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ANNEX IV

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual action plan in favour of Türkiye for 2024

Action Document for Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and annual and multiannual action plans and measures in the sense of Article 9 of IPA III Regulation and Article 23 (2) of NDICI - Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

Title	Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme Annual action plan in favour of Türkiye for 2024
OPSYS	ACT-62854
ABAC	ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.1655607
Basic Act	Financed under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)
Economic and Investment Plan (EIP)	No
EIP Flagship	No
Team Europe	No
Beneficiary(y)/(ies) of the action	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Türkiye
Programming document	IPA III Programming Framework
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
Window and thematic priority	Window 2: Good governance, EU <i>acquis</i> alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication Thematic Priority 2: Administrative capacity and EU <i>acquis</i> alignment
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions Other significant SDGs: SDG 4: Quality Education
DAC code(s)	11420 - Higher education

Main Delivery Channel	Central Government - 12001			
Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity			
Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<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"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal 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"/>
	Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
EIP		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EIP Flagship		YES <input type="checkbox"/>		NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tags:		YES		NO
Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Energy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Environment and climate resilience		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Digital		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development (incl. private sector, trade and macroeconomic support)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	Human Development (incl. human capital and youth)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Health resilience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Migration and mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Agriculture, food security and rural development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Rule of law, governance and Public Administration reform	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Digitalisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tags	YES	NO
	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tags	YES	NO
	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line: 15.020101.01</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR 15 600 000.00</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 15 600 000.00, of which EUR 15 600 000.00 for indirect management with IPA III beneficiary</p>
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation modalities (management mode and delivery methods)	Indirect management with the Republic of Türkiye
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Final Date for conclusion of Financing Agreement	At the latest by 31 December 2025
Final date for concluding contribution / delegation agreements, procurement and grant contracts	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing Agreement, with the exception of cases listed under Article 114(2) of the Financial Regulation
Indicative operational implementation period	72 months following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement	12 years following the conclusion of the Financing Agreement

1.2. Summary of the Action

The Jean Monnet Scholarship Programme (JMSP) is Türkiye's longest and most prestigious EU-funded scholarship programme. It is known and accepted as one of the brand programmes of the EU. The JMSP contributes to the development of Türkiye's human resources capacity in fields related to the EU *acquis* by granting scholarships for academic studies in EU Member States. The objective is to broaden participants' perspectives about the European integration process, enrich their knowledge about the EU and enhance dialogue between Turkish professionals and their EU counterparts. Under this action, grants will be provided for graduate studies in the EU. This action also includes a technical assistance (TA) component.

An important characteristic of the JMSP is focusing on administrative capacity. There are multiple aspects involved in strengthening a country's administrative capacity to implement the EU *acquis*. One of them is to develop the human resource capacity in all areas covered by the EU *acquis*. Since the EU *acquis* covers a wide spectrum of fields, well-equipped professionals are needed in several disciplines and sectors. Higher education is one of the tools for investing in people and thus boosting administrative capacity. In this context, the JMSP provides opportunities for Turkish professionals to undertake academic studies at a university (or an equivalent institution) in one of the EU Member States. The aim is to build solid support for Türkiye's accession to the EU, raise awareness about Türkiye's accession process and develop workforce in the relevant disciplines. Under the Programme, scholarships are granted to people involved or to be involved in professional life so that they can deepen and enrich their knowledge in areas of EU *acquis* by following an academic study programme in an EU Member State. The Programme helps scholars enhance civil society dialogue, become familiar with how the EU functions, expand their networks, observe good practices, and strengthen people-to-people relations between Türkiye and their EU counterparts.

This Action Document (AD) is prepared in line with the IPA III Programming Framework, where it is highlighted to modernise public administrations at all levels of government. Regarding the link with SDG 16, the JMSP contributes to increasing the capacity of human resources in Türkiye and to developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

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

The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Türkiye.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The specific objective of IPA III under 'Thematic Priority 2: Administrative capacity and EU *acquis* alignment' as defined under the IPA III Programming Framework is to bring beneficiaries' policies and legislation in line with the EU policies and the EU *acquis*, and to build administrative capacity to fully and effectively implement sector policies and the adopted legislation, building the ability of beneficiaries to take on the obligations of membership as well as the digitalisation efforts. This objective constitutes a crosscutting priority and complements administrative capacity building under other Windows.

The JMSP supports improvement towards an efficient and accountable public administration and aims to facilitate regulatory reform for alignment by enhancing the human resources capacity of public institutions.

Jean Monnet scholars equipped with both skills and up-to-date knowledge on the EU policies and the EU *acquis*, indirectly contribute to the EU integration process of Türkiye.

