

THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VII

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood for 2024-2026

Action Document for Neighbourhood South Global Allocation

MULTIANNUAL ACTION PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan/measure in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

| 1. Title | Neighbourhood South Global Allocation |
|---|--|
| OPSYS | Multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood for |
| Basic Act | 2024-2026 |
| | OPSYS business reference: ACT-62533 |
| | ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.1417330/JAD.1480870/JAD.1481116 |
| | Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe) |
| 2. Economic and Investment Plan (EIP) | No |
| EIP Flagship | No |
| 3. Team Europe Initiative | No |
| 4. Beneficiar(y)/(ies) of the action | The action shall be carried out in Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine [*] , Syria ² and Tunisia. |
| | As per Article 43(1) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, specific activities may also involve, in duly justified cases and for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, |

¹ See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prices and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on <u>http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG</u>.

^{*} 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. Implementation of the present action will integrate the recommendations of the Communication to the Commission on the review of ongoing financial assistance for Palestine C (2023) 8300, 21.11.2023.

² Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011.

| | the following countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and countries bordering the Southern Neighbourhood countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Türkiye, Chad, Mali, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Iraq. This is justified because the action supports project cycle activities in numerous fields of intervention, including topics of cross-regional nature (such as climate change, energy, security, digital etc) and promotes communication, which may be enhanced, for limited activities, by cross-regional sharing of best practices, notably in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean. It is in line with the multiannual indicative programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (2021-2027), which makes reference, under priority 5 (specific objective 2) to the importance of cross regional cooperation. ³ |
|---|--|
| 5. Programming document | Communication for a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood JOINT (2021) 2 final of 09.02.2021 |
| | Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (2021-2027) ⁴ |
| 6. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results | The action entitled 'Neighbourhood South Global Allocation for 2024-2026' aims to give the Commission the possibility to finance small-scale measures and activities that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities, as specified in the MIP C(2021)9399. |
| | PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION |
| 7. Priority Area(s), sectors | Cooperation facilities |
| 8. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Main SDG (1 only): N/A Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: N/A |
| 9. DAC code(s) | 430 – Other multisector 100% |
| 10. Main Delivery Channel | 10000 Public sector institutions 20000 Non-governmental organisations and civil society 40000 Multilateral organisations 51000 University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank 60000 Private sector institutions |

³ The future regional cooperation should have a flexible geographical and thematic scope, also allowing for interlinkages with other regions, where necessary and appropriate as highlighted in the Joint Communication on a Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood.

 $^{^{4}}$ C(2021) 9399 Commission Implementing Decision for the adoption of an Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) in favour of the Southern Neighbourhood for the period 2021-2027.

| 11. Targets | □ Migration | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|
| C | | | | | | | |
| | □ Social inclusion and Human Development | | | | | | |
| | Gender | | | | | | |
| | Biodiversity Human Rights, Democracy and Governance | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 12. Markers (from DAC form) | General policy objective | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective | | | |
| | Participation development/good governance | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | Aid to environment | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | Reproductive, maternal, new- born and child health | \square | | | | | |
| | Disaster Risk Reduction | | | | | | |
| | Inclusion of persons with Disabilities | | | | | | |
| | Nutrition | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | RIO Convention markers | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective | | | |
| | Biological diversity | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | Combat desertification | | | | | | |
| | Climate change mitigation | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | Climate change adaptation | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| 13. Internal markers and Tags | Policy objectives | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective | | | |
| | EIP | \boxtimes | | | | | |
| | EIP Flagship | YES YES C YES C C | | NO | | | |
| | | | | \boxtimes | | | |
| | Tags | | | NO | | | |
| | transport | | | \boxtimes | | | |
| | energy | | | \boxtimes | | | |
| | environment, climate resilience | | | \boxtimes | | | |
| | digital | | | \boxtimes | | | |
| | economic development (incl. private sector, trade and | | | \boxtimes | | | |

| | macroeconomic support) | | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| | human development (incl. human capital and youth) | | | | |
| | health resilience | | | \boxtimes | |
| | migration and mobility | | | \boxtimes | |
| | agriculture, food security and rural development | | | | |
| | rule of law, governance and public administration reform | | | \boxtimes | |
| | other | | | \boxtimes | |
| | Digitalisation | \boxtimes | | | |
| | Tags | YES | | NO | |
| | digital connectivity | | | \boxtimes | |
| | digital governance | | | \boxtimes | |
| | digital entrepreneurship | | | \boxtimes | |
| | digital skills/literacy | | | \boxtimes | |
| | digital services | | | \boxtimes | |
| | Connectivity | | | | |
| | Tags | YES | | NO | |
| | digital connectivity | | | \boxtimes | |
| | energy | | | \boxtimes | |
| | transport | | | \boxtimes | |
| | health | | | \boxtimes | |
| | education and research | | | | |
| | Migration | \boxtimes | | | |
| | Reduction of Inequalities | \boxtimes | | | |
| | COVID-19 | \boxtimes | | | |
| | BUDGET INFOR | MATION | | | |
| 14. Amounts | Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.0 | 20110 Southern | Neighbourhood | | |
| concerned | Total estimated cost: EUR 31 500 | 000 | | | |
| | Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 31 500 000 | | | | |
| | The contribution is for an amount of EUR 11 500 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2024 and for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2025 and for an amount of EUR 10 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2026, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths. | | | | |

| MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| 15. Implementation modalities (management mode and delivery methods) | Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement | | | |

1.2. Summary of the Action

The Neighbourhood South Global Allocation for 2024-2026 is a support measure giving the Commission the possibility to finance small-scale measures and activities that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities. The Global Allocation will finance project cycle management (feasibility, evaluation, audits, etc.) and communication activities. It will contribute to enhance the quality of the programmes as well as to better understanding of the EU reputation, policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood.

1.3. Beneficiar(y)/(ies) of the Action

The Global Allocation shall be carried out in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. Out of the beneficiary countries, only Israel is not included in the list of ODA recipients.

The action is of a trans-regional nature, fostering regional cooperation. Due to the project's nature and the importance to ensure extended regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally, for specific activities such as regional events, to the following countries or territories, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation: countries from the Union for the Mediterranean (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Türkiye) and countries neighbouring Neighbourhood South countries (Saudi Arabia, Iraq).

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Article 24 of the NDICI states that Union financing may cover support expenditure for the implementation of the Instrument and for the achievement of its objectives, including administrative support associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities necessary for such implementation, as well as expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the programme, and to manage operations financed under the Instrument, including information and communication actions, and corporate information technology systems.

When support expenditure is not included in the action plans or measures, the Commission shall adopt, where applicable, support measures. Union financing under support measures may cover:

(a) studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, preparation and exchange of lessons learnt and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the programming and management of actions, including remunerated external experts;

(b) research and innovation activities and studies on relevant issues and the dissemination thereof;

(c) expenditure related to the provision of information and communication actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication and visibility of the political priorities of the Union.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis

Delegations and services in charge of managing programmes need support at the different levels of programme cycle. Identification, monitoring, evaluation and audits as well as communication on the EU actions and organisation of meetings will be covered by this support measure.

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

The citizens of the Southern Neighbourhood countries are the final beneficiaries of this action. The support to programming and management of actions will ensure the necessary analysis and preparation allowing for efficient project implementation; the studies, information and communication actions as well as meetings will enhance the visibility and understanding of external actions funded by the EU.

2.3. Lessons Learned

The Global Allocation is a tried and tested measure under the former instruments, ENPI and ENI, allowing Commission headquarters and EU Delegations to plan and implement cooperation related activities in a flexible way. The previous and ongoing experience and use of the global allocation confirm both the nature of the needs and the extent of its financing.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the 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. Besides, this action will help the Commission explain and communicate on its activities to the Southern Neighbourhood citizens' audience.

The Specifics Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:

1. to allow analysis and preparatory studies to help elaborating relevant and impactful programmes as well as evaluation and audits for lessons learnt and ex-ante control purposes

2. to contribute to better understanding of the EU reputation, policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1: identification and feasibility studies, evaluation, audits

Activities related to Output 2.1: awareness raising campaign, communication products, meetings and conferences.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Outcomes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions). N/A

Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project). N/A

Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).

N/A

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G0. In this action, as a means for multi-purposes analysis and activities, gender equality is not targeted.

Human Rights

In this action, as a means for multi-purposes analysis and activities, gender equality is not targeted.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0.

Democracy

In this action, as a means for multi-purposes analysis and activities, democracy is not targeted.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

In this action, as a means for multi-purposes analysis and activities, this aspect is not targeted.

Disaster Risk Reduction

In this action, as a means for multi-purposes analysis and activities, this aspect is not targeted.

3.4. Risks and Assumptions

| Category | Risks | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigating measures | | |
|---|-------|------------|---------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | (High/ | (High/ | | | |
| | | Medium/ | Medium/ | | | |
| | | Low) | Low) | | | |
| No risks identified - the nature of the global allocation is to allow the Commission headquarters and | | | | | | |

delegations to plan, implement and follow up activities in a flexible way. The previous experience and use of the global allocation (since 2007 under ENPI and ENI) confirms the need for this tool.

External Assumptions

N/A

3.5. Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the Commission headquarters and delegations in the Neighbourhood South countries may use the global allocation funds depending on the needs arising during the year. At the beginning of the year, delegations and headquarters services prepare an initial annual plan stating the indicative need for funding in relation to project cycle management, implementation, follow-up, monitoring, studies, evaluations and audits as well as information and communication activities. The plan is updated throughout the year when needs occur. This facility is therefore managed in a flexible way.

