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ANNEX V

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2022 action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood

Action Document for 2022 Security Package

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

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

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS Basic Act	2022 Security Package 2022 action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood OPSYS business reference: ACT-60829 ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.972489 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No However, the component on anti-corruption could contribute partially to the Team Europe Initiative on Global Illicit Flows in Africa.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in: - Neighbourhood South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syria ³ and Tunisia. As per Article 43(1) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, and upon explicit justified request, some activities may be extended to countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and countries neighbouring Neighbourhood South countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro, Türkiye, Chad, Mali, Niger, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Iraq. This is justified because the action intervenes in the field of security, which has transboundary effects and may be enhanced by cross-regional sharing of best practices.

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

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

³ Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011.

	<p>It is in line with the the “Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme (2021-2027)”, which makes reference, under priority 5 (specific objective 2) to the importance of cross regional cooperation⁴.</p> <p>Component 3 shall also be carried out in Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus⁵, Georgia, Republic of Moldova⁶ and Ukraine</p>
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (2021-2027) ⁷
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	<p>Priority area 1: “Human Development, good governance and rule of law”</p> <p>SO1: To promote democracy, human rights, good governance and transparency</p> <p>Priority area 3: “Peace and Security”</p> <p>SO1: Strengthen cooperation to fight organised crime and terrorism between partner countries and with EU Member States</p>
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p>Peace and Security</p> <p>151 Government and Civil Society</p> <p>152 Conflicts, Peace and Security</p>
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>SDG 16: Peace, Security and Strong Institutions</p> <p>SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals</p> <p>SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>15113 Anti-corruption organisations and institutions</p> <p>15130 Legal and judicial development :</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">15131 Justice</p> <p>16063 Narcotics control</p>
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	<p>40000 - Multilateral Organisation</p> <p>41000 - United Nations</p> <p>11000 - Public corporations</p>

⁴ “The future regional cooperation should have a flexible geographical and thematic scope, also allowing for interlinkages with other regions, where necessary and appropriate as highlighted in the Joint Communication on a Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood.” - 2.5 (Support to the main drivers of regional integration), specific objective 2 (To promote intra-regional and cross-regional cooperation, in particular with Sub-Saharan Africa, the Gulf and the Red Sea region).

⁵ In line with the Council Conclusions of 12 October 2020 and in light of Belarus’s involvement in the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, recognised in the European Council Conclusions of February 2022, the EU has stopped engaging with Belarusian authorities. However, it continues to engage with and even step up support to the Belarusian civil society including within the framework of this regional programme.

⁶ hereinafter referred to as Moldova

⁷ C(2021) 9399 Commission Implementing Decision for the adoption of an Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) in favour of the Southern Neighbourhood for the period 2021-2027

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
11. Internal markers	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>Connectivity @</u> Tags: transport people2people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

energy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	Budget lines: 14.020110 (EUR 16 million) and 14.020111 (EUR 1 million) Total estimated cost: EUR 17 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 17 000 000
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Implementation modalities (type of financing and management mode)	Project Modality Indirect management with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
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1.2. Summary of the Action

The action document is composed of 3 components.

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

The global objective of this initiative is to improve the prevention, reporting and prosecution of acts of corruption, as well as the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to such corruption, throughout the EU Southern Neighbourhood. Key sub-objectives will be to improve inter-institutional and intra-regional coordination in corruption-related investigations, and similar coordination between the region and EU Member States. This work will be further complemented by the inclusion of, and coordination with, civil society entities. The initiative will contribute to empowering Southern Neighbourhood civil society organisations and investigative journalists to report acts of corruption. It will also guide CSOs on engaging with authorities to decide on the ultimate destination of recovered and liquidated assets, thus strengthening governmental-civil society ties and cooperation, as well as community-level confidence in a more transparent justice process.

Component 2: Euromed Justice :

The overall objective of the sixth phase of Euromed Justice is to strengthen the strategic and operational cooperation in judicial criminal matters in order to contribute to the protection of the EU neighbouring countries' citizens against criminal activities, while respecting the rule of law and human rights. The aim of this project is to enhance cooperation amongst national judicial authorities in the South, between the South and EU MSs and with EU judicial cooperation instances. Building on the previous phases of the programme, this sixth phase of Euromed Justice will put more emphasis on practical operational cooperation. It will notably facilitates cooperation on cross-border cases. Ad hoc technical assistance upon the request of Southern partner countries (SPCs) and EU MS will be a vector to enhance this operational cooperation.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs:

The overall objective of the second phase of EU4MonitoringDrugs is to contribute to a more secure and healthier Europe and its neighbourhood through the enhancement of the capabilities of the ENP partners to

carry out or contribute to strategic analyses of contemporary drug markets. The project also aims to further enhance response preparedness for emerging drug-related health and security threats in the ENP region and towards EU. Following the capacity building stream of the first phase, this second phase will work towards more integrated virtual communities of practitioners, thus paving ground for more horizontal exchange and capacity building. Another novelty will be a targeted support to national drug observatories (established, or in process to be set-up) in the ENP region (e.g. Algeria, Israel, Morocco in South and Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine in East).

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The EU and its partner countries from the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean regions celebrated in November 2020 the 25th anniversary of the launch of their partnership (so-called “Barcelona Process”). This anniversary was a timely opportunity for the EU to reflect on and reassess out its strategic partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood region considering the political, socioeconomic, financial and environmental challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19. Following consultations with partners, this reflection resulted in the Joint Communication⁸ on the “renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood” of February 2021.

As the Southern Mediterranean region is facing governance, socio-economic, climate, environmental and security challenges, many of which resulting from global trends, joint actions by the EU and Southern Neighbourhood partners are necessary.

The overarching framework in which DG NEAR operates is the Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy (2016)⁹. This Strategy was complemented this year by the Strategic Compass, which provides an ambitious plan of action for strengthening the EU’s security and defence policy¹⁰.

The “EU Security Union Strategy”¹¹, which provides a framework for intra-EU cooperation on security, is also relevant in this context as it underscores the importance of the nexus between the internal and external dimensions of security.

Several documents and communications stemming from the Security Union Strategy are particularly important for the action:

- Communication COM(2020) 795: “A Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU: Anticipate, Prevent, Protect, Respond”
- The EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025, OJ C 1021, 24.3.2021 and the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025, OJ C 272, 8.7.2021
- Communication COM(2020)608 : 2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking
- Joint Communication JOIN (2020)18 : “the EU’s cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade”
- Communication COM(2021) 170: “on the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025”
- Communication COM(2021) 171: “on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021- 2025”

⁸ JOIN(2021) 2 Final: “Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood: A new Agenda for the Mediterranean”.

⁹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eugs_review_web_0.pdf

¹⁰ Although narrower in scope (security and defence), the strategic compass includes actions specifically on the neighbourhood: Action 44 on “more comprehensive security packages to partners in the southern neighbourhood” and Action 53 on the use of the Neighbourhood Development, International Cooperation Instrument, other EU programmes and the EPF to increase capacity building, and train and equip partners.

¹¹ COM(2020) 605 final

The proposed action will contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Security and Strong Institutions), in particular Indicator 16.A (Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) for all components by promoting institution building and regional cooperation. The third component of this action will also contribute to SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

2.2. Problem Analysis

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

In the EU Southern Neighbourhood, corruption remains widespread and is often considered as an accepted daily part of life. Corruption continues to dominate many dimensions of societies. It hampers social and economic growth, undermines trade agreements; and the looting of public coffers hinders investment in schools, clinics and infrastructure.¹² According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, most countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region rank poorly.¹³

At the governance level, institutions permeable to corruption translate into poor efficiency and significant loss of investment, as well as limited power to prevent and prosecute crime.¹⁴ At the national policy levels, conflicting and overlapping mandates also exacerbate this dynamic. Corrupt officials (and those involved in organised crime and money laundering) exploit such poor policies, driving illicit financial flows, some of which allow for the importation of corrupt money into the European Union.

Further, poor policy development in Southern Neighbourhood countries, combined with the ease of cross-border business (legal and illegal), inherently means that no country alone within the region can effectively counter illicit financial flows and the movement of corrupt money and assets.

Despite multiple calls for action¹⁵ and well-intended post-Arab Spring policies aimed at combatting corruption, countries across the EU Southern Neighbourhood continue to suffer from fragmented and poor coordination in the prevention and prosecution of acts of corruption and in the seizure and confiscation, as well as recovery, of assets linked to corruption.

While EU policy¹⁶ emphasises the necessity of having improved and sophisticated investigation and prosecution mechanisms in place, very few initiatives in the Southern Neighbourhood region provide direct expert advice on actual pending cases. Additionally, no initiative at present appears to provide technical advice to legislators and other policy makers on the multiple non-penal measures that can be adopted to more efficiently seize and confiscate assets linked to acts of corruption.

¹² A well-recognised example of this can be limitations placed on, for example, the electrical grid in **Lebanon**; in Beirut, electricity is provided for a limited number of hours each day. In **Libya**, a similar scenario is being played out, affecting as well other essential services, such as trash collection. Each of these dynamics is widely considered the result of corruption and poor management.

¹³ In 2021: Morocco 39/100; Algeria 33/100; Tunisia 44/100; Libya 17/100; Egypt 33/100; Lebanon 24/100; No data available for Palestine; Israel 59/100; Jordan 49/100; Syria 13/100.

¹⁴ See, for example, UNICRI's reports on Illicit Financial Flows and Asset Recovery in [Libya](#) and in [Tunisia](#), published in 2021.

¹⁵ These include, for example, the Deauville Partnership with Arab Countries in Transition (launched by G8 leaders in 2011) and the Arab Forum on Asset Recovery (2012).

¹⁶ e.g., reflected in the 1997 Convention on fighting corruption involving officials of the EU or officials of EU countries and the 2003 Council Framework Decision on combating corruption in the private sector, but also in the EU Directive 2019/1153 and in the new package on asset recovery and confiscation, which was presented in May 2022 and which comprises two proposals: one for adding the violation of EU 'restrictive measures' (i.e. sanctions) to the list of EU crimes, and the other for new reinforced rules on asset recovery and confiscation.

