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ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2014 -
Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for 'Facility for Euromed dialogue and exchange of best practices'

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Facility for Euromed dialogue and exchange of best practices CRIS number: ENI/2014/ 037-357		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 16,950,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 16,200,000 Budget line: 21.03.01.02		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project Approach Direct Management – Grants – call for proposals Direct Management – Procurement of services		
DAC-code	15110	Sector	Public sector policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

This facility aims at fostering policy dialogue and the exchanges of best practices between public stakeholders but also private stakeholders when appropriate of the neighbourhood south region and the European Union on a series of topics relevant for Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue. It will provide resources and expertise pertaining to the exchange of best practices and regional dialogue. It will allow the gathering of public officials and stakeholders involved in public policies on platforms of common interest.

2.2. Context

2.2.1. Regional context

2.2.1.1. Economic and social situation and poverty analysis

The recent deterioration of the macro-economic situation in the region was caused by the economic crisis, soaring food and energy products prices and political and social instability related to the Arab Spring. The countries of the region are characterized by (i) growth rates relatively lower compared to other developing and emerging regions, with a growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita which has never exceeded 2.7% on ten-year average, (ii) very high unemployment rates – especially youth unemployment - and a low level of participation (about 48% for all countries in the region), particularly for women and (iii) a large informal sector, estimated in some countries at 40% of GDP.

In the Mediterranean countries, living conditions have improved considerably over the last 30 years. Life expectancy, for the entire region, increased from 62.6 years in 1980 to 74.4 years in 2011. Similarly, the infant mortality rate has decreased significantly (from 65.6 (per 1000 births) in 1980 to 15.7 in 2011 for the whole region). In the field of education, the increasing enrolment rates in both the primary school (in average, almost all children in the region are now in school), high school education (where enrolment increased from 56.5% in the years 80-85 to 87.5% on average from 2000 to 2012) and post-graduate (from 16% to 40.5% on the same periods) and increased literacy rates, which rose from 56.3% in the mid-80s to 81% on average over the years 2000-2012, illustrate the efforts and progress made in this area. However, literacy rates of all Mediterranean countries are still lower in comparison to other regions.

Another important achievement of Mediterranean countries is related to the reduction of the level of poverty. Among the developing and emerging countries, Mediterranean countries have, on average, the lowest percentages of the population below the international poverty line poverty. Only 1.8% of people live with less than USD 1.25 per day. Similarly, the Gini index, which gives a measure of the level of income inequality shows that Mediterranean societies are relatively more egalitarian than those other regions of the southern hemisphere. However, a significant proportion of the population (10%) is in a vulnerable situation (i.e. living with less than USD 2 per day).

2.2.1.2. Regional development policy

Three years after the Arab upheavals, the situation in the region remains very complex with increased fragmentation. Despite the unquestioned democratic gains (elections, more vocal civil society), the heated debates about the form of new social contracts and the role of religion are strongly polarising Arab societies. The economic situation remains worrisome and social demands still focus on political dignity (freedom, human rights) and improvement in social and economic conditions. The ongoing conflict in Syria with its international repercussions overshadows the whole situation.

The EU's strategic response to the Arab Spring came on 8 March 2011, with the Joint Communication proposing “A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean”. This was followed by the Joint Communication on 25 May 2011 which initiated the launch of “A new response to a changing Neighbourhood”.

In implementing the above, the European Union (EU) has intensified dialogue and co-operation with regional actors.

Promoting closer links with EU internal instruments and policies is a key element of the neighbourhood policy.

Complementing bilateral and thematic programmes, regional interventions can raise awareness on, and catalyse activities in, policy areas where sharing of experience and peer review are important in order to advance reforms. Typically, regional co-operation will continue to provide a tool for enhanced dialogue with the EU on issues linked to EU policies and norms.