3.6. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

| Results | Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @] | Indicators [it least one indicator per expected result @] | Baselines (values and years) | Targets (values and years) | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|----------------------|--|--|--|---|--------------------|-------------------|
| Impact 1 Impact 2 | The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action 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. Besides, this action will help the European Commission explain and communicate on its activities to the Southern Neighbourhood citizens' audience | Extent to which the Commission headquarters and delegations report on support received from the global allocation. Level of quality of programme documents, evaluations and appraisal of projects and programmes. Level of monitoring and follow-up of programmes. Level of visibility of external actions funded by the EU | 1 2 | 1 2 | 1 2 | Not applicable |
| Outcome 1 | Allowed analysis and preparatory studies to help elaborating relevant and impactful programmes as well as evaluation and audits for lessons learnt and ex ante control purposes | 1.1 Number of analysis, studies and evaluation conducted | 1.1 N/A, as long as the Global allocation is fully committed | 1.1 N/A, as long as the Global allocation is fully committed | 1.2 HQ | |

| Outcome 2 | Contributed to better understanding of the European Union policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood. | 2.1 Number of communication activities and meetings | 2.1 N/A, as long as the Global allocation is fully committed | long as the Global | 2.1 CRIS 2.2 HQ managed report |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | |
| Output 1 related to Outcome 1 | PCM contracts | 1.1.1 Number of PCM contracts | 1.1.1 N/A, as long as the Global allocation is fully committed | 000 000 for 2024; EUR 7 | 1.1.1 CRIS |
| Output 2 related to Outcomes 2 | Communication contracts and meetings | 2.1.1 Number of Communication contracts and meetings | 2.1.1 N/A, as long as the Global allocation is fully committed | 500 000 for | 2.1.1 CRIS |

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁵.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

a) Purpose of the grants

To allow analysis and preparatory studies to help elaborating relevant and impactful programmes as well as evaluation and audits for lessons learnt and ex ante control purposes.

To contribute to better understanding of the EU policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood.

b) Type of applicants targeted

NGOs, think-tanks, universities and research centres.

4.3.2. Direct Management (Prize(s))

(a) Purpose of the prize: rewarding human rights activists, democracy advocates, journalists upholding freedom of speech and free press, inter alia, contributing to a positive image of the UE as universal values defender.

(b) The type of participants targeted: journalists, writers, artists, activists, civil society representatives, students, inter alia.

⁵ <u>EU Sanctions Map.</u> Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.3.3. Direct Management (Procurement)

To allow analysis and preparatory studies to help elaborating relevant and impactful programmes as well as evaluation and audits for lessons learnt and ex ante control purposes.

To contribute to better understanding of the EU policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

| Indicative Budget components | EU contribution 2024 (in EUR) | EU contribution 2025 (in EUR) | EU contribution 2026 (in EUR) |
|---|--|--|--|
| Objective to allow analysis and preparatory studies to help elaborating relevant and impactful programmes as well as evaluation and audits for lessons learnt and ex ante control purposes composed of: | 8 000 000 | 7 000 000 | 7 000 000 |
| Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1 | 800 000 | 700 000 | 700 000 |
| Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.3 | 7 200 000 | 6 300 000 | 6 300 000 |
| Objective to contribute to better understanding of the European Union reputation, policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood composed of: | 3 500 000 | 3 000 000 | 3 000 000 |

4.5. Indicative Budget

| Prize (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2 | 350 000 | 300 000 | 300 000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Grants (direct management) – c.f. section 4.3.1 | 350 000 | 300 000 | 300 000 |
| Procurement (direct management) – c.f. section 4.3.3 | 2 800 000 | 2 400 000 | 2 400 000 |
| Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3 | will be covered by another Decision | will be covered by another Decision | will be covered by another Decision |
| Communication and visibility – cf. section 6 | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| Totals | 11 500 000 | 10 000 000 | 10 000 000 |

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The global allocation is distributed yearly based on needs expressed by the EU Delegations at the beginning of each year. Mid-year updates allow fine-tuning the management of the allocation and the optimal use of the budget. Final distribution is ensured by the Headquarters.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4.7. Pre-conditions

None.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing 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 Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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

Arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The Headquarters services managing the global allocation will regularly monitor the use of the global allocation and adjust through regular updates based on needs and absorption capacity by users.

5.2. Evaluation

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

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 partners.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁶. 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 project.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external actions have the contractual obligation to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the 2022 guidance document <u>Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions</u> (or any successor document).

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

Communication and visibility measures may be funded from the amounts allocated to the action. For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this

⁶ See best <u>practice of evaluation dissemination</u>

action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds. Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and concerned EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before work starts. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.