Illicit financial flows include assets illegally acquired and encompass assets linked to acts of corruption. Corruption as a cross-cutting issue, drives and fuels illicit financial flows and, while proceeds of corruption may seem to be only a relatively small portion of the total illicit financial flows, this may be higher in developing countries with less sophisticated organised crime groups and smaller financial centres.¹⁷ An example of the link between corruption and illicit financial flows is the case of Tunisia's former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, where financial regulations were exploited for the benefit of the President's family and personal use, making it easy for him to move financial capital offshore and damaging free trade within the country (assets worth some USD 500 million were confiscated after Ben Ali's fall).¹⁸

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) does not define corruption as such, it rather defines specific acts of corruption (such as bribery, embezzlement trading in influence, abuse of functions, and various acts of corruption in the private sector). The UNCAC – of which the EU Southern Neighbourhood countries (with the exception of Syria) are State Parties - promotes measures to combat corruption aimed at strengthening prevention, criminalisation and law enforcement as well as international cooperation and asset recovery. Improving the reporting and denouncing of acts of corruption, as well as encouraging the public and civil society to play an increasingly important role in the fight against corruption are points of emphasis of UNCAC, although these areas often receive less priority in actual practice.

The economic cost of illicit financial flows, including corruption, in the EU Southern Neighbourhood countries is difficult to estimate because of the intrinsic hidden nature of criminal and corrupt behaviours and the lack of data gathered by states. The data available suggests that, between 1980 and 2009, some USD 1.4 trillion were illegally drained out of Africa (of which 31% originated from the North Africa region) and were mainly linked to corruption, tax evasion and criminal activities at large. Of the EU Southern Neighbourhood countries, Egypt, Algeria and Libya were among the top five countries with the highest illicit financial outflows between 2000 and 2009 in Africa.¹⁹ Between 2002 and 2006, illicit financial flows (including those derived from corruption) grew at the fastest pace (49.4%) in the MENA region²⁰. According to the Lebanese Ministry of Finance, Lebanon alone lost over USD 32 billion in illicit flows in the period 2005-2014,²¹ while Egypt lost an estimated USD 105.2 billion (14.7% of the total illicit outflows – including proceeds of corruption – from Africa) in 2014.²² More recent data shows that more than USD 88 billion per year leaves the African continent in the form of illicit capital flight, which is wealth sent and held abroad.²³ These capital outflows appear even more significant when compared with the foreign direct investment inflows to Africa, estimated at USD 54 billion per year, and of official development assistance to Africa, estimated at USD 48 billion per year.

The above figures suggest that, at the very least, some EU funding directed toward its Southern Neighbourhood, would be best spent on investment in the development of stronger anti-corruption policies and on the seizure and confiscation (and reinvestment) of illicitly-obtained assets.

This initiative will seek to address some of the key issues listed below.

First, the region contains, at best, *ad hoc* and disjointed policies (in some countries, no policies) that incentivise the reporting of acts of corruption, either by citizens or investigative journalists. No country in the region

¹⁷ For example, in 2015, illicit financial flows from Africa were estimated to be USD 50 billion every year, with an estimated five per cent being linked to proceeds of corruption. For more information, please see: [Institute for Security Studies \(2015\)](#).

¹⁸ For more information, please see: [The World Bank and Development Research Group \(2014\)](#)

¹⁹ For more information, please see: [African Development Bank Group \(2013\)](#)

²⁰ For more information, please see: [Global Financial Integrity \(2009\)](#)

²¹ For more information, please see: [Republic of Lebanon Ministry of Finance \(2018\)](#)

²² For more information, please see: [Partnership for African Social and Governance Research \(2018\)](#)

²³ For more information, please see: [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(2020\)](#)

allows for effective anonymous reporting of acts of corruption. In general, the prevention of corruption is widely underemphasised through the region.

Second, no country in the region has yet adopted, as standard practice, investigation of the assets of individuals suspected of acts of corruption. Only two countries (Israel and Libya) have created dedicated Asset Recovery Offices (AROs), something that is mandated and common practice in EU countries.

Stronger cross-border coordination is also required in cases involving corruption and illicit financial flows. The region is currently lacking an informal network of asset recovery practitioners, which could facilitate discussions between prosecutors and other law enforcement officials on pending cross-border cases, prior to the initiation of a formal request for mutual legal assistance. Such networks could significantly reduce the time for the tracing, seizure and confiscation of assets (linked to acts of corruption) located in a neighbouring country, and give prosecutors the opportunity to ensure that any requests to a foreign jurisdiction are targeted and results-oriented.²⁴

Peer-to-peer missions could also be a key driver to facilitate the resolution of pending cases; few countries in the region have specific budgets for prosecutors to travel to other jurisdictions to discuss and resolve pending cases. This initiative could facilitate such peer-to-peer missions, as well as the allocation of State budgeting for such missions in the future.

In some specific countries in the region, notably Libya, the repatriation and liquidation of assets would also require additional legal expertise (an area in which UNICRI is uniquely qualified) to help ensure that any repatriated assets do not fall under UN and EU sanctions regimes.

Finally, also missing within most Southern Neighbourhood countries are policies and practices with respect to the “transparent management” of seized and confiscated assets. Unlike EU Member States, which have established fairly good practices in how seized and confiscated assets are managed (including websites indicating the status of each asset, as well as policies for transparent public auctions), few such policies and practices exist within the Southern Neighbourhood. No country in the region has neither clear legislation or other policies in place to reallocate a certain percentages of recovered assets to key, high-priority development needs, such as needs within the healthcare or education sectors. Having such practices in place will contribute to engendering public confidence in the transparency of Southern Neighbourhood State institutions in the fight against corruption.

Component 2: Euromed Justice

The fight against new and emerging forms of transnational crime has transformed in recent years due to globalization, growth in the volume of international trade, larger freedom of movement of goods and persons, new forms of international crime, digitalisation and highly sophisticated money-laundering schemes. The development of information and communication technology and its widespread use is leading to a growing number of crimes being committed in various jurisdictions simultaneously. The need for assistance of other States for the successful investigation, prosecution and punishment of offenders, particularly those who have committed transnational offences, is vital. The international mobility of offenders and the use of advanced technology make it more necessary than ever for prosecutors and judicial authorities to collaborate and assist the State that assumes jurisdiction over the matter.

²⁴ Many, if not most, cases involving money laundering or illicit enrichment, in which individuals suspected of serious income-generating crime may have transferred assets to another jurisdiction, fail as a result of a lack of preliminary consultation with counterparts (prior to an MLA request) in those foreign jurisdictions. This results in MLA requests that do not comply with the foreign jurisdiction’s national legal requirements or, in some cases, the sending of an MLA request when one is not needed.

It is essential to step up international cooperation beyond the Union including in relation to the neighbourhood and enlargement countries to disrupt global criminal networks and transport routes. There is an urgent need to further develop serious and organised crime intelligence and enhance information exchange and investigative actions with third countries and regions constituting major hubs for high-risk serious crime affecting EU Member States.

The Commission has been authorized by the Council of the EU to open negotiation on international agreements with 7 Southern Partner Countries (SPCs) for cooperation with Eurojust (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia). To date Eurojust has no cooperation agreement or working arrangements with any of the SPCs enabling systematic exchanges of operational personal data. The conclusion of such agreements would strengthen the transnational judicial cooperation of Eurojust with third countries and widen the international scope in the fight against cross-border crime.

EuroMed Justice (EMJ) brings together the most relevant stakeholders in the field of criminal justice cooperation, including representatives from the SPCs, Eurojust, European Judicial Network, the EU Member States, as well as other relevant EU and international organisations active in the judicial and law enforcement sector.

It offers this possibility of informal cooperation and subsequent formal facilitation of operational cooperation.

The EuroMed Justice programme, with the use of Criminal Experts (CrimEx) is developing practical tools to facilitate cross-Mediterranean judicial cooperation in criminal matters, including legal and gap analyses on personal data protection and human right standards in criminal matters and international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. As human rights and data protection standards are key elements in the discussions and negotiations for possible international cooperation instruments between Eurojust and SPCs, these practical tools developed by EMJ and the subsequent discussions and developments, could be used by EC in the negotiation process.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs

Important routes along which drugs are trafficked into and out of Europe pass through the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) region. It remains to be seen how Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine will impact the smuggling of drugs into Europe. Afghanistan, historically known as a main drug production hub of opium poppy, has in recent years emerged as supplier of plant-based and cheap methamphetamine. There is also little evidence yet to indicate how production of illicit drugs and trafficking will develop in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover in August 2021. In 2021, Jordan has signalled increase of methamphetamine trafficking through its territory (although its origin remains unknown).

There have been signs of rapid change and adaptation of drug markets in the region in the recent years. The established drugs are present along with new psychoactive substances (NPS) (e.g. synthetic cathinones and cannabinoids), home-based preparations of illicit substances (e.g. amphetamines or opiates) and diverted (e.g. opioid substitution medications), counterfeit or fake medicines (e.g. painkillers and benzodiazepines). In the Southern Neighbourhood, Lebanon and Morocco remain well-known cannabis production hubs of international importance. Syria is seen as an emerging producer of illicit stimulants, reportedly supported by the governing regime. The seizures of synthetic stimulants allegedly of Syrian origin have been reported in the neighbouring Jordan and Lebanon, as well as in Italy, Libya and Saudi Arabia.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood region until recently drug production activities remained limited and predominantly supported local consumption markets. In the recent years, intelligence signalled emergence of

a larger scale production of synthetic drugs in west Ukraine with close links to the Polish organised criminal groups.

The most recent European Union (EU) Serious Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA)²⁵, which is the cornerstone of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Crime Threats (EMPACT), indicates that more than half of the crime suspects acting in Europe are non-EU nationals, with a significant part of them coming from the EU's neighbourhood, including Western Balkans, eastern European countries and North Africa.

The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded some of the drug-related challenges. The pandemic has fostered a faster than expected increase in the use of digital markets for the sale of drugs. Thus posing a particular affect to law enforcement ²⁶.

In terms of drug use in the region, data at the population level remain scarce. The existing surveys among 15-to-16 years olds in schools, and data from the European Websurvey on Drugs in Georgia, Lebanon and Ukraine indicate that cannabis remains the most commonly used substance. While extent of use of other illicit drugs varies across countries. There are some signals that recreational drug use may be increasing and getting more harmful due to the presence of NPS and other 'ready-made' and less expensive alternatives of established drugs. Though, these may be frequently of unknown content.