Fostering regional dialogue and the exchanges of best practices with Southern Mediterranean partners are relevant modalities for all the objectives of the neighbourhood south programming document, particularly in areas covered by the

present action document: statistics, information society, agriculture/rural development, environment and climate change, and social dialogue.

After a long break, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) resumed holding of Ministerial meetings in Paris on Women (September 2013), in Brussels on Transport (November), Energy (December) and Industry (February 2014) and Environment and climate change (May 2014). Others are in preparation such as the UfM Ministerial on the Digital Economy which will take place in Brussels, in September 2014. 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.

2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

Policy dialogue and the exchange of best practices are modalities of implementation that cover a wide variety of sectors. An indicative list of these sectors is already included in the regional neighbourhood south programming document. However, there are common traits to policy dialogue and the exchanges of best practices pertaining to the peculiarities of the neighbourhood, such as strong involvement of the European Commission's line Directorate Generals due to approximation requirements with EU rules and standards, and existing regional fora, such as the UfM for the neighbourhood south. Moreover, dialogues and exchanges are generally held with peers of similar public institutions (ministries, agencies, regulators) of the region.

Most of these dialogues and exchanges of best practices stem from long standing existing programmes that allowed the identification of stakeholders and common understanding of the issues. These programmes are bearing fruit and there is a need to maintain a certain level of dialogue and exchange of best practices in the domains concerned without necessarily continuing deploying wide and deep reaching assistance.

In some cases, there is a need to initiate a dialogue in new areas and it will be appropriate to have available a facilitation tool for that purpose too.

Sectors concerned are listed below but a certain flexibility should be maintained to leave the possibility to add sectors, particularly where a regional dialogue could be initiated or reinforced, notably in preparation or follow-up of high-level meetings' orientations.

Statistics

Co-operation in Statistics is a long standing programme that was initiated in the mid-90s along with the Barcelona process. It started with MEDSTAT I and ended with MEDSTAT III. The latter aimed at improving statistical capacity in the region and ensured the institutional strengthening of the national statistics institutes and national statistical system in the Mediterranean partner countries, in line with European standards. MEDSTAT programmes generated a functional network of statisticians from the southern neighbourhood region that devised a project for future regional post MEDSTAT co-operation through a stable forum of statisticians from the south. There is a need to support this initiative that involves the European Commission and EU Member States statistics institutes and further enable data availability for supporting and informing sound policy-making.

Social Dialogue

Support to the social dialogue has been ongoing for more than ten years through the different phases of the project TRESMED. This project institutionalised social

dialogue among relevant civil society actors and the reinforcement of the Economic and Social Councils where they exist. After the Arab Spring, the programme was even able to integrate new players into the dialogue – especially civil society organisations or youth organisations, which were not so active in previous phases. The project has consolidated methods for collaboration and dialogue amongst the organisations which represent economic and social interests which, wherever possible, are part of established Economic and Social Councils and similar Institutions. It has enhanced the consultative role of economic and social partners and their contribution to the decision making process, the definition of national strategies, policies or legal frameworks and the exchange of experiences on socio-economic matters. There is a strong demand from the participants to give a follow up to the programme. It is therefore necessary to continue this action with the objective to further develop a framework for an institutionalised dialogue with social and economic agents in an effort to support civil society, good governance and democratisation in the Mediterranean region.

The present action takes a coherent and supporting approach towards the other programmes and instruments targeting social dialogue and socio-economic actors. TRESMED especially complements the action of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) that gives representatives of Europe's socio-economic interest groups and other civil society groups, a formal platform to express their points of views on EU issues. The Committee helps to ensure that European policies and legislation tie in better with economic, social and civic circumstances on the ground, promotes the development of a more participatory European Union by acting as an institutional forum representing, informing, expressing the views of and securing dialogue with organised civil society, promoting the values on which European integration is founded and advancing, in Europe and across the world, the cause of democracy and participatory democracy, as well as the role of civil society organisations.