The overall objective of the EU assistance to candidate countries and potential candidates is to support the IPA III beneficiaries in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social

and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership, thereby contributing to their stability, security and prosperity. The JMSP plays a significant role in strengthening the links between EU and Turkish societies. Therefore, the Programme clearly correspond to the priority of strengthening cooperation with Türkiye on people-to-people contacts, as stressed by the EU leaders in March 2021¹. The JMSP gives general support to sector policies and reforms by enhancing human resources capacity in fields relevant to the body of the EU *acquis*. This will be key areas relevant for the proper functioning of the EU-Türkiye Customs Union, as well as migration and security and public health sectors and Türkiye's alignment with the EU climate policy, which are among key priorities in the EU-Türkiye relations, as indicated in 2021 European Council Conclusions.

Within the IPA III Strategic Response of Türkiye, the Thematic Priority 2 under Window 2 is about improvements in the *acquis* alignment in a variety of fields. The enhancement of public administration capacities is also prioritised in the IPA III Strategic Response.

At national level, two pillars of the 12th Development Plan of Türkiye (NDP) (2024-2028)² are relevant to the objectives of the JMSP: “qualified people, strong family, healthy society”³ and “democratic good governance based on justice”⁴. These pillars are aimed at achieving the ultimate vision of “a stable, strong and prosperous Türkiye, that is eco-friendly, resilient to disasters, produces high added value based on advanced technology, and shares income fairly in the Century of Türkiye”⁵. The ownership of rule of law, democratisation and good governance principles can be improved by enhancing, among others, human resources capacity of public institutions, which is one of the JMSP's main objectives. The NDP puts emphasis on enhancement of lifelong learning opportunities, increasing Türkiye's level of internationalisation in the field of higher education and on the importance of enhancement of human resources capacity. These principles are all in line with the objectives of the JMSP.

At global level, the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights values of fostering intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility and recognises that all cultures and civilisations are crucial enablers of sustainable development. More specifically, SDG 16 is aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In this regard, JMSP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

As regards links to other relevant actions, one of the most notable scholarship opportunities in higher education is the Joint master's degree option under the Erasmus+ Programme as a follow-up to the Erasmus Mundus Programme. The beneficiaries of the Programme are awarded either a joint degree or multiple degrees from universities in the EU and receive financial support throughout their academic studies. The EU Member States run several other scholarships schemes i.e.: the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD) in Germany or the Eiffel Scholarship Programme in France. In addition, the Republic of Türkiye also offers scholarships for public-sector employees under the framework of the ‘Legislation Concerning the Public Officials to Be Sent Abroad for Training Purposes’. However, both the range of studies and the eligible countries supported within the scope of this scholarship are extremely wide, whilst JMSP is the first and leading institutionalised programme in Türkiye to provide fellowships for academic studies on subjects related to the EU *acquis*.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48976/250321-vtc-euco-statement-en.pdf>

² https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Twelfth-Development-Plan_2024-2028.pdf

³ NDP, pages 157-205.

⁴ NDP, pages 230-251.

⁵ NDP, page 53.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis

Strengthening the administrative capacity for the implementation of the EU *acquis* has various dimensions, one of them is the development of human resources. During the accession process, important responsibilities fall upon every segment of the society from public institutions to the private sector and from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to the universities. For this reason, individuals in candidate countries who closely follow EU-related disciplines need to be well-equipped and knowledgeable with the latest developments on the EU *acquis*. In this context, the JMSP provides opportunities for graduate studies at a university, or an equivalent institution in one of the EU Member States, with the aim of familiarising the participants with the EU *acquis* and developing a more qualified workforce in the relevant disciplines. The JMSP enhances enrichment of academic knowledge related to the EU legislation among Turkish professionals leading to the enhancement of the human resources that Türkiye in its efforts to align with the EU *acquis*. Human capital equipped with sufficient theoretical knowledge and academic training in Member States, where the *acquis* is already implemented will eventually contribute to the EU integration process in Türkiye.

Moreover, the social and academic network established as a result of the JMSP will forge links between Turkish and EU societies, contributing to the elimination of prejudices.

By its very nature and unlike other grant programs, the JMSP directly supports individuals, not institutions. Providing equal application conditions for all applicants and ensuring the inclusiveness are important priorities of the Programme. Applicants for the JMSP firstly satisfy certain eligibility criteria such as holding an undergraduate degree or being a senior undergraduate student, having a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade points average (CGPA) specified during the call and having a valid foreign language proficiency certificate. Applicants satisfying the eligibility criteria are invited to sit on a selection exam consisting of questions related to the following indicative subjects: EU *acquis* chapter from which the applicant applied, European Union and EU-Türkiye relations. According to the selection exam scores, a success ranking is established for three sectors (public, university and private).