Drug injecting remains a significant public health concern across the region. Injecting drug use continues to contribute to continued epidemics of drug-related infections, namely HIV and viral hepatitis. As example, before the war Ukraine was hosting an estimated 350 300 people who inject drugs (PWID), while in Georgia the estimated PWID population is 52 500, in Israel 16 000 and Tunisia 9 000.

The EU4Monitoring Drugs (EU4MD) project (from 1 January 2019 until 31 December 2022) was a significant resource to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction to plan and implement actions with the ENP partners. The project has been building on the agency's more than decade-long experience cooperating with some of the ENP partners through a Memorandum of Understanding or a Working Arrangement²⁷. More importantly, the project allowed the agency to expand the scope and depth of drug markets analysis in the European neighbourhood, consolidate the use and application of a number of innovative drug market monitoring tools in selected ENP partner countries and produce rapid information on emerging drug market issues and impact to the EU preparedness.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the fragility of national healthcare systems faced by pandemics and has brought health security high into the agenda of every country. In many ENP partner countries, drugs in general and drug-related health issues, in particular, remain a highly politicised and frequently undeserved field. Illegal drug trafficking goes hand-in-hand with other illegal activities, and links with corruption, illegal trafficking of goods, violence and homicides have been identified. Thus, activities aimed at exposing these links contributes towards more inclusive and peaceful societies.

There is a need for continued dialogue with the partners in the region and continuous analysis and assessment of the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as rapidly deteriorating security situation particularly on the eastern border of the EU. While some initial steps had been taken to better understand response capacities, there is further need to support preparedness for a response that can match the complex

²⁵ European Union [Serious organised crime threat assessment \(SOCTA\), a corrupting influence: the infiltration and undermining of Europe's economy and society by organised crime, Europol \(2021\).](#)

²⁶ [Impact of COVID-19 on drug markets, drug use, drug-related harms and responses in east European Neighbourhood Policy countries and Impact of COVID-19 on drug markets, drug use, drug-related harms and responses in south European Neighbourhood Policy countries](#)

²⁷ [The EMCDDA has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding or a Working Arrangement with five partners: Armenia, Georgia, Israel, Moldova and Ukraine.](#)

and dynamic nature of the broader drug market (from producer to user) and understand both the links and interactions with, and implications for, other key security challenges.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes:

The global objective of this initiative is to facilitate improved prevention, reporting and repression of acts of corruption, as well as the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to such corruption, throughout the EU Southern Neighbourhood. Key sub-objectives will be to improve inter-institutional and intra-regional coordination in corruption-related investigations, and similar coordination between the region and EU Member States.

Expected outcomes:

- Improved mechanisms and modalities to prevent and report on acts of corruption in the EU Southern Neighbourhood (including citizen and CSO empowerment in the reporting of acts of corruption);
- Improved efficiency of anti-corruption investigations and prosecutions, with emphasis on improved outputs in the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to acts of corruption;
- Improved coordination and transparency with respect to final disposition of recovered assets, including agreements with foreign jurisdictions and input from civil society with respect to ultimate destination for recovered assets;
- Strengthened policies among Southern Neighbourhood countries to allow for streamlined region-based information sharing in the tracing and recovery of assets linked to corruption.

Expected outputs:

- Report on *Preventing and Repression of Corruption (and Improving the Seizure and Confiscation of Assets Linked to Corruption): Recommendations for Policy and Operational Changes in the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood*.²⁸
- Draft legislation and related policies, as per needs identified in the above-mentioned report;
- Investigative journalists and other civil society actors educated on good, fair and professional practices for effective uncovering of acts of corruption and for effective reporting of such acts in order to elicit tangible action from public officials to investigate and prosecute such conduct and/or to adjust public policy to improve the fight against corruption.²⁹
- Officials throughout the Southern Neighbourhood trained (specialised) on modern practices to trace, seize and confiscate assets linked to acts of corruption (both at the national and cross-border levels).
- Structure for informal network of Southern Neighbourhood asset recovery practitioners identified.

Component 2: Euromed Justice:

²⁸ This gap assessment will take into account others that may be ongoing or may have been previously carried out, including a key assessment conducted by the Euromed Justice project. Consideration will also be given to emerging issues in the region, including the adoption of illicit enrichment laws (e.g., such as those recently promulgated in Jordan and Lebanon).

²⁹ This will also include good practices for corroborating information and/or protecting individuals who could be wrongly accused of acts of corruption.

The global objective of the action is to contribute to the protection of the EU and Southern Neighbourhood countries' citizens against criminal activities, by strengthening international judicial cooperation with due respect of the rule of law, human and fundamental rights.

The Expected outcomes:

- To strengthen the strategic and operational cooperation in judicial criminal matters in the cross-Mediterranean region on three axes: (1) between South Partner Countries (SPCs), (2) between SPCs and EU MSs and (3) between SPCs and EU JHA Agencies, in particular Eurojust and the networks it supports;
- To enhance capacities of the South Partner Countries (SPC) to fight serious and organised crime throughout efficient and effective international judicial mechanisms.

Expected outputs:

- EuroMed Justice networks CrimEx, EMJnet and PG Forum are strengthened
- EuroMed Justice practical tools facilitating cross border cooperation are updated and new ones developed
- EuroMed Justice training and exchange programme are delivered
- Demand driven activities are implemented
- Joint cross-border cooperation activities are facilitated

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs

The overall objective is to contribute to a more secure and healthier Europe and its neighbourhood through the enhancement of the ENP partners capabilities to monitor, assess and respond to contemporary drug issues.

Expected outcomes:

- Increased technical expertise and response capacity of the ENP partners for the development of and contribution to contemporary drug monitoring and response systems.
- Increased data collection and exchange capabilities for the co-production of strategic analyses on emerging trends and threats in drug markets bordering the EU.
- Enhanced response preparedness for emerging drug-related health and security threats in the ENP region and towards EU.

Expected outputs:

- Increased ENP partners' competences in monitoring and responding to drug-related threats;
- New national and regional data sets available for co-production of analysis;
- ENP partners contribute to and benefit from the European knowledge communities on selected areas of drug market monitoring and responses;
- Evidence-based responses to drug-related threats and problems provided, based on needs and requests from ENP countries;
- Bi-annual thematic analyses on key strategic drug-related issues in the ENP countries produced (starting from year 3);
- Action oriented briefings produced to support operational and decision-making needs of the EU institutions and the ENP partners (ad-hoc and needs based).

3.2. Indicative activities

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

The main indicative activities (list not exhaustive) are:

- Drafting and broad distribution of a report on *Preventing and Prosecuting Corruption (and Improving the Seizure and Confiscation of Assets Linked to Corruption): Recommendations for Policy and Operational Changes in the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood*. Key thematic areas likely to be addressed will be (1) policies needed to empower (and safeguard) civil society actors, including investigative journalists and other whistle blowers, in the reporting of acts of corruption; (2) codification of practices that incentivise ethical conduct and the reporting of acts of corruption, including good practices on sustainable corruption prevention policies; (3) policies needed to streamline investigations, prosecution and adjudication of acts of corruption; (4) policies to mainstream use of civil confiscation and non-conviction-based forfeiture of assets linked to acts of corruption; (5) structures needed to facilitate cross-border cooperation in the seizure, confiscation and return of illicitly-obtained assets (as well as, where needed and useful, sharing of such assets between States); and (6) adoption of structures needed to transparently manage (optimise) seized and confiscated assets, including liquidation and distribution of such assets to address high-priority development needs.. The report will be followed up with engagement with high-level officials from EU Southern Neighbourhood countries, including through EU (Brussels and EU Delegations) policy dialogue fora to maximize leverage and to secure additional buy-in.
- Expert technical advice (TA) to policymakers in drafting of anti-corruption and asset recovery policies. This support will include multiple consensus-building workshops and working group meetings with key legislators (and their staff) to facilitate legislation and related policies, as per needs identified in the above-mentioned report, to facilitate (1) incentivisation for reporting acts of corruption (with protection for whistle blowers and investigative journalists, and allowance for anonymous reporting of acts of corruption); (2) prioritisation of investigation and prosecution of cases involving acts of corruption; (3) prioritisation of administrative actions against individuals involved in acts of corruption or other unethical conduct – e.g., loss of job, ban from public service, administrative fines, recovery of paid salary); (4) prioritisation of seizure and confiscation of assets linked to acts of corruption (through both the criminal justice process and through non-conviction-based forfeiture, as well as, where needed, sharing of assets in cross-border cases, to incentivise regional and extra-regional information sharing and cooperation); (5) empowerment of courts to freely order the suspension or closure of reporting entities, including banks, for failure to adequately report suspicious financial transactions or the identify of beneficial owners; (6) specific sanctions to be imposed against public officials for failure to report actual wealth; (7) transparent management of seized and confiscated assets (websites that show status of seized and confiscated assets, dates and locations of public auctions or other intended disposition of such assets); and (8) policies that seek and incorporate feedback of civil society, including investigative journalists, with respect to high-priority development areas to which confiscated and liquidated assets should be directed.
- Minimum of three regional workshops / working meetings aimed at empowering Southern Neighbourhood civil society organisations and investigative journalists to report acts of corruption, and to guide CSOs on engaging with authorities to identify high-priority development areas to which recovered assets should be directed (e.g., local schools, clinics). These workshops will include modern practices in the sustained use of social media to uncover acts of corruption, encourage the reporting of acts of corruption, and good practices to elicit tangible policy and operational responses from governmental authorities to seize and confiscate assets linked to acts of corruption.
- Expert TA and mentoring (on real cases) to practitioners (police and prosecutors) to mainstream operational seizure and confiscation of assets (including virtual assets) linked to acts of corruption, with emphasis on region-wide and EU good practices. Such mentoring will identify good practices during case progression, including good practices and lessons learned in ongoing engagement, throughout the duration of the Action, with EU Member States.
- Expert TA on use of specialised mapping (link analysis) software that will allow practitioners throughout the region to analyse meta-data (e.g., hundreds of financial transactions over periods of

years) and to produce visual graphics showing the links between those involved in corruption, organised criminal activity and their assets.³⁰

- Expert TA to members of judiciaries on how to order the seizure and confiscation of assets, as well as how to order the suspension and/or closure of noncompliant reporting entities, such as banks (whose clients may be laundering money as a result of acts of corruption).³¹
- Working group meetings to facilitate the establishment of an asset recovery practitioner network for the Southern Neighbourhood region, modelled after the Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN). More broadly, explore the benefits and opportunities offered by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) established by the Council of Europe or other networks, such as the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities³².
- Specialised up-to-date training on how to seize and confiscate virtual currencies acquired as a result of, or used to facilitate, acts of corruption