Telecommunication and audiovisual

Upon initiative of the European Commission, the European Regulators Group (BEREC) concluded the need for intensified Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in telecommunication in December 2007. In close co-operation with the European Commission, this led to the establishment of an informal regional network, the Euro Mediterranean Regulators Group (EMERG) in July 2008 in Malta, bringing together national regulators from the Southern Mediterranean countries and EU countries.

EMERG can be seen as a highly powerful tool able to accompany and ensure the rapid development of the sector based on the EU's legal regulatory framework in electronic communication taken as a best practice and base-mark line for development. Increasingly, EMERG itself is referring to the need for regulatory approximation to the EU's *acquis* and practices and is able to produce regular and targeted sets of recommendations.

Under the regulatory convergence strand of EU co-operation policy in the region, the European Commission sees significant medium to longer term results if a successful policy can be built around the continuing support of EMERG.

In the audiovisual sector, co-operation with European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) countries on audiovisual and media regulatory framework and regulatory authorities focuses on the development of a transparent, efficient and predictable regulatory environment. E.g. the EU's Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) regulation also covers rules on the protection of minors, TV advertising codes of

conduct and defends freedom to provide services within a pluralistic notion of the media.

The Commission intends to support South Mediterranean partners to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework for their media (audiovisual in particular) to guarantee the functioning of modern media that informs, educates and facilitates the democratic development of their societies.

Agriculture and rural development

In most ENI South countries, low competitiveness and sustainability are major impediments to the development of the agricultural sector, and rural areas are often neglected, with limited access to infrastructure, basic services and few job opportunities outside farming.

In recognition of this, the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) was launched in 2011, in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) review. The key idea is to make the extensive EU experience in the fields of agriculture and rural development available to the EU's neighbours, by supporting a regional policy dialogue and, at national level, supporting an inclusive policy dialogue and launching pilot ENPARD projects, to be funded from the bilateral envelopes. After a start-up phase (2012-2014), the stated objective is to develop larger ENPARD programmes at national level over 2014-2020, while continuing supporting the regional policy dialogue. This facility will help supporting this regional dialogue, which will be strongly steered by the European Commission. The facility intends to address the poor design and implementation of many national policies in sharing good practices at regional level, including introduction of more sustainable practices and climate change considerations.

Integrated Maritime Policy

Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) is a cross-sectorial approach to maritime activities. It is aimed to help maximise benefits from the sustainable use of maritime resources, by setting up governance mechanisms based on close co-ordination among actors and long-term planning. These principles are detailed in the 2007 EU Communication for an EU Integrated Maritime Policy, followed by a similar EU Communication for the Mediterranean in 2009.

This approach is very relevant also for the Southern neighbours bordering the Mediterranean Sea where different uses of the marine resources may be competing with each other, and where non marine activities may undermine the quality of the marine resource base.

IMP is an established EU policy and promoting IMP in the Mediterranean is a means to enhance maritime co-operation among countries, which in turn would lead to more sustainable and diversified investments in maritime activities (now labelled "blue growth"), better environmental protection, including climate change considerations, and more safety and security at sea.

The EU launched the IMP-MED project in 2010, for an initial 2-year period, primarily to raise awareness and knowledge of IMP concepts and tools among neighbourhood south countries. The IMP-MED project has been extended until end 2014, with a stronger focus on initiating concrete IMP developments at national and regional level, while continuing with regional exchanges, in particular by supporting the annual IMP-MED working group meetings.

Making IMP a reality is an ambitious and long-term objective - even in the EU – and the EU's support to IMP in the ENI South region must be sustained in the long term to consolidate and expand further what the IMP-MED project has achieved. This will be ensured via the present facility for dialogues. The IMP is strongly steered by the European Commission.

The facility will consolidate and develop further what has been initiated by the IMP-MED project, by reaching common understandings and identifying joint actions.

