEPP). Launched in September 2017, findings of this review made so far shall be taken into account for the programming of financial assistance. For this Action Document, two findings appear pertinent: meaningful and effective triangulation should be pursued in appropriate formats with Israel and the Palestinian Authority¹⁰ where possible. Finally, twinning programmes in Israel, such as provided for in this Action Document, should be instrumental to the achievement of the two-state solution.

Israeli governmental institutions, civil society organisations as well as regional and local authorities are eligible to apply to, and participate in a wide variety of other programmes under the ENI including regional programmes.

⁸ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/10137/guidelines-eligibility-israeli-entities-and-their-activities-territories-occupied-israel-june_en

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ Recommendations of the European Court of Auditors and of the external evaluation of EU cooperation in Palestine (2014)

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

Israel is among the EU immediate neighbours included in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which offers the perspective of moving beyond co-operation to a significant degree of integration through a stake in the EU's Internal Market and the possibility to participate in key aspects of EU policies and programmes. Israel was among the first wave of countries to agree on an ENP Action Plan with the EU. This entered into force in April 2005 and has been regularly extended, most recently until the end of 2017. The identification of new EU-Israel Partnership Priorities (PPs) in line with the revised ENP is ongoing. It is anticipated that the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan be extended.

Building on the institutional framework set up by the EU-Israel Association Agreement, the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan set out in more detail a comprehensive set of jointly developed priorities with a programme of specific activities to which both sides are committed. The areas for greater co-operation under the ENP Action Plan include: upgrading political co-operation; promoting peace in the Middle East; approximating Israeli legislation to that of the EU as a way of opening the EU's Internal Market to Israel; pursuing greater liberalisation of trade, services and agriculture; the fight against organised crime; co-operation in transport, energy and communications; closer links in science and technology and people-to-people contacts in education, culture and civil society.

Since the entry into force of the ENP Action Plan, several new agreements have been signed: e.g. agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAA) entered into force on 19 January 2013. The Agreement contains an annex on good manufacturing practices for pharmaceutical products, which will allow for EU-certified pharmaceuticals to be placed on Israel's market and vice-versa, without additional certification.

In June 2013, the EU and Israel signed a comprehensive air transport agreement which will gradually open up and integrate their respective markets, develop an aviation area with common rules, offer economic benefits for consumers and new opportunities for the industry. Finally, in 2014, Israel and the European Union signed the agreement associating Israel to the Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). The agreement provides Israeli researchers, universities and companies with full access to the Horizon 2020 Programme.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The direct beneficiary of the programme is the Israeli public administration, while the indirect beneficiaries are all residents of Israel, with specific focus on mainstreaming of the right-based approach.

A variety of relevant stakeholders are involved in relation to each sector of co-operation, from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society, Associations of Industries, Academics, Trade Unions and etc.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

As the identification and adoption of new EU-Israel Partnership Priorities (PPs) in line with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy is pending, the EU has been discussing with Israel to jointly identify for 2018. **Twinning projects** falling within one or more of the 15 specific sectors identified in the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan. Among those priorities, particular attention is given to **strengthening co-operation on migration-related issues, fight against organised crime, including trafficking**

in human beings and police and judicial co-operation, promotion of co-operation in the energy and environment and transport sectors, strengthening of market economy.

Discussions are taking place to further explore co-operation with the Ministry of Economy on equal opportunity employment, with the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Affairs on EU's practices on mediator for children and children protection or on employability policies; with the Ministry of Justice on how to fight human trafficking or EU's experience in special migration tribunals. In parallel, an initiative on approximation with EU's legislation on **waste management** with the Ministry of Environmental Protection is under formulation.

In most cases, requests for co-operation were initiated by the ministries, either following initial identification of needs in the framework of policy dialogues or by EU's follow up on past co-operation.

Co-operation opportunities in the **energy sector** remain a priority, following the discovery of sizeable gas reserves in Israeli territorial waters. The EU remains interested in exploring opportunities for energy co-operation with Israel also to diversify sources of energy and hence energy security. Exploratory talks are being held and feasibility studies are being prepared to see what the best available options are to evacuate Israeli gas to the European markets. It is highly probable that in the coming years the EU-Israeli energy co-operation will intensify particularly in the gas sector. The increased incidence of TAIEX requests by the Ministry of Energy in the past few months illustrates the renewed interests in co-operation in that sector, which the EU will work on furthering.