In ensuring inclusiveness, special attention is paid to gender equality. According to data by the Council of Higher Education in Türkiye, it was only in 2023 that the percentage of women surpassed men in the number of students enrolled in higher education for the first time, reaching 50.8%. In 2024, this ratio increased further in favour of women, reaching 51.7%⁶. However, in terms of labour force participation, the participation rate among male higher education graduates (84.6%) is still higher than that of women (67.6%) according to 2023 data by the Turkish Statistical Institute⁷. Therefore, although prospects are promising, it is evident that ensuring and sustaining gender equality not only in higher education but also in the workforce requires further efforts. In implementation of the JMSP, gender balance had always been preserved with percentage of women scholars exceeding men in most academic years except for four academic years (2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2019-2020, 2020-2021) from 2008 onwards.

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

The end beneficiaries of the JMSP are the public sector, private sector, NGOs employees as well as the university students and academics in Türkiye. For each academic year, 50% of the total number of

⁶ <https://www.yok.gov.tr/Sayfalar/Haberler/2024/kadinlarin-yuksekogretime-erisimi.aspx>

⁷ <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Istatistiklerle-Kadin-2023-53675>

scholarships is planned to be allocated to the public sector while 30% are allocated to the university sector, and 20% to the private sector (including NGOs)⁸.

Other main stakeholders include Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) as the Contracting Authority, Technical Assistance Team (TAT), academic institutions abroad and embassies in Türkiye. As one of the main stakeholders CFCU will be responsible for calls for tenders, calls for proposals, contracting, contract management, payments and revenue operations. The TAT would support Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate for European Union Affairs (DEUA) in sound implementation of the grant scheme and in achievement of Programme objectives through project activities. The academic institutions abroad are also an important stakeholder as they would be the host institutions for prospective scholars. Host institutions are involved in all stages of the academic studies starting from admission and enrolment up until graduation. Therefore, close communication and cooperation with this group of stakeholders and promotion of JMSP in these institutions is important for all aspects of the scholarship from placement to monitoring. Lastly, embassies in Türkiye are an important contact point for facilitation of visa procedures for the scholars, in enlarging the network of host institutions through and in maintaining communication networks among alumni.

2.3. Lessons Learned

The Programme was launched by an agreement signed between Republic of Türkiye and the European Commission in 1989. In the first phase from 1990 to 2001, 442 scholars received funding under this financial programme. At that time, the main goal was to expand the knowledge about the EU. In the second phase from 2002 to 2006, the focus of the Programme shifted because Türkiye had become an EU candidate country at the 1999 Helsinki Summit. Therefore, the objective evolved to intensifying specific knowledge on the EU *acquis* in Türkiye. 489 people received funding under the Programme between 2002 and 2006.

The third phase was launched following the decision to finance the Programme under the Pre-Accession Financial Assistance for Türkiye. In this period, the Programme became EU-funded, whose beneficiary was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate for European Union Affairs (DEUA). The 2005 and 2006 projects entitled 'Continuation of the JMSP' were programmed and financed under the Pre-Accession Financial Assistance for Türkiye. Under the 2005 and 2006 projects, 181 scholars received funding for their studies.

Under Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) 2007-2013, 'Continuation of the JMSP' projects were financed under IPA 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2012 programmes. Implementing the grant component of the 2011 project covers the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years and the 2012 project covers the 2015-2016 academic year. Around 950 scholars received IPA funds over this period.

During 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years, 357 scholars were supported. During 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years, 303 scholars were supported. The Programme has an implicit deadline, which is the start date of the autumn semester in EU universities. Given the long evaluation and approval processes and with the aim of avoiding putting the awardees in unfavourable circumstances, the DEUA, CFCU and Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye (EUD) agreed to accelerate all stages in the Programme and to follow an indicative timetable to be set for each academic year. Within 2020

⁸ The quotas allocated to the sectors could be shifted with the aim of exploiting the available number of scholarships to the maximum possible extent. Similarly, the number of scholarships to be awarded could be increased depending on the available budget of the Programme and the probable savings that could occur due to the prevailing circumstances. Similarly, re-allocation of budget between the components within the scope of this Action Document could be put into practice in order to ensure the effective and optimal use of the funds.

programming period, 326 scholars were supported for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years. Under 2022 programming period, it is envisaged to support approximately 190 scholars in the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years.