Component 2: Euromed Justice:

The main indicative activities are:

Component 1 – Strengthening cooperation, trust and confidence:

1. Organise regular meetings of the EuroMed Justice Expert Group in Criminal Matters (CrimEx). CrimEx – cross-regional body placed at the core of EuroMed judicial and law enforcement mechanism of cooperation and coordination - brings together SPCs and EU MSs criminal justice practitioners to build trust and mutual confidence, to exchange good practices and lessons learned, to carry out thorough analyses of the situation in each SPCs and in the whole region, to set up specific recommendations, guidelines, manuals and studies.
2. Organise regular meetings of EuroMed Judicial Network of Contact Points in Criminal Matters (EMJnet). EMJnet contact points assists with establishing direct contacts between competent judicial authorities and by providing legal and practical information necessary to prepare an effective request for judicial cooperation or to improve judicial cooperation in general.
3. Organise the EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General (PG): yearly high-level meetings involving Prosecutors of EU MS and SPC to increase political and strategic engagement and strengthen ownership and offering the opportunity for meetings with Eurojust National Members to discuss operational matters. Synergies between the EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General and the annual EU Forum of Prosecutors General will also be explored.
4. Implement PG Forum Strategy 2022 – 2025 and Action Plans on trafficking in human beings (THB), smuggling of migrants, asset recovery; explore possible synergies with the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).
5. Develop strategic and policy documents for the cross-Mediterranean judicial cooperation, endorsed by the Forum of Prosecutor’s General, including strategical documents to strengthen international judicial cooperation throughout adoption of adequate data protection standards.

Component 2 – developing practical tools:

1. Update of the CrimEx documents and practical tools for judicial cooperation together with SPCs CrimEx members;

³⁰ Budget permitting, this initiative will also procure licences for this specialised software.

³¹ To date, no initiative in the region appears to be providing such targeted, but needed, technical advice.

³²The Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities (NCPA) is an international network of relevant public authorities for the detection and prevention of corruption, with a view to promoting the systematic collection, management and exchange of information, intelligence and good practices among these authorities, in partnership with interested international institutions (such as the Council of Europe’s Group of States against Corruption). Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia are Members of the NCPA already.

2. Develop new CrimEx practical tools for cooperation based on the needs and priority areas identified by CrimEx and aligned with EMPACT;
3. Maintain the repository of all publications and make them available on EuroMed Justice website in English, French and Arabic;
4. Raise awareness and disseminate the practical tools with judicial training schools and practitioners from SPCs and EU MSs, through Eurojust and the Networks of practitioners supported by Eurojust.

Component 3 – Building Capacities – Training and exchange:

1. Create a repository for all Euromed Justice training materials;
2. Update the existing training materials: training needs and training the trainers (manual, methodology and curricula);
3. Organise joint specific trainings on thematic areas for criminal justice authorities from SPCs and EU MS (outsourced);
4. Organise and finance study visits and exchanges;
5. Organise and finance the participation of SPC practitioners in the training programmes of other platforms.

Component 4 – Demand driven activities under the technical assistance facility and thematic joint activities:

1. Design, organise, finance and implement ad hoc technical assistance outputs upon request of minimum one SPC and one EU Member States;
2. Organise thematic joint activities (conferences, workshops, round tables) based on the needs and priorities identified by CrimEx

Component 5 – Facilitation of Operational Cooperation:

1. Develop EuroMed Justice Network of Contact points (EMJ Net) and establish sub-groups specialised in cybercrime, combatting trafficking in human beings and asset recovery in close cooperation with Eurojust and Eurojust supported networks;
2. Update EMJ Directory of contact points as key Eurojust tool to facilitate first contacts between criminal justice authorities of SPCs, EU MSs, EJM and Eurojust;
3. Finance working sessions to support cases between SPCs or between SPCs and EUMS in so far as they do not fall under Eurojust's mandate (informative meetings, coordination meetings, parallel investigations or joint investigations) upon the requests received from SPCs or EUMS;
4. Facilitate the identification of cases suitable for support and coordination by Eurojust;
5. Collect and analyse statistical data on operational cooperation between SPCs and EU MSs and between SPCs and EJM and Eurojust and draw assessments to support future planning documents.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs

The main indicative activities are:

Component 1 - Capacity building:

The EU4MD2 will further address capacity development needs. These needs were initially assessed in 2019, and are re-confirmed regularly with ENP partners during bilateral and multi-county meetings. It is planned to enhance provision of targeted multilingual on-line training on drug-related issues within the EMCDDA competences. It will complement traditional face-to-face capacity building actions, which will be continued as possible. The list of activities for countries to choose include:

- Implementation of the European Prevention Curriculum and associated quality standards in selected ENP partner countries (translation and adaptation of the materials, participation in training-of-trainers, and launch national training schemes, where interest exists);
- Bursaries to support participants (targeting early career professionals) in appropriate scientific meeting, and in the annual European Winter and Summer Schools on Drugs;

- Support joint forensic analyses;
- Participation at the annual EMCDDA-CEPOL joint training on strategic drug markets analysis;
- Translation of the 2021 mini-guides on ‘Health and social responses to drug problems’ to national languages and extending the introduction in the ENP countries of the related training modules for practitioners (e.g. responding to opioid problems, drug-related harms, drugs and migration, etc.);
- Adaptation of training materials for evaluation of national drug strategies (translation and workshops on request);
- Training on implementation of ‘trendspotter’ exercises;
- Training on strategic responses to emerging drug markets (based on the regional drug market reports for the East and South ENP);

Component 2 - Collection of new data and co-production of analysis:

The implementation of novel drug monitoring methods will continue. The drug monitoring methods will be expanded to new locations and involve new partners (if feasible). Each country will be invited to produce at least two new data sets following drug monitoring protocols set up by the EMCDDA.

The activities for countries to opt-in and implement include:

- Implementation of annual campaigns of drug residues analysis in used syringes to assess drug use among people who inject drugs (ESCAPE project)³³;
- Implementation of annual campaigns of drug metabolite analysis in wastewater to assess drug use in the general population at a city-level (SCORE project)³⁴;
- Implementation of continuous monitoring of drug-related hospital emergencies (EURODEN project)³⁵;
- Implementation of European School Project on Alcohol and Drugs in selected countries (ESPAD)³⁶;
- Participation in European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD)³⁷ campaigns;
- Development of tools and implementation of a study to map treatment and harm reduction facilities and capacities in selected countries (extension of the study using the European Facility Survey Questionnaire);
- Participation in mapping of prevention systems and responses;
- Participation in regular (at least bi-annual) focus groups with key experts (law enforcement, health, and criminal justice) in ENP to assess emerging trends in drug market;
- Collection and analysis of data for drug market and crime workbooks (with the first round planned for the 2nd year of the project).

Component 3 - Information exchange and partnership building activities:

Exchange of information and promising practices between the ENP partners and EU Member States and experts on drug-related matters will remain a cornerstone of the cooperation. In EU4MD2, this will be enhanced by gradually including ENP professionals into virtual communities of practice developed by the EMCDDA for EU countries. This will support the work of experts and practitioners in the partner countries and will link them with EU drug experts fostering mutual exchange and professional development. An example is the implementation of the European Prevention Curriculum through a learning management system (PLATO).

- Development (new) or adaptation of the existing virtual communities (and digital tools) and promotion of transversal exchange between EU and ENP experts (e.g. PLATO and ESCAPE);
- Support participation of health and security experts from the ENP partner countries in meetings of the European expert networks (5 key indicator meetings and reference group on supply);

³³ https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/escape_en

³⁴ https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/wastewater_en

³⁵ https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/hospital-emergencies_en

³⁶ https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/about/partners/espada_en

³⁷ https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/topics/european-web-survey-on-drugs_en

- Support information exchange on new psychoactive substances and adverse health events (e.g. fostering a prototype of early warning system) at the regional level;
- Organisation of annual legal and policy correspondent meetings with key non-EU partners;
- Organisation of annual bilateral meetings between each participating country and EMCDDA;
- Organisation of annual thematic conference (starting for the year 2);
- Official country visits to launch or to strengthen cooperation (in particular to countries where cooperation has been limited during the first phase of the EU4MD);
- Participation of ENP partners in European and international conferences on drugs;
- Attendance to the annual Reitox extended meeting;
- Issuing a regular newsletter (Mailchimp).

Component 4 - Support national drug observatories:

Some countries (e.g. Algeria, Israel, Morocco in South and Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine in East) have dedicated institutions to fulfil the role of national drug observatory (NDO). The capacities and competences of those institutions vary. An NDO is key to sustain drug monitoring systems up-to-date at the national level. The activities will be implemented at the request and will be aimed to support and enhance the NDOs:

- Assessment of key functions for data collection, analysis and reporting;
- Setting-up developmental capacity building activities to enhance NDO operations;
- Short-term traineeships at the EMCDDA;
- Setting-up tools which support data and information exchange.

Component 5 - Research and monitoring to support bi-annual thematic analysis by EMCDDA:

- Setting up darknet monitoring (including cryptocurrencies, cybersecurity and cyber-dependent crime);
- Monitoring open sources and ‘signal’ analysis;
- Implementation of specific studies on emerging security or public health risk with impact to ENP area and EU preparedness, for example emergence of new production points and trafficking routes.

Others:

Production of reports and briefings to support operational and decision-making needs of the EU institutions and decision makers

- Co-produce thematic, strategic and action-oriented analyses on topics of key strategic interest to the EU and ENP partners (starting from year three of the project).

Examples include:

- Short ad-hoc briefings to the EC;
- Targeted strategic analyses at sub-regional or regional level;
- Threat assessments;
- Other rapid situation and EU preparedness assessments.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

Entities traditionally engaged in justice-related initiatives – such as law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices and judiciaries, particularly within the EU Southern Neighbourhood – are male-dominated institutions. In at least one of the countries in the Southern Neighbourhood, all prosecutors within the country are males.