Finally, the EU Delegation will continue using the TAIEX instrument to wider the scope of the current EU-Israel co-operation in other sectors as well as continue exploring potentials for new twinning projects.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
The formal necessity of including a clause defining "territoriality" may delay signing the Financial Agreement.	M	This risk will be mitigated like in previous years by offering if necessary an exchange of letters accompanying the Financing Agreement.
Preparation of the twinning fiches could possibly be delayed due to limited experience on the Israeli side in dealing with EU programmes and the lack of resources attributed to the subject.	M	This risk will be mitigated by the Delegation's timely assessment of possible need for support of EU external experts to draft the Twinning project fiches to meet the contracting deadline.
Unsuccessful call for proposals.	L	This risk will be mitigated by jointly identifying areas of intervention highly relevant to both Israel and EU Member States.
Assumptions		

The degree of interest in and commitment to the twinning instrument at the political level will remain high in Israel despite possible arising of disagreements in some EU-Israel relations or resulting from the consultation process on identifying Partnership Priorities under new ENP.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)'s involvement remains strong despite the absence of formal Programme Administration Officer (PAO) (since end of 2016).

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Since 2006, Israel has been receiving support from the TAIEX instrument and has since become one of the most frequent users of this instrument amongst ENP South's countries. The financing agreement for the first bilateral allocation in support to the ENP Action Plan was signed in July 2008 in order to implement twinning activities.

Since then, eleven twinning projects have been successfully implemented. These projects benefitted several Israeli Ministries. The only ongoing twinning project is providing support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in improving the quality of official statistics. Two twinning projects were signed in 2018, respectively with the Ministry of Education, to set up the basis for the establishment of an Israeli National Qualification Framework (NQF); and with the Israeli Ministry of Communications, to strengthen the regulatory capacity of Israel in the field of telecommunications, with a focus on service provision over networks owned and operated by others (due to the loss of 2013 funds). Two concept notes will serve as basis to develop twinning fiches before summer 2018, with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (the Ministry of Economy).

Lessons have been drawn from the implementation of the past and ongoing twinning projects, from the negotiations with both Israeli ministries and EU Member States implementing institutions on contract preparations, from the end of results and ongoing Results-Oriented monitoring missions. The Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) experts have consistently highlighted the high impact of ongoing projects as well as underlined the sustainable impact of the twinning projects in Israel.

Finally, the year 2017 saw the successful implementation of TAIEX events in sector such as health, social affairs and justice, market liberalisation and transport, thus laying ground for renewed setting up new basis for renewed and widened dialogue on co-operation opportunities.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

Given Israel's high income level, the majority of donors do not provide any funding. This is a unique action.

Complementarity and synergies are nonetheless insured with relevant EU regional programmes such as EuroMed Police, EuroMed Justice, MEDSTAT, SWIM and other.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

During all phases of this programme, particular attention will be devoted to the principle of equality of treatment and opportunity in both gender issues and minority rights. Furthermore, projects will duly reflect a rights-based approach.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The general objective is to develop an increasingly close relationship between the EU and the State of Israel aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening political co-operation.

Specific objectives:

- to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels;
- to promote legislative and regulatory approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes).

The expected results are:

- the implementation of the priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plan;
- the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goals "Decent Work and Economic Growth" and 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions", but also promotes progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 9 "Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure", 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production" and 13 "Climate Action". This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

4.2 Main activities

This Action Programme supports the approximation of Israeli legislation to EU norms and standards with a view to facilitating and improving co-operation and paves the way to the participation in the EU Programmes. Two twinning projects were signed in 2018, respectively with the Ministry of Education, and with the Israeli Ministry of Communications. In parallel, negotiations have started with Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Services, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy and Industry, and Ministry of Energy. Final identification of specific areas and actions will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan and shall take into account the findings of the review of the modalities of the European Union's engagement in Israel and Palestine (see 1.1 above).

4.3 Intervention logic

An initial logical framework is attached.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

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 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

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.

5.3 Implementation modalities

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

5.3.1 Grants: calls for proposals for Twinning projects (direct management)

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

Specific objectives:

- to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels;
- to promote legislative and regulatory approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes).