The JMSP differs from other grants with its repetitive and bureaucratic implementation cycle. The nine months in 2015, when the DEUA managed the programme without a TA (from December 2014 to August 2015), showed that it was possible to manage the technical aspects of the Programme. Though, the heavy workload and lack of expertise in promotion and visibility measures as well as enhancing a sound university network at EU level, caused an important interruption in the implementation. Establishing and sustaining effective communication with higher education institutions in the EU is a task that requires specific experience, and which is challenging for the DEUA to carry out with its own resources. Also, challenges that occurred during the covid-19 pandemic required additional measures to be taken, which would have been impossible to be carry out without a professional TA team. Some examples for this are the following: quick arrangement of online meetings, support in the organisation of the written exam by assigning additional exam invigilators as well as support in taking covid-19 social distancing and hygiene measures in all activities. It is important to state that the covid-19 pandemic created risks for the effective implementation of projects in 2020 and 2021 but by close cooperation of the DEUA, CFCU and EUD, quick and effective measures were taken, considering the best interest of scholars and potential problems were, thus, minimised.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Intervention Logic

The Overall Objective/Impact of this action is to

1. Strengthen Türkiye's administrative capacity towards European integration and the effective implementation of the EU *acquis*.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is to:

1. Enhance human resources capacity in fields relevant to the European integration and EU *acquis*.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the Specific Objective (Outcome) are:

- 1.1 Financial support is granted for scholarship awardees.
- 1.2 Awareness about the JMSP is increased.
- 1.3 Academic institutions network is sustained and enlarged.
- 1.4 Fairly selected scholars successfully have completed their academic studies.
- 1.5 Jean Monnet alumni network is strengthened.

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that if the scholars are financially supported and complete their studies in the EU, there is enough awareness about the programme, and the programme's academic network is sustained, Türkiye will be able to increase human resources to implement the EU *acquis*. As a result of the better human resources capacity, Türkiye's administrative capacity towards the EU integration and *acquis* implementation will increase.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1: Financial support is granted for scholarship awardees.

For each academic year covered under this Action Document, approximately 190 people will be awarded scholarships and financial support will be ensured through grant contracts.

Activities related to Output 1.2: Awareness about the JMSP is increased.

The activities will focus on publicising the Programme to maintain its well-known brand and recognition. It includes awareness-raising events, info days, promotional materials and dissemination of programme-related information in multiple ways, such as email, internet, digital channels of national, local and social media, etc. The DEUA will work vigorously to promote the Programme through formal correspondence with the parties involved and use every opportunity (large-scale events such as meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops organised by DEUA) to publicise the Programme. The DEUA will continue to take ownership of the Programme and make use of its own network (website, social media accounts, press announcements, etc.) to promote it. The TA team is expected to produce creative content, develop innovative promotional instruments/approaches and use its media networks to disseminate Programme-related information to the maximum possible extent. The first two tasks in particular are not possible for the DEUA to carry out with its resources since they require specific expertise.

Activities related to Output 1.3: Academic institutions network is sustained and enlarged.

The activities concern providing guidance to potential candidates on the academic institutions/programmes in the EU Member States, developing the networks with the institutions, organising networking visits to institutions to expand the institutions' database and updating the 'Hosting Institutions Catalogue' are the main tasks under this output. The tasks also require certain expertise related to the EU institutions and will rely mostly on the TA team.

Activities related to Output 1.4: Fairly selected scholars successfully have completed their academic studies.

The coordination and implementation of the selection process is mainly run by the DEUA and the CFCU. The TA team provides support for the whole assessment process. The Programme also uses fair and objective selection criteria which do not create any advantage/disadvantage on the basis of the applicants' gender, demographic origin, age, health, etc.

When the scholarship awardees are announced, the placement process starts with the approval of academic programmes proposed in terms of their compliance with the JMSP objectives and the rules described in the official scholarship announcement. Pre-departure seminars are organised to inform the scholars of their liabilities. The technical aspects of the placement process are handled by the DEUA, and the TA team will organise pre-departure seminars as these events are expected to increase the visibility of the Programme. Following the scholars' arrival at their respective host institutions, they are regularly monitored in terms of their academic progress through reports, emails, phone calls and so forth. TA team is expected to support the process with specific expertise for effective implementation of the JMSP.

Activities related to Output 1.5: Jean Monnet alumni network is strengthened.

Regular communication with former scholars is an important element of the Programme. The aim of these contacts is to ensure that the scholars make a tangible contribution from their academic studies to Türkiye's EU integration process and to enhance communication between past, present and future scholars. Events such as certificate ceremonies, seminars, workshops, alumni gatherings, capacity building activities, etc. are organised for the alumni society. The TA team provides support to the organisation and helps forge a sound sense of belonging among the scholars.