This initiative will incorporate gender mainstreaming; it will engage heavily with all stakeholders on the issue and provide incentives for institutions to ensure greater equality for female representation in all activities organised under this component. In addition, given that this component focuses on facilitating the recovery of assets, and that technical advice will be provided to legislators with respect to where illicitly-obtained assets should be directed once recovered, that advice will include advocacy for directing some recovered assets to national programmes supporting the empowerment for women and girls.

Component 2: Euromed Justice:

The project will encourage gender-balanced representation of trainers and will pay particular attention to the participation of women in its activities.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs:

Data collected and analyses produced will consider the gender-sensitive aspects of drug policy. The project activities will further support gender equality and empowerment through sharing best and promising practices to address needs of women and girls in access to prevention of drug use and care.

Human Rights

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

Facilitating cultures which are actively engaged in the reporting of acts of corruption, is inherently a human rights issue, as whistle blowers, civil society organisations and investigative journalists need protection for voicing their concerns about such issues. The technical advice provided through this component will include seasoned advice on legislation that is required to ensure such protection. This component will also include specific activities to address this issue on a region-wide level.

Additionally, this initiative will provide expert advice on the drafting of legislation to facilitate civil confiscation and other non-penal means of seizing and confiscating assets linked to acts of corruption. Inherent in this expert advice will be education of legislators on how such legislation must be crafted in order to ensure that there is never a reversal of the burden of proof in such cases, and that the State must meet its initial burden of proof – e.g., that any assets suspected of being linked to criminal activity are indeed first shown by the State to have such a link. Technical expert advice provided through this component will also help to ensure that third-party good-faith beneficiaries (e.g. those who receive or acquire illicitly-obtained assets without reasonable knowledge of their illicit origin) are equally protected under any new legislation, and that their property is not arbitrarily seized or confiscated. Each of the above issues are in line with Directive 2014/42/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on the freezing and confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of crime in the European Union, as well as key decisions of the European Court of Justice.³⁸

Component 2: Euromed Justice:

Human rights and the respect of rule of law are at the core of Euromed Justice. The programme also facilitates a better access to justice for victims, mostly vulnerable groups, of criminal acts.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs

³⁸ See, for example: [European Law Blog \(2020\)](#)

The project's actions, recommendations and approaches will be underpinned by the principles of the European Policy approach to drugs - the need for an integrated, balanced and evidence-based approach that respects human rights.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that this action and its component are not considered relevant for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Democracy

Not a significant objective.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The three components of this action aim to contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Security and Strong Institutions), in particular the following targets: *16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all; 16.4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime; 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.*

Disaster Risk Reduction

Not a significant objective.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learned

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	Risk of political tensions between partner countries	M/H	L	Partner countries can choose between different schemes of co-operation, and actions do not necessarily concern all countries.
Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	Political instability within some of the partner countries	H	L	Non-inclusion of countries in crisis will not hamper project implementation.
Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	Lack of commitment for project implementation	M	L/M	Partner countries can choose between different levels of partnerships and participation is on a voluntary basis.
Category 1 – Risks relate to the external environment	Continuation of the COVID – 19 pandemic crises	H	M/L	Virtual or hybrid meetings and conferences can replace face-to-face meetings/ missions. The situation will have to be regularly assessed and the work plan adapted if needed.
Category 3 - Risks related to people and the organisation	Lack of gender awareness, gender sensitivity, gender understanding,	M/L	L/M	Awareness raising is an essential step within the implementation of the programme. A toolkit on Gender Mainstreaming will be proposed

	increase existing gender inequality			
Category 3 - Risks related to people and the organisation	Risk of security threats to journalists or CSOs (and their sources) who expose acts of corruption or illegal activities (Component 1)	M/H	M/H	UNICRI has experience in working closely with counterparts to identify acts of corruption without being accusatory in nature, thereby reducing the risk of exposure of backlash as a result of reporting or otherwise uncovering such acts of corruption. Transparency International also has extensive experience in coordinating with CSOs, and on best (low-risk) modalities for uncovering acts of corruption. Additionally, this initiative will engage pro-actively with other initiatives that may be working on or facilitating the implementation of whistle blower laws. Nevertheless, all stakeholders should be aware that some countries within the region are, at best, unwelcoming of CSOs in general – while progress might be made, perhaps on the legislative front and on social media use in some countries, there should be no unreasonable expectations of imminent culture shifts in this respect.

Lessons Learned:

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

While initiatives aimed at improving the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of acts of corruption are useful, their impact remains limited if not combined with a stronger focus on the prevention of acts of corruption.

So far, too little attention has been given by States to preventive actions and the value of “transparency”.³⁹ Good practice has shown however that societies and cultures that promote transparency and ethical conduct in governmental work, as well as the empowerment of citizens to report acts of corruption, produce better outcomes and further cultivate the respect for the rule of law.

To improve the investigation of acts of corruption efforts to incentivise the reporting of acts of corruption should be in place. This includes policies and good practices to incentivise the general public, as well as to empower civil society organisations, and investigative journalists, to bring such issues to the attention of law enforcement and policy makers. This also means parallel policies that aim at protecting those who report acts of corruption (and may include initiatives that allow for anonymous reporting).

³⁹ This is further hampered by limited investment by national governments (and perhaps the international community) in corruption prevention initiatives, mainly because it has been traditionally difficult to prove the “absence of corruption” or decisions by, for example, public officials to not engage in an act of corruption, as a tangible outcome.

Equally, corruption, like many other profit-making crimes, cannot be fought without corresponding efforts to capture assets that are linked to such corruption. Any modern, and holistic, initiative aimed at fighting corruption must include technical advice on good policies and practices aimed at seizing and confiscating the fruits of any acts of corruption; otherwise, corruption will continue to persist and proliferate.

Often convictions take several years to come to fruition. This dynamic lends itself to an often-justified public perception that justice systems are too slow in confiscating illicitly-obtained assets. While anti-corruption initiatives should continue to include support for the criminal justice process, such initiatives should no longer exclude the wide variety of non-penal tools to seize and confiscate assets linked to corruption. Modern practices include the global trend of adopting civil confiscation, unexplained wealth orders or, in some cases, providing greater powers to tax and customs authorities to seize and confiscate undeclared assets, all of which are often quicker (several months instead of several years) modalities to capture assets linked to corruption, and to reignite public confidence in the justice process.

Further, a significant lesson learned in initiatives to fight corruption is that many initiatives fail to address the underlying lack of inter-institutional and cross-border cooperation needed to prevent and prosecute acts of corruption. This is often the result of poorly-structured and unnecessarily overlapping institutional mandates, and poor or non-existent mechanisms to incentivise cooperation. An inherent, underlying sub-objective of this initiative will be to facilitate and incentivise inter-institutional and cross-border cooperation among entities charged with preventing, investigating and prosecuting acts of corruption, entities involved in cross-border cooperation on the issue, and entities involved in the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to corruption.⁴⁰ This will also mean exploring the opportunities and benefits that existing international structures - whether formal (the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)) or informal (the Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network (CARIN)) - can offer. Many initiatives and instruments developed either by the UN or the Council of Europe⁴¹ could also constitute a good basis on which to further build this action.

The programme will also seek close cooperation with the Council of Europe's Economic Crime and Cooperation Division. The Council of Europe has developed a specific expertise, including through the development of a number of methodological instruments in the anti-corruption and anti-money laundering fields such as the National Risk Assessment Methodology, tailored methodologies for the verification of declaration of assets and conflicts of interest or a toolkit for the development of codes of conduct for MPs. The department is also closely involved in our programme South with the Council of Europe. In this framework, the department provided Recommendations used by the Central bank of Morocco in the drafting of a directive on the prevention and management of corruption risks by credit institutions.

Finally, good practice has revealed that civil society organisations (CSOs) and investigative journalists can also play a valuable role in helping policymakers decide on the allocation of recovered and liquidated assets, thus strengthening governmental-civil society ties and cooperation, as well as community-level confidence in a more transparent justice process. Lack of engagement and overcoming of distrust (between governmental actors and CSOs) are critical issues – the convening power of the United Nations and the global credibility

⁴⁰ While key international conventions encourage States to, where needed, share assets seized and confiscated in major cases, these provisions are underutilised, typically as a result of lack of legislator and practitioner knowledge that such provisions can or should be used. Additionally, Requested States often are less willing to assist in the seizing of assets in their jurisdictions if high-level officials are not incentivized (for the benefit of the country) by the possibility of sharing seized or confiscated assets in major cases.

⁴¹ Beside the the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), [The Criminal Law Convention on Corruption](#), the [Civil Law Convention on Corruption](#) and the [Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism](#) from the Council of Europe constitute a good source of inspiration for the development of this action.

that Transparency International holds with CSOs can collectively play a role in organising events under this initiative that will facilitate constructive, sustainable and trust-building engagement mechanisms. Previous anti-corruption (or anti-money laundering) initiatives in the EU Southern Neighbourhood region have not focused on bolstering the adoption of policies and practices that allow/facilitate citizens, civil society organisations (CSOs) and investigative journalists to uncover and report acts of corruption. The addition of these issues, particularly through the expertise of Transparency International, makes this component more holistic in nature, and allows this initiative to be more impactful.

Component 2: Euromed Justice:

The innovative approaches and mechanisms developed in the previous phases of Euromed Justice have led to tangible results in solving concrete pending cases (EU – South and South-South). The programme has also delivered legal and gaps analysis in a diversity of sectors which serve for the preparation of action plans within the programme but also for the development of actions in parallel sectors.

Since 2019, the EuroMed Justice programme is directly implemented by Eurojust. This is a key element to strengthen the strategic and operational cooperation in judicial criminal matters between SPCs and EU JHA agencies. Euromed Justice can indeed offer a platform for dialogue and exchange, which may then lead to other types of arrangements/cooperation.

Having the programme directly implemented by Eurojust facilitates also the cooperation between SPCs and EU Member States. The latest phase of programme has witnessed an increased participation of EU Member States in the Programme: 14 countries have nominated focal points and 11 have nominated CrimEX members. This is a real indicator of progress, which can further pave the way towards joint/parallel investigations.

The technical assistance facility, established in the previous, is also key to facilitate “North-South” cooperation. Thanks to its variable-geometry, it helps create communities of interests, which are able to work on common issues/real cases. The technical assistance facility will continue to function and will be further enhanced in the next phase.