Climate change platform

The EU has adopted an ambitious agenda for climate action. Internally, it complied by the 2012 deadline with its commitment under the Kyoto protocol to reduce its green-house gases (GHG) emissions by 8% as compared with 1990 levels, and continues reducing its GHG emissions within the second commitment period of the Protocol. The EU has adopted a climate and energy package, to reduce its GHG emissions by 20% by 2020 (against 1990 levels) and is on track to meet this target. A new more ambitious proposal is on the table for the period beyond 2020, establishing a target for emissions reduction by 2030, which is corresponding to the long-term vision towards low-carbon economy in the EU as described in the 2050 Roadmap. So far, it has been proven that decoupling economic growth from carbon intensity is possible, and can additionally lead to job creation.

Furthermore, in April 2013, the EU adopted its adaptation strategy, providing guidelines for adaptation activities at national level across Europe.

On the international scene, the EU has been at the forefront of climate negotiations, with the objective to reach a comprehensive and legally binding agreement by 2015, based on emission reduction commitments that would maintain the world average temperature increase below 2° C above pre-industrial levels.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified the Mediterranean region as a climate change hotspot: most countries are already experiencing a rise in temperatures and increases in fresh water scarcity, frequency of droughts and forest fires and growing rates of desertification. The Southern Neighbourhood countries will be therefore highly impacted by climate change, with increasing pressures on water and other natural resources, food security. Consequently, adaptation is a priority for them, with “no-regret actions” that are justified even today, such as having drought and flood management systems in place, improving water efficiency or opting for more drought-tolerant crops.

Mitigation opportunities are also important and should not be neglected, in a context where energy efficiency is poor and domestic energy consumption (in particular in the residential sector) is growing fast. Sustainable approaches need to be further developed and implemented in other key sectors such as industry, urban development, transport, agriculture, waste management or tourism.

The facility will support an UfM Climate Change Expert Group, launched at the UfM Ministerial meeting on environment and climate change in May 2014. The expert group will endeavour to build a common understanding on climate change in the Mediterranean region, including providing a common line of action (strategic orientation). It will focus on concrete projects (in particular of regional interest), possible replication, implementation of actions (incl. identification of funding), exchange of best practices, lessons learnt, technology transfer, and sharing of information and data including capacity building and feasibility studies. The expert group will bring together representatives of national administrations and as

appropriate various stakeholders (including civil society, local and regional authorities, academia, regional and international institutions, as well as private sector). It will furthermore build up on existing initiatives and results of actions and projects, focussing on awareness raising and building of synergies. The European Commission together with Jordanian co-presidency will be steering the activities of the UfM expert group, supported by the UfM Secretariat.

Other emerging dialogues

Where appropriate and where such opportunities avail themselves, the facility will support the creation of dialogue platforms on issues of relevance across the region. With a view to build trust and consensus among partners, these dialogues could focus for example on gender mainstreaming or women empowerment and pave the way, or follow the orientations of high-level meetings like ministerial meetings.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The different evaluations and monitoring exercises of the European Neighbourhood regional programmes have confirmed the high relevance of regional intervention in achieving ENP objectives.

In this respect, the evaluation of the European Union's Support to two European Neighbourhood Policy Regions (East and South) over the period 2004-2010, published in June 2013, provides evidence of the positive achievements of the regional programmes, as well as shortcomings to be addressed:

- The support provided has stimulated regional policy dialogue and has contributed to regional stability, which is a critical achievement given the difficult regional contexts in both ENP regions;
- the establishment of regional networks has been a key instrument successfully used to strengthen or support the creation of regional capacities and co-operation mechanisms in different areas;
- regional co-operation has strengthened policy dialogue processes among the partners at regional level, an important step towards the achievement of the ENP objective of the development of a 'ring of friends' with whom the EU enjoys close, peaceful and co-operative relations";
- the EU support, both through policy dialogue and specific regional initiatives has helped the achievement of gradual regional harmonization of procedures and approximation to EU norms and standards (namely in areas such as transport, migration, waters).