In addition, during continuation of their academic studies, each year a study visit is organised to Brussels/Strasbourg, or the capital of the EU Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU to strengthen and boost the synergy among the scholars. By bringing them together, it is also aimed to familiarise scholars with EU institutions, enabling them to establish networks among themselves and deepen their knowledge about the EU, with the expectation that the core aim of the programme will become more tangible for the scholars and lead robust networks. The TA team will organise the study visits.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity

JMSP provides support to academic studies under 31 different field of studies (based on the negotiation chapters between Türkiye and the EU). Among these field of studies are the following negotiation chapters that directly contribute to Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity: Chapter 27: Environment, Chapter 15: Energy, Chapter 11: Agriculture and Rural Development; Chapter 12: Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy; Chapter 13: Fisheries. Scholars are free to choose one of these chapters, which will include courses and/or dissertations relevant to their field of study. To provide some recent numbers, in the 2021-2022 academic year 9 scholars out of 154 and in the 2022-2023 academic year 11 out of 162 scholars have chosen the above-mentioned field of studies. These figures, however, are not exhaustive and the scholars may also work on dissertations or research papers related to environment and climate change within the scope of other study fields since environmental issues currently affect a wide spectrum of sectors/disciplines, ranging from trade to transport and from social policy to financial services.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. Gender equality⁹ has always been respected within JMSP. It is accepted as a significant objective of the action. As explained above, the JMSP is open to all applicants without discrimination and seeks to give all potential applicants equal opportunities. Scholars are selected through a competitive selection process. The Programme is open to all Turkish citizens that meet the application criteria set by the Steering Committee.

Non-discrimination is the focus of the Programme. As for the gender profile of the scholars, the Programme has significantly contributed to increasing the share of female scholars in Türkiye qualified in the EU acquis related fields. Application criteria of the scholarship programme and the evaluation process provides equal opportunity in terms of gender equality. Moreover, over the years no complaint on gender discrimination has been received.

Findings of the JMSP impact assessment study shows that women's perception of the Programme's positive impact on their career development is higher than that perceived by men. Other findings on JMSP's positive impact on careers, JMSP's help to reach the professional network in support of career development, meeting needs in terms of career development are similar, i.e.: women's positive perception is higher than that of men.

The principles of equal opportunity for women and men and non-discrimination on grounds of gender are followed throughout the Programme. The applicants, who hold the necessary qualifications for application, but who are on long-term paid and/or unpaid leave from their employer institutions may also apply for the Programme. This also covers women who are on maternity leave, providing them the chance to benefit from the scholarship during this period. For the exam invitation process, participants are asked to inform the responsible institutions involved if they have any special needs (in recent years, pregnant women have applied and asked for assistance for the participation to the written exam). In response to the requests made by the applicants, measures are taken to adapt the exam processes (e.g.: requests of the pregnant women who certify their condition through medical reports are accommodated by providing them more accessible seats in the exam set-up in the room/hall or giving them the opportunity to use the restrooms during the exam, etc.).

⁹ Within the context of the Project, the term "gender" refers to the men and women as it is understood in the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 of the EU. Here it is stated that *"the promotion of equality between women and men is a task for the Union, in all its activities, required by the Treaties"*.

Scholars are selected through a competitive selection process. The percentage of women participants is presented in a table below:

Academic Year	Percentage of Women (%)
2008-2009	63
2009-2010	56
2010-2011	61
2011-2012	51
2012-2013	51
2013-2014	52
2014-2015	49
2015-2016	48
2018-2019	55
2019-2020	45
2020-2021	47
2021-2022	53
2022-2023	59
2023-2024	57

To ensure the continued high participation rate of women in the Programme, measures to ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination regardless of gender are integrated in the Programme's design and implementation. As such, it will ensure that equally qualified female and male applicants will be given equal opportunity to participate and benefit from it.

The AD ensures that both women and men can provide inputs, access, and participate in action activities. It will be ensured that sex-disaggregated data is collected regarding project activities and outputs, where applicable, and be presented in the inception/progress/interim/final reports and at steering committees and during monitoring missions.

Disability

According to the OECD Disability DAC codes mentioned in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. The project focuses on providing equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities by removing barriers that might prevent them from applying and attending the written exam. As with previous academic years, special arrangements are made based on the type of disability and the specific needs of each applicant with disabilities to ensure their fair access. During the implementation, it is also planned to enhance the JMSP website to improve its accessibility for visually impaired users/applicants.

Democracy

The JMSP provides support to academic studies under 31 different field of studies (based on the negotiation chapters between Türkiye and the EU). Among these field of studies are the following negotiation chapters that are directly relevant to Democracy: Chapter 23: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights; Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom and Security; Chapter 31: Foreign, Security and Defence Policy. Their chosen academic programmes directly include courses and/or dissertations relevant to their field of study. These are also among the most popular field of studies chosen by the scholars.

Other considerations

Great importance is given to the cooperation with the alumni network and the Jean Monnet Scholars Association for a whole duration of the Programme. To strengthen communication between scholars and increase the visibility of the Programme, a series of the activities will be organised in collaboration with the Association. The Alumni network and the Jean Monnet Scholarship Association will also play an important role to ensure scholars make a tangible contribution from their academic studies to Türkiye's implementation of the *acquis*.