The objective with this new phase of the programme is to go a step further and facilitate cross-border cooperation activities.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs

Partners in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood have varying political situations, national responses to drugs, administrative and scientific capacities, and experiences taking part in activities funded by the European Union. In the first phase of EU4MD, these elements proved to be challenging to sustain the engagement and participation of partners. Gradually, the first phase of EU4MD has been able to develop various communication and engagement channels to boost engagement. This approach will be kept and further strengthened in EU4MD2.

Although expert commitment in most of the partner countries has been achieved, well framed formal cooperation with the national authorities remains a crucial factor for the success of future integration of drug-related data into the international drug monitoring frameworks. This aspect is particularly important when the engagement of law enforcement officers is required. Therefore, continuation of the project will prioritise the actions aimed at strengthening the monitoring and reporting roles of the national authorities. It will aim at re-engagement with all eligible national partners, at enhanced exchange and dialogue for co-production of analyses.

Another important point to note is the need to establish a realistic timeline for the planning, collection and reporting of new data. The previous phase of the project has demonstrated that the time required for non-European partners to initiate and plan studies tends to exceed usual timeframes set for EU counterparts. In particular this relates to all new data collection exercises. It takes about 4 years to deliver a new dataset, with the two first years dedicated to planning and setting up data collection (step 1 and step 2, see below in the part 3.5). The collection of data is done in the third year, while the last year is reserved for reporting at national and regional level.

3.5. Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for all components of this action is that:

- Partner countries can choose between different schemes of co-operation, and actions do not necessarily concern all countries;
- Non-inclusion of countries in crisis will not hamper project implementation;
- Partner countries can choose between different levels of partnerships and participation is on a voluntary basis;
- Awareness raising is an essential step within the implementation of the programme.

For component 1 and 2, the identifiable complementarity between specific actions, in particular those referring to practices of investigation and prosecution involving seizure and confiscation of assets and the agreements with foreign jurisdictions with respect to asset recovery will be considered by both programmes and developed in coordination to not only avoid duplication, but also enhance their impact. The identified implementing partners for these two components will participate in each other's Steering Committees to further bolster complementarity and impact. Moreover, the existing Euromed Justice Network and more particularly its sub-group on asset recovery will be used to facilitate contacts among practitioners and identify the best structure for the establishment of a network across the whole asset recovery chain.

Component 1: Region-Wide Support to the EU Southern Neighbourhood to Improve Anti-Corruption Policy and Operational Outcomes

The approach towards the fight against corruption will be holistic, covering the whole chain from the prevention of acts of corruption to the investigation and the prosecution of acts of corruption. Greater emphasis will be put on the role that civil society can play to enhance transparency and good governance.

The modalities for the implementation of this component will also represent a slight shift away from longstanding traditional international community interventions of anti-money laundering workshops, which have not produced greater number of money laundering convictions or greater volume of assets seized or confiscated.

The approach will be more hands-on, mentoring on actual cases and helping to ensure that prosecutors from one country (which may have lost a significant amount of assets due to high-level corruption) physically meet with prosecutors in the country in which such assets have been located. Such pragmatic modalities are expected to benefit stakeholders in accelerating the seizure and confiscation process throughout the Southern Neighbourhood region.

Additionally, the wide variety of non-penal tools will also be explored in order to maximise efficiency and to produce tangible, practical results.

The programme will benefit from the support of Transparency International and the Council of Europe. This will help capitalise on combined expertise as well as on-the-ground presence throughout the region. This

multi-institutional approach will also facilitate the European Union's advocacy for fewer projects (with multiple implementers) rather than multiple projects (each with only one implementer).

Finally, this component on anti-corruption could partially contribute to the Team Europe Initiative on Global Illicit Flows in Africa. If it is the case, this component's commitment to the Team Europe Initiative will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. In the event that the TEI does not materialise the EU action will continue outside a TEI framework.

Component 2: Euromed Justice:

The EuroMed Justice objective is to consolidate, develop and operationalise a sustainable Euro-Mediterranean, cross-regional mechanism for judicial cooperation in criminal matters. The mechanism, composed of criminal justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, legal advisors from the Justice Ministries), is directly connected with and supported by Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN).

CrimEx – the EuroMed Justice Expert Group in Criminal Matters established in 2017 - is placed at the core of the EuroMed judicial and law enforcement mechanism of cooperation and coordination. CrimEx network is composed of active criminal justice professionals from SPCs and EUMSs (judges, prosecutors and legal advisors from the Justice Ministries). CrimEx fosters the region's ownership in the implementation of the project activities and the monitoring of the results. It functions as a real think-tank benefiting of the support from Eurojust, EJN, UN-CTED, UNODC and the coordination with other projects such as EuroMed Police and Cyber South. CrimEx creates the cross-regional forum to build trust and mutual confidence, to exchange good practices and lessons learned, to carry out thorough analyses of the situation in each SPCs and in the whole region, and to set up specific recommendations, guidelines, manuals, studies and researches.

The "CrimEx Documents" (manuals, technical guides and legal analysis on judicial cooperation) are "pioneer documents" in the Mediterranean region and constitute major practical tools for cross-regional cooperation in criminal matters. These are however, living documents and need continuous updates.

The EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General, organised each year since 2018 is playing an important role in endorsing CrimEx recommendations and deciding on strategies and policies to be developed in the region to enhance cross-border cooperation in criminal matters. In November 2021, the Forum adopted the Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2025, which marked the beginning of a new strategic phase of the programme. The Forum of Prosecutors generals will continue to take place on an annual basis and new strategic documents will be adopted to further foster cross-Mediterranean judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

The establishment of a EuroMed Judicial Network of contact points (EMJNet) - composed of practitioners who can assist with international judicial cooperation in criminal matters requests - will strengthen the contacts and the operational cooperation between criminal justice authorities from SPCs and EU MSs.

Finally, the technical assistance facility, established in the previous, will continue to function, based on the requests of SPCs and EU MSs.

Component 3: EU4MonitoringDrugs:

The second phase of EU4MD will continue to implement a multi-source, multi-stakeholder and multi-lingual approach. It will follow up on the actions, results and partnerships implemented during 2019-22 and will continue covering a wide range of concept areas in several streams – drug supply, drug demand, drug law and policy and monitoring - through a combination of data collection, information gathering, analysis and action-oriented complementary capacity-building activities to exchange best practices.

This approach will favour the transfer of knowledge and tools to enhance the co-production and co-ownership of outputs with the ENP partners. The project will continue to introduce and improve the tools of data collection and analysis developed by the EMCDDA. When necessary, these tools will be further translated or adapted to the ENP partners' needs.

Throughout the action, close cooperation will be maintained with other relevant Justice and Home Affairs agencies and coordinated with other EU-funded projects and the activities of Member States active in the region.

As a preparatory step for further co-production, the partners will be asked to prioritise engagement in data collection and monitoring activities on an annual basis. Co-production activities will favour multi-step approach, where:

- Step 1 - initial assessment and engagement leads to;
- Step 2 - provision of adapted methodological guidance and tools and training, which leads to;
- Step 3 - implementation of data collection, which leads in turn to;
- Step 4 - analysis/training for feedback, which leads to;
- Step 5 - action orientated output formulation and finally to;
- Step 6 - follow-up and dissemination.

This model may also re-utilise the expertise created within the countries during the EU4MD first phase by establishing horizontal mentorship programmes across the region.

To foster the national monitoring capacities, a financial envelope will be set-up per country to support data collection, analysis and reporting capacities of national drug monitoring entities.

At the EMCDDA level, the project will continue to enhance signal detection and management system covering the region. A regular assessment of all new information/signals will be undertaken involving a network of relevant stakeholders. Significant signals may trigger specific follow-up activities such as expert meetings or focused studies.

3.6. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @]	Indicators [it least one indicator per expected result @]	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Facilitate improved prevention, reporting and prosecution of acts of corruption, as well as the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to such corruption, throughout the EU Southern Neighbourhood. Key sub-objectives will be to improve inter-institutional and intra-regional coordination in corruption-related investigations, and similar coordination between the region and EU Member States.</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Contribute to protecting the EU and Southern neighbouring countries' citizens against criminal activities, by strengthening International judicial cooperation with due respect of the rule of</p>	<p><u>Component 1: SDG 16:</u> Indicator 16.4 :significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030 Indicator 16.5 : substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms Indicator 16.a: strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime</p> <p><u>Component 2: SDG 16:</u> Indicator 16.1.4: proportion of population that feels safe walking alone around the area they live SDG 16: Indicator 16.3.2: un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> To be assessed at the start of the programme</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> SDG webpage: Progress of Goal 16 in 2019</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Targets are listed in conjunction with related outcomes and outputs</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> SDG webpage: Targets and indicators for Goal 16</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Regular feedback from national counterparts with respect to value of project interventions</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> SDG Review</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>

	<p>law, human and fundamental rights</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> To contribute to a more secure and healthier Europe and its neighbourhood through the enhancement of the capabilities of the ENP partners to monitor, assess and respond to contemporary drug issues</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> GO.1.1. SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels Qualitative assessment (scale from 1 to 10) of the inclusive drug policy and availability of evidence-based data about drug markets.</p> <p>GO.1.2. SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages: Target 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol Indicator:</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> GO.1. To be assessed during inception period</p> <p>GO.2. To be assessed during inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> GO.1. To be determined</p> <p>GO.2. To be set up based on EU4MD final report</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG Reviews - National statistics - Inception report - Evaluation report 	
Outcome 1	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Improved mechanisms and modalities to prevent acts of corruption in the EU Southern</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Number of policies / guidelines adopted with respect to prevention of corruption</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> To be assessed at the start of the programme, through the report on <i>Preventing and</i></p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Minimum of two to five additional policies (legislation, guidelines, internal institutional policies) adopted with</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Progress and Final Reports</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Willingness of key governmental institutions (legislative</p>