Also, reassembling a number of themes for dialogues and exchanges of best practices under a single programme will allow the promotion of policy dialogue activities in a better and more comprehensive manner and, in addition, gives Commission's line DGs platforms to steer the dialogues.

2.4. Complementary actions

All the thematic activities in the facility will be closely coordinated with EU policies in the respective fields through the strong implication of the concerned line Directorate General or other EU institutions in the steering of the activities. In addition to that, whenever relevant, the association of the Union for the Mediterranean will be sought, in order to give the thematic programmes of this facility additional political steering for the policies the UfM is involved in. This facility will be articulated with other regional and bilateral programmes in the

respective domains. Particular attention will be paid to liaise with existing programmes dealing with audiovisual/media in the region, in order to avoid overlapping.

2.5. Donor co-ordination

Donor co-ordination is automatically ensured by the inclusive nature of the dialogues involving well-targeted relevant stakeholders among the public administrations of the South who will steer the thematic domains, together with other interested representatives.

As this action is mainly in the EU interest, it does not require co-ordination with donors outside EU.

Co-ordination with similar activities at the level of EU Member States will however be necessary during implementation.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective is to enhance regional sector co-operation based on EU rules and standards through policy dialogue and exchange of best practices with existing networks of stakeholders in the southern neighbourhood.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results are to maintain the existing relevant networks and to further develop the regional dialogue and exchange of best practices conducive to a change in practices, rules and norms in line with EU policies and standards in the domains covered.

So as to continue activities that took place as fully-fledged programmes under the ENP Instrument, the facility will provide resources and expertise aimed at maintaining continuous and structured dialogue and the exchange of best practices based on EU rules and standards.

The activities will be mainly conferences, workshops and regional seminars, and technical assistance at regional level, including development of background documents and discussion papers. These activities will be moderated by experts or specialised organisations with a steering from Commission's line Directorate Generals, EU institutions or the UfM. There will be also specific activities linked to each sector, such as work programmes on specific socio-economic issues of interest for the region, drafting of research reports, establishment of working groups, study visits, expert missions. Country-specific activities can be undertaken, provided that they can clearly contribute to the regional policy dialogue in the said sector.

Indicators could be the following:

- The relevant actors of the south were gathered in the respective regional dialogues.
- The EU succeeded in conducting structured regional dialogues on EU norms and standards (list of dialogues and content according to EU priorities).
- Positions, approaches, and policies of the neighbourhood south partners have evolved in closer consonance with EU interests; views and positions on important policy issues and its values have led to concrete advances under

bilateral or regional agreements, declarations, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or other similar documents.

Sector 1: Statistics

The expected results will be the following:

- Regional dialogue with national statistics institutes is well pursued;
- A platform for exchange is established for the working groups created during MEDSTAT III on mainly energy, labour market, trade, migration, business and transport statistics and should the need arise on any other horizontal field of interest for the partners and availability of good quality statistics is increased in above mentioned statistical domains;
- Processes and results are harmonised in line with EU standards.

Sector 2: Social Dialogue

The expected results will be the following:

- Democracy in the Mediterranean partner countries is strengthened by supporting economic and social partners; institutional social dialogue is fostered and strengthened;
- Regional and sub-regional integration on economic and social issues is fostered;
- Closer contacts among economic and social partners are created; debates between the relevant stakeholders are facilitated; co-operation between socio-economic partners and institutions of the region is promoted and enhanced;
- Specialised information on socio-economic issues and on social dialogue is provided, disseminated and easy to access.

Sector 3: Telecommunication and audiovisual

The expected results will be the following:

- A more comprehensive regulatory framework in the electronic communications sector is advocated at a regional level, in line with the EU framework principles and EU acquis in the field;
- Recommendations provided by EMERG to beneficiary countries on a comprehensive regulatory framework to be taken into account or approximated in the field through national projects;
- Exchange of know-how and experience between the regulatory authorities of the EU and the Mediterranean countries is successfully practiced by EMERG.
- Discussions among beneficiary countries on their future regulatory framework for audiovisual and media are supported.