The need to develop human capital in Türkiye extends to all aspects of society. The public sector, the private sector, universities and NGOs also have important roles to play on this front, during both the implementation and design process. It is necessary to increase the number of experts in the EU field in all these sectors to support Türkiye's efforts to build up its administrative capacity to implement the EU *acquis*.

Opportunities for the mobility of Turkish public-sector representatives, young university graduates and private-sector representatives will also contribute to the Civil Society Dialogue that seeks to forge links between Turkish and EU societies by eliminating prejudice.

Moreover, both the grant and TA component of the action is carried out in full compliance with the PRAG rules under the supervision of the Contracting Authority. Principles of transparency, impartiality and equality form the cornerstone in all stages of the selection process. All applicants who pass the Administrative Compliance and Eligibility Check (meaning whose application documents are accurate, complete and meet the application criteria mentioned in the respective academic year's announcement) are invited to the written exam. There is no quota for the number of applicants invited to the written exam, thereby providing equal access to all interested parties. Those who are not invited to the exam are also informed of the grounds of their rejection.

The exam questions are prepared on the very same day of the written exam by the Evaluation Committee consisting of EU experts. During the exam, applicants are asked to seal the section on the answer sheet where their names are written. The copies of the answer sheets are evaluated by independent assessors. Each section of the exam is evaluated by at least two different assessors. It is only after finalisation of the exam scores, that the name sections on the answer sheets are opened and the main/reserve lists are announced. All applicants who take the written exam are informed about their final score. As can be seen, the whole process is carefully conducted in line with the PRAG rules ensuring equal treatment and transparency for all.

In terms of promotion of the Programme, social media is actively used to reach out a wide public audience regardless of their socio-economic condition or their location within the country. Respective year's academic announcement is disseminated both in the Programme's and DEUA's official social media accounts. To illustrate, the most recent post regarding the 2025-2026 academic year announcement on Instagram page of the Programme was viewed by 221.598 different accounts, which highlight the extent of the outreach. Moreover, in order to make even the most remote regions in Türkiye aware of the programme, each academic year's announcement poster is sent out to approximately 800 recipient institutions including municipalities, universities and libraries.

Additionally, the Programme itself has positive impacts on scholarship holders such as promotion of diversity and understanding and appreciating the perspectives of others. An impact assessment study on the JMSP was conducted in 2020. An online survey was sent to 1598 scholars via e-mail, out of which 300 responses were received. Also, focus group meetings were organised with scholars and managers of the JMSP. Among other issues, scholars indicated a high level of positive impact on increase in intercultural communication skills; being open to new ideas and experiences; promotion of diversity (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.); understanding and appreciating the perspectives of others and respecting different beliefs of others.

3.4. Risks and Assumptions

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
3-people and the organisation	Risk 1 Extended evaluation and placement processes of the Programme	L	M	The DEUA, CFCU and EUD will work in coordination to ensure that evaluation, placement and endorsement approvals for the scholars are timely completed
3-people and the organisation	Risk 2 Strong preference for a single EU host country by scholars	M	M	The academic programmes throughout the EU host countries will be equally promoted through the Hosting Institutions Catalogue and if the need arises the “country quota rule” might be re-considered and introduced
2-planning, processes and systems	Risk 2 Delay on the commencement date of the Technical Assistance Project	L	M	The DEUA, CFCU and EUD will work in coordination for timely commencement of the project. In case of a delay, the DEUA will compensate with its own capacity.
1-external environment	Risk 3 Delay in the implementation of activities under the Action due to a global health emergency	M	L	The DEUA, CFCU and EUD will facilitate the process if needed with alternative solutions like hybrid meetings/events; possibility of suspension and/or extension of activities.

External Assumptions

It is assumed that Türkiye’s implementation of the EU *acquis* continues; the evaluation, placement, and endorsement approvals of the JMSP scholars are of appropriate length; the target groups of the JMSP participate actively; relevant hosting institutions and graduate programmes are available, and sufficient resources are available to DEUA to establish and sustain effective communication with the relevant institutions.