	<p>Neighbourhood (including citizen and CSO empowerment in reporting of acts of corruption), and improved policies to incentivise the reporting (anonymous where possible and useful) of acts of corruption</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> To strengthen the strategic and operational cooperation in judicial criminal matters in the cross-Mediterranean region on three axes: (1) between South Partner Countries (SPCs), (2) between SPCs and EU</p>	<p>Feedback from CSOs, investigative journalists and citizens regarding freedom to report acts of corruption</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Number of new MoU and working arrangements/ procedures concluded between SPCs criminal justice authorities, but also with EU JHA Agencies and or EU MSs facilitated by the Programme;</p>	<p><i>Prosecuting Corruption (and Improving the Seizure and Confiscation of Assets Linked to Corruption): Recommendations for Policy and Operational Changes in the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood</i></p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> To be inserted end 2023</p>	<p>respect to corruption prevention</p> <p>Minimum of one additional policy adopted with respect to strengthened protection for whistleblowers</p> <p>Minimum of two additional policies adopted that allow for anonymous reporting of acts of corruption</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> + 3</p>	<p>Legislative journals indicating passage of legislation and/or decrees</p> <p>Published institutional policies</p> <p>Websites of legislative and executive branches in countries within region</p> <p>Websites of specific institutions in countries within region</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Communications from Stakeholders</p>	<p>and/or executive branches) to adopt policies aimed at preventing corruption</p> <p>Willingness of governmental entities to engage with CSOs to reach consensus on need to denounce (as well as fairly and safely report) acts of corruption</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> SPCs EU MSs and Agencies are interested in enhancing their criminal justice capacities by building connections</p>
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	<p>MSs and (3) between SPCs, and EU JHA Agencies, in particular Eurojust and EJN;</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Increased technical expertise and response capacity of the ENP partners for the development of and contribution to contemporary drug monitoring and response systems.</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> Perceived increase in technical expertise and capacity of state and non-state beneficiaries disaggregated by country and sector (qualitative assessment on a scale of 1 to 10)</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> To be assessed during inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> To be determined during the inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inception report - Progress reports - Final report - Evaluation report 	<p>and facilitate cooperation and coordination between different criminal justice authorities (police, prosecutors, judges, Ministry of Justice staff etc)</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> The staff turnover in beneficiary countries remain limited and trained staff remain in the posts for the duration of the project</p>
<p>Outcome 2</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Improved efficiency of anti-corruption investigations, prosecutions and adjudication of corruption offences with emphasis on improved outputs in</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of policies / guidelines / practices that streamline or otherwise improve the investigation and prosecution of acts of corruption 	<p><u>Component 1 :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No country in region has specific policy to improve investigation, prosecution and adjudication 	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two additional policies / guidelines / practices adopted to streamline investigation and prosecution of 	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>Progress and final reports</p> <p>Legislative journals indicating passage</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Willingness of investigative / prosecutorial bodies in region to adopt streamline anti-corruption</p>

	<p>the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to acts of corruption</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of policies / guidelines / practices that bolster emphasis on seizure and confiscation of assets linked to corruption <p><u>Component 2:</u> Number of reported criminal cases successfully investigated and prosecuted</p>	<p>of corruption-related cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No country in region has yet adopted non-conviction-based forfeiture (civil confiscation, unexplained wealth orders, extended confiscation or confiscation of equivalent value) <p><u>Component 2:</u> TBD</p>	<p>corruption-related cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two additional polices / guidelines / practices adopted allowing for non-conviction-based forfeiture – civil confiscation, UWOs, extended confiscation, value-based confiscation, reconciliation <p><u>Component 2:</u> +10</p>	<p>of new policies / guidelines; published institutional policies</p> <p>Websites of legislative and executive branches, or specific institutions, in countries within region</p> <p>Feedback of officials indicating adoption of practices that streamlines corruption-related investigations and prosecutions, as well as adoption of non-conviction-based forfeiture</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Eurojust statistics and reports;</p>	<p>policies and practices</p> <p>Willingness of legislators and law enforcement officials to adopt policies to accelerate the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to acts of corruption</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> In order to investigate serious and</p>
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	<p>To enhance capacities of the South Partner Countries (SPC) to fight serious and organised crime throughout efficient and effective international judicial cooperation.</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Increased data collection and exchange capabilities for the co-production of strategic analyses on emerging trends and threats in drug markets bordering the EU.</p>	<p>by SPCs with the use of International judicial cooperation with EU MSs, Eurojust and other SPCs</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Perceived increase in capabilities of state and non-state beneficiaries to perform strategic analysis on emerging trends and threats of drug market disaggregated by country and sector (qualitative assessment on a scale of 1 to 10)</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> To be assessed during inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> To be defined during inception period</p>	<p>EuroMed Justice reports; SPCs reports</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> - Inception report - Progress reports - Final report - Evaluation report</p>	<p>cross-border crime, SPCs will need to use cross-Mediterranean judicial cooperation; they will make use of the networks and the tools provided by EMJ Programme</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> National authorities are interested to sustain the new capabilities; sufficient financial and human resources are available</p>
<p>Outcome 3</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Improved coordination and transparency with respect to final disposition of recovered</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> - Adoption of policies / decrees / guidelines indicating that a certain percentage of confiscated</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> - No transparent policies yet exist within</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> - At least two new policies / decrees / guidelines adopted in region</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Progress and final reports</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Willingness of legislators and/or executive</p>

	<p>assets, including agreements with foreign jurisdictions and input from civil society with respect to ultimate destination for recovered assets</p>	<p>assets will be directed to specific sectors (e.g., health care, education, depending on priority needs of each country)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of policies / decrees / guidelines / practices to improve CSO or other citizen-based involvement with respect to disposition of confiscated assets - Agreements with foreign jurisdictions with regard to final disposition of returning assets 	<p>region with respect to designating specific sectors to benefit from confiscated assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No transparent policies yet exist in region which allow for CSO or citizen-based involvement with respect to final disposition of confiscated assets - No bilateral agreements or Memoranda of Understanding with foreign jurisdictions in place with respect to final disposition of 	<p>designating specific sectors that will benefit from confiscated assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one new policy / decree / guideline adopted in region allowing for CSO or citizen-based input with respect to final disposition of confiscated assets - At least two bilateral agreements and/or MOUs in place with respect to final disposition of returning assets 	<p>Legislative journals indicating passage of legislation and/or decrees</p> <p>Websites of legislative and executive branches, or specific institutions, in countries within region</p> <p>Feedback from CSOs in region with respect to whether they have input on final disposition of confiscated assets</p>	<p>branch officials to adopt policies that will transparently direct certain percentage of confiscated assets to specific sectors of need</p> <p>Willingness of governmental officials to engage with CSOs and foreign jurisdictions with respect to final disposition of confiscated assets</p>
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	<p><u>Component 3:</u> Enhanced response preparedness for emerging drug-related health and security threats in the ENP region and towards EU.</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> Perceived response preparedness of state and non-state beneficiaries, disaggregated by countries and sectors (qualitative assessment on scale of 1 to 10)</p>	<p>returning assets</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> To be assessed during inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> To be defined during inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inception report - Progress reports - Final report - Evaluation report 	<p><u>Component 3:</u> National legal and policy background conducive to support preparedness</p>
<p>Outcome 4</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Strengthened policies among Southern Neighbourhood countries to allow for streamlined region-based information sharing in the tracing and recovery of assets linked to corruption</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Qualitative assessment on a scale from 1 to 10 of the region-based information sharing mechanisms/platforms and existing intra-regional bilateral and multilateral agreements for cooperation on corruption-related cases</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> To be assessed at the start of the programme</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> A formal or informal network of asset recovery focal points is established for the Southern Neighbourhood</p> <p>Existence of bilateral or multilateral agreements on asset recovery and/or corruption-related cases</p> <p>10% increase in MLA or other requests emanating from</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Progress Reports Feedback from national counterparts Copy of the intra-regional bilateral and multilateral agreements for cooperation on asset recovery and/or corruption-related cases (or copies of such agreements between Southern</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u> Partner countries commit to intra-regional dialogue on pending cases</p> <p>Partner countries do share information on pending cases involving acts of corruption and/or the</p>

				Southern Neighbourhood on cases involving asset recovery / corruption	Neighbourhood countries and EU Member States)	tracing, seizure and confiscation of assets
Outputs	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>R.1. Report on Preventing and Prosecuting Corruption (and Improving the Seizure and Confiscation of Assets Linked to Corruption): Recommendations for Policy and Operational Changes in the European Union's Southern Neighbourhood</p> <p>R.2. Draft legislation and related policies, as</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>R.1. Publishing and distribution of the report and recommendations</p> <p>R.2. Number of newly drafted new</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>R.1. 0</p> <p>R.2. To be assessed at the</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>R.1. Published and distributed report/recommendations</p> <p>R.2. Minimum of five new legislation/policies/</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>R.1. Published report along with its recommendations; Feedback from policy makers with respect to actions to be taken to implement the report's recommendations</p> <p>R.2. Progress and final reports</p>	<p><u>Component 1:</u></p> <p>R.1. Ability of successfully cull sufficient data and information regarding polices and practices in Southern Neighbourhood countries with respect to preventing, reporting on, and investigating acts of corruption, as well as policies and practices with respect to seizures and confiscations</p> <p>R.2. Willingness of</p>