Sector 4: Agriculture and rural development

The expected results will be the following:

- Relevant EU, EU Member States, and partner country experiences and best-practices shared with and among policy makers and practitioners in the region; International organisations and other bodies active in the sector can be invited to share their experience.;
- Participation of broader stakeholder groups in relevant policy dialogues reinforced;

- National policies informed by the experience of neighbouring countries and wider stakeholders' participation;
- National policies informed by broader framework of sustainable development, including environmental and climate change considerations and strategies.

Sector 5: Integrated Maritime Policy

The expected results will be the following:

- Stakeholders around the Mediterranean have developed a common understanding and knowledge of IMP principles and best practices;
- Some countries with a particularly strong interest in the matter may have proceeded to the holding of national IMP dialogues, leading to the setting up of an IMP governance structure.

Sector 6: Climate change

The expected results will be the following:

- Stakeholders (governmental as well as civil society, academia, regional and local administrations, international and regional organisations and initiatives within the Union for the Mediterranean framework) engage in dialogue on climate change focusing on low emission and climate resilient development;
- Stakeholders around the Mediterranean have developed a more profound knowledge about common climate change challenges across the region, resulting in common understanding of priority actions across the region;
- Some countries advance on development of low emission development strategies (LEDS) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), cost-benefit analyses, feasibility studies;
- The capacity on GHG modelling via peer review and exchange of best practices is increased;
- Some countries advance on development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans, or adaptation policies including at local level, including vulnerability assessments, cost-benefit analyses, feasibility studies;
- Involvement of local and regional authorities, as well as civil society and the private sector in the development and implementation of climate change policies at national and regional level is increased.

Sector 7: Other emerging dialogues

The expected results will be the following:

- When appropriated, platforms for discussion of specific topics, related to existing or emerging regional dialogues or as follow-up of high level meetings will be created.
- Trust and consensus among partners of such regional dialogues will be established.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The protracted instability of the region is always a risk for the co-operation. However, the regional nature of the facility allows for dialogue to be held in safe locations.

The well-known reticence of certain states to participate in meetings with Israeli representatives has always been overcome in the previous regional neighbourhood south programmes.

For the programme to achieve its desired results, the following assumptions must hold true:

- All relevant stakeholders in their respective domains are ready to conduct dialogues and exchange on best practices and that they have a mandate to do so. This assumption is supported by the fact that previous long standing programmes helped identifying relevant stakeholders and dialogues.

- Continued support and interest of relevant Commission line Directorate Generals to participate significantly in the dialogues is ensured since this facility is supposed to cover domains of interest for them.

The success of the previous phases of past programmes should help handle these resistances and lack of interest.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

The themes for dialogues are either directly linked to some cross-cutting issues, such as environment and climate change, or contribute indirectly (statistics, justice, social dialogue) to them.

3.5. Stakeholders

Stakeholders are representatives from public institutions of the southern neighbourhood who are involved in the domains covered: ministries (social affairs, interior, justice, environment), institutes (statistics), economic and social councils (social dialogue) relevant Commission's directorates general and Member States administrations. Civil society representatives may be involved depending on the dialogue theme (social affairs and gender issues).

Beneficiaries are public institutions in the countries of the southern neighbourhood.

Sector 1 - Statistics: Representatives from the national statistics institutes and associated public users/producers of statistics (public services)

Sector 2 – Social Dialogue: Stakeholders of the southern neighbourhood countries are representatives from Economic and Social Councils, representatives of civil society, especially socio-professional organisations: trade unions, business organisations, social actors, farmers, fishermen, consumers' organisations and representatives of the governments and public administrations involved in socio-economic issues, and representatives of universities.