3.5. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines	Target	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	Strengthen Türkiye's administrative capacity towards European Integration and the effective implementation of the EU acquis	Progress made towards meeting accession criteria.			Annual Türkiye reports prepared by the European Commission	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	Enhanced human resources capacity in fields relevant to the European integration and EU acquis.	<p>1.1 Number of scholars trained on programmes relevant to the EU <i>acquis</i>.</p> <p>1.2 Number of scholars employed on jobs relevant to the EU <i>acquis</i> after the completion of programmes.</p> <p>1.3 Extent to which participation to JMSP has contributed to improve educational attainment and skill levels</p>	<p>1.1 149 scholars (79 M + 70 F) (Year 2022)</p> <p>1.2 105 scholars (60 M + 45 F) (Year 2022)</p> <p>1.3 149 scholars (79 M + 70 F) (Year 2022)</p>	<p>1.1 149 (79M + 70F) +190 (95M+95F) +190 (95M + 95F) = 529 scholars (by the end of the Action)</p> <p>1.2 105 (60M + 45F) +120 (60M+ 60F) +120 (60M+60F) = 345 scholars (by the end of the action)</p> <p>1.3 149 (79M + 70F) +190 (95M+95F) +190 (95M + 95F) = 529 scholars (by the end of the action)</p>	<p>1.1 JM scholars' diplomas and certificates, JM Scholars' database, feedback, reports of scholars.</p> <p>1.2 JM Scholars' database, feedback.</p> <p>1.3 JM scholars' diplomas and certificates, feedback, reports of scholars.</p>	<p>-Türkiye's accession process to the EU continues.</p> <p>-Appropriate length of evaluation, placement and endorsement approvals of the JMSP scholars.</p>
Output 1	1.1 Granted financial support for scholarship awardees.	1.1 Number of signed grant contracts	1.1 149 scholars (79 M + 70 F) (Year 2022)	1.1 149 (79M + 70F) +190 (95M+95F) +190 (95M + 95F) = 529 scholars (by the end of the action)	1.1 List of Scholarship Awardees and records of grant contracts	
Output 2	1.2 Increased awareness about the JMSP	<p>1.2.1 Number of applications to the JMSP.</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of followers on social media accounts.</p>	<p>1.2.1 1650 scholars (Year 2022)</p> <p>1.2.2 37.400 (Year 2022)</p>	<p>1.2.1 1750 scholars (875M+875F) (by the end of the action)</p> <p>1.2.2 39.000 (by the end of the action)</p>	<p>1.2.1 Number of applications and application documents used</p> <p>1.2.2 promotional tools or channels.</p>	<p>The target groups of the JMSP participated actively.</p> <p>Relevant hosting institutions and</p>

					1.2.2 Statistics related to the social media accounts.	graduate programs are available.
Output 3	1.3 Sustained and enlarged academic institutions network.	1.3.1 Number of academic programmes in the Hosting Institutions Catalogue.	1.3.1 400 (Year 2022)	1.3.1 500 (by the end of the action)	1.3.1 Hosting Institutions Catalogue	Sufficient resources available to DEUA to
Output 4	1.4 Scholarship awardees selected after a transparent and fair selection process, grant contracts signed, awardees placed at their hosting institution and scholars monitored and completed their programmes	1.4.1 Distribution of scholars by profile (e.g. public/private sector employee, student). 1.4.2 Percentage of scholarships granted to women. 1.4.3 Percentage of the scholars completing their academic studies successfully.	1.4.1 149 scholars (75 public+44 uni+ 30 private) (Year 2022) 1.4.2 47% (Year 2022) 1.3.3 2.1.1 96% (F) and 99% (M) (Year 2022)	1.4.1 149 (79M + 70F) +190 (95M+95F) +190 (95M+95F) = 529 scholars (by the end of the action) 1.4.2 50% (by the end of the action) 1.4.3 97% (F) and 97% (M) (by the end of the action)	1.3.1 Number of applications and application documents, event participation lists, Acceptance letters and correspondence of scholars. 1.3.2 Progress reports filled up by academic/managerial supervisors, Diplomas and certificates. 1.3.4 DEUA's library, CVs of JM scholars, Diplomas and certificates.	establish and sustain effective communication with the relevant institutions.
Output 5	1.5 Strengthened Jean Monnet alumni network.	1.5.1 Number of ex-scholars attended the events organised for the Jean Monnet Scholarship holders and alumni.	1.5.1 190 (Year 2022)	1.5.1 190+80+80=350 (by the end of the action)	2.3.1Event participation lists.	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Republic of Türkiye.

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 conclusion of the financing agreement.

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 measures¹⁰.

4.3.1. Indirect Management with an IPA III beneficiary

This action will be implemented under indirect management by the Republic of Türkiye.

The managing authority responsible for the execution of the action is the General Directorate of Financial Co-operation and Project Implementation of the DEUA. The managing authority shall be responsible for legality and regularity of expenditure, sound financial management, programming, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, information, visibility and reporting of IPA III activities.

Budget implementation tasks such as calls for tenders, calls for proposals, contracting, contract management, payments and revenue operations, shall be entrusted to the following intermediate body for financial management: CFCU within the Ministry of Treasury and Finance. It shall ensure legality and regularity of expenditure.

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).

¹⁰ [EU Sanctions Map](#). 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.