	<p>per needs identified in the above-mentioned report</p> <p>R.3. Investigative journalists and other civil society actors educated on good, fair and professional practices for effective uncovering of acts of corruption and for effective reporting of such acts in order to elicit tangible action from public officials to investigate and prosecute such conduct and/or to adjust public policy to improve the fight against corruption.</p>	<p>legislation/policies/guidelines with respect to areas mentioned in the Report.</p> <p>R.3. Number of investigative journalists and other civil society actors (representing every country in Southern Neighbourhood) trained on effective practices to uncover and report acts of corruption</p>	<p>start of the programme</p> <p>R.3. To be assessed at the start of the programme</p>	<p>guidelines drafted in region on any of the issues mentioned in column to the left</p> <p>R.3. Minimum of 100 investigative journalists and other civil society actors trained on effective practices to uncover and report acts of corruption</p>	<p>UNICRI and Transparency International websites</p> <p>R.3. Progress and Final Reports, List of participants to training activities, Feedback from participants</p>	<p>legislative and/or executive branch officials to work on the drafting of legislation and/or policies in any of the areas mentioned in column to the left</p> <p>R.3. Willingness of CSOs and investigative journalists to engage with project on issue of good practices in uncovering and reporting acts of corruption</p>
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	<p>R.4. Officials throughout the Southern Neighbourhood trained (specialised) on modern practices to trace, seize and confiscate assets linked to acts of corruption</p> <p>R.5. Structure for informal network of Southern Neighbourhood asset recovery practitioners identified</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p> <p>R.1. EuroMed Justice networks of</p>	<p>R.4. Number of officials trained on modern practices to trace, seize and confiscate assets linked to acts of corruption</p> <p>R.5. Structure for informal network in place.</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p> <p>R.1. 1. Number of EU MSs</p>	<p>R.4. To be assessed at the start of the programme</p> <p>R.5. No informal asset recovery network yet exists for Southern Neighbourhood region</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p> <p>R1.1. 14 in EMJ IV</p>	<p>R.4. Minimum of 100 law enforcement and related officials trained on modern and effective practices to trace, seize and confiscate assets linked to acts of corruption (subset trained on link analysis and subset trained on sanctioning non-compliant reporting entities)</p> <p>R.5. Adoption of draft structure for a Southern Neighbourhood asset recovery network (or Membership in / integration into) CARIN network</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p> <p>R.1.1. 16</p>	<p>R.4. Progress and Final Reports, List of participants to training activities, Certification of participation in specialised training, Feedback from officials trained</p> <p>R.5. Progress and Final reports; Feedback from asset recovery practitioners on existence / utility of informal network</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u></p> <p>Communications from Stakeholders</p>	<p>R.4. Willingness of officials in region to participate in specialised training</p> <p>R.5. Willingness of governments in Southern Neighbourhood to create asset recovery network and/or to integrate into CARIN network</p>
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	cooperation and coordination are strengthened.	actively involved in the Programme. EUMS with more than 2% participants out of total number			Eurojust statistics and reports	
		R.1.2. Number of CrimEx meetings/ year	R.1.2. 3	R.1.2. +3	Euromed Justice reports	
		R.1.3. Number of Forums of Prosecutors General	R.1.3. 2	R.1.3. +4	SPCs reports	
		R.1.4. Number of meetings/ year of EMJNet	R.1.4. 1	R.1.4. +1	EMJ webpage	
					Final report	
	R.2. Practical tools facilitating cross-border cooperation are updated and new ones are developed.	R.2.1. CrimEx practical tools are updated	R.2.1. 11	R.2.1. 16		
		R.2.2. New CrimEx docs and Tools will be designed	R.2.2. 6	R.2.2. 4		
	R3. The capacities of criminal justice authorities are strengthened through training on judicial	R.3.1. Number of trainings delivered	R.3.1. 21	R.3.1 +15		
		R.3.2. Number of participants in trainings organised by existing judicial training platforms	R.3.2. 12	R.3.2. +20		
		R.3.3. 3	R.3.3. +3			

	<p>R.4. Demand driven outputs are implemented</p> <p>R.5. Joint and/ or cross border cooperation activities are supported</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> R.1. Increased ENP partners competences in monitoring and responding to drug-related threats</p> <p>R.2. New national and regional data sets delivered for co-production of analysis</p> <p>R.3. ENP partners contribute to and benefite from</p>	<p>R.3.3. Number of study visits and exchanges</p> <p>R.4.1. Number of TAF activities implemented</p> <p>R.5.1. Number of contact points included in EMJNet</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> R.1. Number of people trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or skills (disaggregated by sex and countries)</p> <p>R.2. At least two new datasets per country available by the end of the project</p> <p>R.3. Perceived benefit by beneficiaries from</p>	<p>R.4.1. TBD in 2023</p> <p>R.5.1. TBD in 2023</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> R.1. 0</p> <p>R.2. 6 countries (GE, MD, UA, IL, LB, TN)</p> <p>R.3. To be assessed at the</p>	<p>R.4.1. + 12</p> <p>R.5.1. + 20</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> R.1. 90 per year. Final target 450</p> <p>R.2. All participating countries</p> <p>R.3. To be defined during the inception period</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> R.1. Progress reports Training reports Final report Evaluation report</p> <p>R.2. Progress reports Final report</p> <p>R.3 Evaluation Report</p>	<p><u>Component 3:</u> R.1. Trained staff remain in their posts and continue to fulfil functions;</p> <p>R.2. Sufficient human and technical capabilities to collect data and participate in co-production</p> <p>R.3. Knowledges communities</p>
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	<p>knowledge communities on selected areas of drug market monitoring and responses</p> <p>R.4. Evidence-based responses to drug-related threats and problems provided based on needs and requests from ENP countries</p> <p>R.5. Bi-annual thematic analyses on key strategic drug-related issues in the ENP countries produced</p> <p>R.6. Action oriented briefings produced to support operational and</p>	<p>participation in knowledge communities of EMCDDA (disaggregated by sex and countries) (qualitative assessment on a scale of 1 to 10)</p> <p>R4. Perceived level of contribution of the project to support national policies (disaggregated by countries) (qualitative assessment on a scale of 1 to 10)</p> <p>R.5. Number of thematic analyses produced</p>	<p>evaluation of EU4MD</p> <p>R.4. To be assessed during the inception period</p> <p>R.5. Not applicable/0⁴²</p> <p>R.6. Not applicable/0</p>	<p>R.4. To be defined during inception period</p> <p>R.5. 2 in 2025 2 in 2026 2 in 2027</p> <p>R.6. Average assessment 7 points</p>	<p>R.4. Progress and final reports ROM interview Baseline and endline surveys Inception report</p> <p>R.5. Progress reports Final report</p> <p>R.6. Briefings provided</p>	<p>are relevant to the needs and interest of partners; ENP beneficiaries have the capability to contribute (multilingual environment)</p> <p>R.4. Conducive political environment and other opportunities to provide advice relevant to the mandate of EMCDDA</p> <p>R.5. Interest in the thematic analyses for stakeholders in the ENP countries and the EU</p> <p>R.6. Interest in the thematic</p>
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	decision-making needs of the EU institutions and the ENP partners (ad-hoc and needs based)	R.6. Decision makers opinion and feedback on briefings received (qualitative assessment on a scale of 1 to 10)			ROM Interviews Endline satisfaction survey	analyses for stakeholders in the EU and ENP countries
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⁴² Indicative number of public reports or analyses produced within EU4MD phase 1: 12

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

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

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

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁴³.

Components 1, 2 and 3 will be implemented in indirect management with international organisations and EU agencies.

4.3.1. Indirect Management with pillar-assessed entities⁴⁴

Component 1 of this action may be implemented in indirect management with UNICRI and with Transparency International and the Council of Europe as potential partners.

The implementation by UNICRI is justified because this entity has a long track record in the region on assistance in the fight against corruption and in the field of asset recovery.

UNICRI expertise in anti-corruption and asset recovery initiatives is unique, in that it provides mentoring on actual, pending cases, giving law enforcement officials (including prosecutors) hands-on experience in implementing best practices. UNICRI's experts also have highly specialised experience in facilitating the adoption of multiple non-conviction-based forfeiture mechanisms, something underutilised in nearly all anti-corruption initiatives; UNICRI also possesses in-house expertise on meta-analysis and link analysis software that enables law enforcement to produce visual graphic maps showing links between those suspected of acts of corruption (and other serious criminal activity), as well as links between each suspect and their illicitly-obtained assets, thus making it easier for domestic courts and foreign jurisdictions to enter orders for the seizure and confiscation of assets linked to acts of corruption.

Transparency International (TI) brings to bear extensive on-the-ground experience (and contacts) in the EU Southern Neighbourhood countries, and possesses global credibility with CSOs. TI is considered one of the

⁴³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁴⁴ The signature of a contribution agreement with the chosen entity is subject to the completion of the necessary pillar assessment.

leading entities on the issue of working with civil society organisations, as well as with investigative journalists, in the fight against corruption. Like UNICRI, TI also follows a pragmatic approach in identifying results-oriented officials and others (CSOs) capable of producing tangible outcomes.

As for the Council of Europe, it has developed a specific expertise, including through the development of a number of methodological instruments in the anti-corruption and anti-money laundering fields such as the National Risk Assessment Methodology, tailored methodologies for the verification of declaration of assets and conflicts of interest or a toolkit for the development of codes of conduct for MPs. The Action Against Crime department of the Council of Europe is also closely involved in our programme South. In this framework, it notably provided recommendations used by the Central Bank of Morocco in the drafting of a directive on the prevention and management of corruption risks by credit institutions.

Components 2 and 3 of this action may be implemented in indirect management respectively with the following EU specialised agencies: Eurojust and EMCDDA.

The implementation by both entities is justified because these EU specialised agencies were active in the previous phases of the programmes. Cooperation of these agencies with third countries has been encouraged over the last years, but requires ad hoc funding to perform these noncore tasks. These agencies also offer the possibility for an increased partnership between all EU Member States and our partner countries.

The envisaged entities would carry out budget-implementation tasks necessary to achieve the results outlined in the description of the action.

In case the envisaged entities would need to be replaced, this action may be implemented in indirect management with another pillar-assessed international organisation or with EU Member States' agencies and consortia thereof. The entrusted entities will be selected after negotiations resulting from a call for manifestation of interest addressed to relevant international organisations and EU Member States agencies eligible for indirect management.

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).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Component 1 (Support to Anti-Corruption)	
Indirect management with UNICRI – cf. section 4.3.1	7 000 000

Component 2 (Euromed Justice)	
Indirect management with Eurojust – cf. section 4.3.1	6 000 000
Component 3 (EU4MonitoringDrugs)	
Indirect management with EMCDDA – cf. section 4.3.1	4 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Communication and visibility – cf. section 6	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.
Totals	17 000 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

An appropriate inter-service consultation mechanism will be created to ensure the coherence of the different components and synergies with similar projects.

Steering Committees shall be established for each project within the action. For component 1 and 2, the implementers of justice-related work have already agreed to participate in their respective Steering Committees to further bolster complementarity and impact.

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, each implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The monitoring level will be for each component of the action.

Every component will have its own logical framework which will be completed during the inception period and updated during implementation.

Every progress report and the final report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix.

SDGs indicators and EU Result Framework Indicators should be taken into account.

To ensure a closer follow-up, every implementing partner will provide a monthly Flash Report indicating the past activities, activities in the pipelines, difficulties encountered and measures taken to mitigate.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

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

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least 2 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation exercise and missions. The implementing partners shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner countries and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁴⁵. The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external actions have the contractual obligation to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in "Communicating and raising EU visibility – Guidance for external actions – July 2022"⁴⁶.

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, 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

⁴⁵ See best practice of evaluation dissemination

⁴⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communicating_and_raising_eu_visibility_-_guidance_for_external_actions_-_july_2022.pdf

reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

If appropriate, for communication on Team Europe Initiatives, the EU and its Member States can rely on the specific guidance on the Team Europe visual identity.