Sector 3 – Telecommunications and audiovisual: Levels of dependency and independency between the national regulators of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine¹, Syria and Tunisia represented in EMERG and their respective Information, Communication and Technology ministries continues to vary significant. The November 2013 Results oriented monitoring (ROM) concluded that co-operation between Ministries and functionally independent regulators were regarded as an important factor for the development of the regulatory framework.

¹ 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.

With regard to the audiovisual and media sector, stakeholders include the leading authorities/bodies and practitioners in these fields, MED regulatory authorities such as RIRM (Réseau Instances Régulation Méditerranéennes), other relevant authorities in the partner countries, journalists, academics and non-state actors.

Sector 4 – Agriculture and rural development: Given the cross-cutting nature of rural development, a wide range of stakeholders are concerned. Beyond government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture or its affiliated entities, the policy dialogue, has to include other Ministries and non-state actors, such as producers' organisations, academia and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on local development.

Sector 5 – Integrated Maritime Policy: Due to its cross-sectorial nature, regional dialogue on IMP has to involve a wide range of stakeholders. In each meeting, depending on the topics for discussion, the participants will represent various relevant Ministries or government bodies, private sector organisations, CSOs / NGOs.

Sector 6 – Climate change: The activity will primarily target government's officials involved in climate change policy development and implementation, and also those working in relevant sectors such as energy, water, agriculture, industry and tourism, that are directly impacted by, or have an impact on climate change. Furthermore, depending on the topics chosen for discussion, financial institutions, relevant international organisations, NGOs and CSOs, as well as other stakeholders (civil society representatives, local and regional authorities, academia, private sector) may also be invited or closely involved in the work of the regional platform.

Financial institutions, relevant international organisations and CSOs will also be closely involved in the work of the regional platform.

Sector 7 – Other emerging dialogues:

Main stakeholders will be partners involved in discussions on issues at a regional level, namely the UfM, as well as all parties involved in the preparation or follow-up of high level meetings on topics of relevance for the region.

In duly justified circumstances and in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional co-operation, eligibility of specific actions will be extended to the Balkan countries, Turkey and Mauritania, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No. 232/2014.

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.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2. and 4.3. will be carried out, is 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement or, where none is concluded, from the adoption of this Action Document, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements. The European Parliament and the relevant Committee shall be informed of the extension of the operational implementation period within one month of that extension being granted.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

Module 1 -Support to Social Dialogue – Sector 2

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

The objectives of the eligible actions should be:

- To reinforce institutional co-operation between Economic and Social Councils and similar Institutions throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- To reinforce the capacities of Economic and Social Councils and similar Institutions in countries of the Southern rim of the Mediterranean in order to enhance their role as channels of communication between civil society and governments.

Type of actions should be:

- **Reinforcing the co-operation between European and Mediterranean Economic and Social Councils (ESCs):** Establishing a structured co-operation between (a) Economic and Social Councils, similar Institutions and civil society representatives of the ENP South area, and (b) the EESC, ESCs and civil society representatives of the EU; Organising debates on matters of an economic, social and human nature related to the Neighbourhood Policy; Reinforcing the co-ordination and co-operation with other EU financed programmes which support social dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region; Making sustainable the results of the different phases of the TRESMED programme, in particular maintaining and expanding the web site built under the TRESMED programmes.
- **Institutionally reinforcing ESCs and social actors of the Southern rim:** Supporting the establishment of Economic and Social Councils in countries where ESCs do not exist or are not fully operational, building on the experience of existing ESCs, in the Southern Mediterranean area and in Europe; Improving the approach of ESCs to collaboration and dialogue with the organisations representing economic and social interests through exchanges of experience and good practices, particularly regarding the representativeness of ESC members.
- **Helping ESCs and social actors to develop their organisation and activities:** Streamlining their organisation and operations, through the exchanges of good practices among ESCs and social actors in terms of organisation and working methods dealing for instance with selection of topics, intervention of outside expertise, dissemination of recommendations; Working together on specific issues used as case studies for introducing good operating practice; Reinforcing the visibility of ESCs, similar Institutions and social actors and their capability to spread their opinions and ideas.