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Methods of implementation – cf. section 4.3	
Output 1: Granted financial support for scholarship awardees, composed of	14 000 000
Indirect management with the Republic of Türkiye – cf. section 4.3.1	14 000 000
Output 2: Increased awareness about the JMSP, Output 3: Sustained and enlarged academic institutions network, Output 4: Scholarship awardees selected after a transparent and fair selection process, grant contracts signed, awardees placed at their hosting institution and scholars monitored and completed their programmes, Output 5: Strengthened Jean Monnet alumni network, composed of	1 600 000
Indirect management with the Republic of Türkiye – cf. section 4.3.1	1 600 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another decision
Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy – cf. section 6	will be covered under the technical assistance and grant contracts
Total	15 600 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Managing Authority (MA) in the field of Good Governance, Administrative capacity and EU acquis alignment is National IPA Coordinator (NIPAC). The Intermediate Body for Policy Management (IBPM) of the action is General Directorate of Financial Co-operation and Project Implementation of the DEUA.

Budget implementation tasks such as calls for tenders, calls for proposals, contracting, contract management, payments and revenue operations, shall be entrusted to the following intermediate body for financial management (IBFM): CFCU.

The DEUA will implement the technical aspects of the Scholarship Programme. Apart from these technical aspects, the DEUA will need technical assistance for implementation of the JMSP.

A Steering Committee (SC) will be established and will be mainly composed of the representatives of the MA, IBPM, IBFM, the stakeholders of the activities, NIPAC, Presidency of Strategy and Budget as well as EUD. The SC will act as the advisory body that will provide high-level strategic guidance and oversight on

activity implementation. SC will be gathered at regular intervals and additionally whenever deemed necessary.

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.

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 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 outputs and contribution to the achievement of its outcome, and if possible, at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its impact, 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:

- Monitoring tasks undertaken by the implementing partners/beneficiary country, under the coordination of NIPAC Office, and NAO Office for financial monitoring, will consist of collecting and analysing data aiming at informing on the use of resources and progress towards planned results, feeding the management of the action's decision-making processes.
- Monitoring tasks undertaken by the EU Delegation shall complement the implementing partners'/ beneficiary country's monitoring system, especially in key moments of the action cycle. It will also support follow-up of recommendations stemming out of external monitoring and will be used for informing EU management. This monitoring could take different forms and methodologies (meetings with implementing partners, action steering committees, on the spot checks ...), to be decided based on specific needs and resources at hand. Reporting will be done according to methodologies and tools included in DG NEAR guidelines on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation, including the use of standard checklists.

Both types of internal monitoring are meant to inform and provide support to external monitoring:

- External monitoring / Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM)
The Commission and/or NIPAC may undertake additional project monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission/NIPAC for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission/NIPAC for implementing such reviews). These reviews might be composed of monitoring of the action, results data collection or any other task that is identified in the most recent EC guidelines.

The Steering Committees will be established at activity level in order to steer the implementation of activities, achievement of results against indicators in the action document, to discuss monitoring findings (including ROM findings) and agree on corrective actions as appropriate. The Steering Committees will be composed of the representatives of end beneficiaries, Lead Institution, NIPAC Office, Contracting Authority and the EU Delegation.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components by the beneficiary via independent consultants. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines on linking planning/programming, monitoring and evaluation.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination¹¹. 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.

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 [Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions](#) (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.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

The JMSP, which was initiated in 1990, supported around 3000 scholars from public organisations, universities and private sector. During and after implementation, one of the most important goals is to incorporate the scholars into the alumni network in order to enable them to maintain relations with each other. This alumni network can play an important role individually and as a Civil Society Organisation, for instance as a meeting point for all JMSP scholars and alumni. The Jean Monnet Scholars' Association will be supported during the implementation process with capacity building activities so as to organise events, conferences, seminars and other activities related with the EU acquis by itself.

¹¹ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

Opportunities for the mobility of Turkish public-sector representatives, young university graduates and private-sector representatives contributes to the civil society dialogue that seeks to forge links between Turkish and EU societies. Prestige of being JMSP alumni increases interest towards the Programme.

A significant number of the Jean Monnet scholars are affiliated with public sector institutions and contribute to the professionalisation of public administration. Upon completion of their post graduate studies these scholars will start incorporating their experiences to their professional career. Considering that most scholars are young people, there will be a significant number of public employees who have expertise on the EU acquis and contacts in a variety of EU Member States, which will be useful for their future work in public institutions and beyond. These scholars will eventually convey their knowledge and experience to other staff around them and hence contribute to sustainability.

Through several years of implementation of the JMSP, a significantly large database of respective institutions all around Europe offering postgraduate studies on the EU acquis has been formed. This database will be accessible via the Programme website for future use of people aiming at doing academic research on EU acquis. As a result of the efforts made in the previous years, a reasonably balanced distribution of scholars throughout the EU Member States has been achieved, which is expected to further enrich the academic institutions database of the JMSP.

The scholars' dissertations and academic studies will be displayed at the library of the DEUA, creating an important reference collection for those pursuing related academic studies on the EU acquis.