The expected results are:

- the implementation of the priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plan;
- the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

Calls for proposals will be launched to implement twinning projects. The size of the grants will be decided based on the type of acquis sector identified, needs of the beneficiary administration and duration of the project in the specific field of the project.

Discussions with the Israeli authorities show that the main indicative priority areas for new twinning projects are equal opportunities, energy, environment, health, justice, public service, social and legal affairs. Final identification of specific areas and actions will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan.

The expected results are to implement the priorities agreed in the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan as well as to reinforce the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States

(b) Eligibility conditions

In line with Article 4(10) (b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, participation in Twinning calls for proposals is limited to public administrations of the EU Member

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

States, being understood as central or regional authorities of a Member State as well as their bodies and administrative structures and private law bodies entrusted with a public service mission under their control, provided they act for the account and under the responsibility of that Member State.

The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Number 2013/C- 205/05 shall apply for all actions under this special measure 2018, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criterion is the operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are the technical expertise of the applicant, and the relevance, methodology and sustainability of the proposed action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The rate of co-financing for Twinning grant contracts is 100%¹².

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

Q4 2020.

(f) Use of lump sums/flat rates/unit costs

Twinning contracts include a system of unit costs and flat rate financing, defined in the Twinning Manual for the reimbursement of the public sector expertise provided by the selected Member State(s) administration(s). The use of this system of unit costs and flat rate financing, which exceeds the amount of EUR 60 000 per beneficiary of a Twinning contract, is authorised through Commission Decision C(2017)1122.¹³

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Procurement	Services	2	Q2 2020

Service contracts will be signed to develop twinning fiches, communication and visibility actions of the programme as well as carry out external evaluations and/or audits.

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 on the basis of Commission notice Number 2013/C 205/05.¹⁴ In accordance

¹² As provided for in the Twinning Manual

¹³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/?fuseaction=list&coteId=3&year=2017&number=1122&version=ALL&language=en>

¹⁴

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/?fuseaction=list&coteId=3&year=2017&number=1122&version=ALL&language=en>

with EU policy, this agreement shall not apply to the geographic areas that came under the administration of the State of Israel after 5 June 1967.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1. – Calls for proposals for Twinning Projects (direct management)	1,620,000	N.A.
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	100.000	N.A.
5.8 – Evaluation, 5.9 – Audit	50,000	N.A.
5.10 – Communication and visibility	30,000	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	1,800,000	N.A.

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Organisational set-up and responsibilities are defined in accordance with the applicable Twinning Manual, Section 4: Main actors. They include in particular the Member State National Contact Points, the Member State Project Leader, the Resident Twinning Adviser and Short-term experts.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from a call for proposals 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 nature of the action, a final evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components contracted by the Commission.

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country 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 country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

Indicatively, one contract for evaluation services shall be concluded under a framework contract in the last quarter 2023.

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.

Indicatively, one contract for audit services shall be concluded under a framework contract in last quarter of 2023.

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, including relevant elements of the review of the modalities of the European Union's engagement in Israel and Palestine, 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 Requirements for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

Implementation of communication and visibility measures by way of procurement:

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Procurement for communication and visibility	Services	1	Q1 2021

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, 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.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To contribute to develop an increasingly closer relationship between the EU and Israel.	Nature and content of political statements. Status of approximation of Israeli law , compared to the EU norms and standards	EU-Israel ENP Action Plan	N/A	Minutes of the Association Council Conclusions of the PPs with Israel EU-IL ENP Action Plan Media coverage	N/A
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	To strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels. To promote legislative approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes).	Secondary legislation amended in line with the EU <i>acquis</i> . Bilateral negotiations started/concluded. Bilateral agreements signed.	Number of Twinning Project concept notes submitted in 2018.	N/A	Israeli Law Minutes of the ENP Action Plan annual sub-committees	Support from the political sector. Reasonable stability of the regional framework.
Outputs	The priorities agreed in the EU-IL ENP Action Plan have been implemented. The administrative capacity of Israel public administrations has been reinforced in line with EU <i>acquis</i> .	Number of EU programmes/initiatives with Israeli participating. Status of public opinion awareness about the EU-IL relationships.	Successfully finalised Twinning projects Surveys in 2018.	These elements will be defined when implementation starts.	Reports of the ex-post Twinning Review Missions Media coverage External surveys	Increased interest for twinning projects from relevant institutions.