Expected results are:

- improved representativeness and extended contribution of civil society, especially of social actors to public life; increased role of ESCs into the governance of countries;
- civil society and politicians better understand the role of ESCs; regular contacts among partners, strengthened co-operation and networking between the ESCs and social actors representatives;
- increased operating efficiency of ESCs; improved operating practices of ESCs; increased effectiveness of ESCs works.

b) Eligibility conditions

Open call for one grant.

To be eligible, applicants should be one public institution from the EU Member States or from the neighbourhood south Region in partnership with one or several ESC(s) from the EU Member States or from the neighbourhood south Region. Ideally, one member of the partnership (be it the leader or a partner) should come from the neighbourhood south Region.

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%

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100% in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

e) Indicative trimester to launch the call

Last trimester 2014.

4.3.2. Procurement (direct management)

Module 2 - Dialogue and Institutional capacity building

	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Dialogue and exchanges of best practices on sectors mentioned in section 3.2 and other potential sectors to be defined	Services	Maximum of 6	Last trimester 2014
<u>Sector 1 – Statistics</u>	Service	1	Q4 2014
<u>Sector 3 – Telecommunications and</u>			

<u>audiovisual</u>	Service	1	Q4 2014
<u>Sector 4 – Agriculture and rural development</u>	Service	1	Q4 2014
<u>Sector 5 – Integrated Maritime Policy</u>	Service	1	Q4 2014
<u>Sector 6 – Climate change</u>	Service	1	Q4 2014
<u>Sector 7 – Other emerging dialogues</u>	Service	1	Q4 2014

4.4. **Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

Subject to the following, 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 shall apply.

The responsible authorising officer 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 other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

4.5. **Indicative budget**

Sector 1 - Statistics

The total amount allocated to statistics is EUR 5 million.

Sector 2 – Social dialogue

The total amount allocated to social dialogue is EUR 3 million.

Sector 3 – Telecommunication and audiovisual

The total amount allocated to telecommunication is EUR 1.2 million.

Sector 4 – Agriculture and rural development

The total amount allocated to agriculture and rural development is EUR 4 million.

Sector 5 – Integrated Maritime Policy

The total amount allocated to Integrated maritime Policy is EUR 1.7 million.

Sector 6 – Climate change

The total amount allocated to Climate change Platform is EUR 1 million.

Sector 7 – Other emerging dialogues

The total amount allocated to emerging dialogues is EUR 0.3 million.

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Third party contribution (indicative, where known)
4.3.1. – Call for proposals <i>Support to Social Dialogue</i> (direct management) – module 1	3 000	750
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management)	5 000	N.A.

for Statistics – module 2		
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management) for Telecommunication and audiovisual – module 2	1 200	N.A.
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management) for Agriculture and rural development– module 2	4 000	N.A.
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management) for Integrated Maritime Policy– module 2	1 700	N.A.
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management) for Climate Change– module 2	1 000	N.A.
4.3.2. – Procurement (direct management) for other emerging dialogues – module 2	300	
Totals	16 200	750

4.6. Performance monitoring

Regular monitoring will be a continuous process as part of the Commission's responsibilities. As the facility will be implemented by European Commission services, no external monitoring will be needed. Regular sectorial monitoring will be conducted.

The outcomes of the facility will be evaluated based on the outcomes of each event, eventually set of events in priority areas. Furthermore, the issue of performance will be regularly discussed during the inter-services meeting organised with the relevant services of the European Commission in order to ensure that the impact/sustainability/efficiency/efficacy/relevance of all funded activities are maximised.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

The external evaluations and audits will be carried out by independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission in accordance with European Commission rules and procedures on specifically established terms of reference.

4.8. 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 before the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 4.5 above.

The measures shall be implemented either (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, financing agreements, 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.

Communication and visibility will be assured by each of the subsequent contracts implementing this facility.