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ANNEX

NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT

MULTI-ANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD

(2021-2027)

Draft Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for EU support to the Eastern neighbourhood

1. The overall lines of EU international cooperation in the region

1.1. Basis for programming

This document details the specific programmes and actions which will be undertaken and financed in the 2021-2027 period in the **Eastern neighbourhood** as part of the regional envelope and the overall financing from the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe.

Coherence and complementarity between all EU interventions, as well as a clear link between policy and programming, will be ensured. This MIP is fully aligned with the European Commission's Political Guidelines 2019-2024[1]. It supports the delivery of key global policy objectives, including a defined pathway towards climate neutrality consistent with the lon-term objective of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. It is fully sequenced with the needs deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic, including support to sustainable socio-economic recovery and health resilience. In line with the EU gender action plan (GAP) III[2], gender equality will be mainstreamed throughout all programmes and actions, together with a focus on youth. The twin green and digital transitions will also be mainstreamed in all programmes and actions with the aim of building back better.

Eastern neighbourhood cooperation is established at the regional level through the **Eastern Partnership** (EaP) policy framework, a joint initiative of the European Union, its Member States and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus[3], Georgia, the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter referred to as Moldova) and Ukraine. The EaP contributes to the overall goal of increasing stability, prosperity and resilience of the EU's neighbours as set out in the Global Strategy for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union[4] and the 2015 European Neighbourhood Policy Review[5]. The EaP policy framework complements and strengthens the bilateral cooperation with partner countries and facilitates the development of common positions and joint activities.

The regional priorities and actions 2021-2027 will be guided by the five policy objectives under the overarching framework of resilience outlined in the Joint Communication on the Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 of 18 March 2020[6], which was welcomed by the EU Member States with Council Conclusions in May 2020[7] and endorsed by the Eastern Partnership Leaders in June 2020[8]. Based on these objectives, a set of concrete priorities have been identified in the Joint Staff Working Document "Recovery, resilience and reform: post 2020

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/political-guidelines-next-commission_en_0.pdf

[2] JOIN(2020) 17 final

[3] With regard to the participation of Belarus, and in line with the Council Conclusions of 12 October 2020, the EU will focus on intensifying cooperation with non-state stakeholders, including notably civil society, independent media and youth.

[4] https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eugs_review_web_0.pdf

[5] JOIN(2017) 18 final

[6] JOIN(2020) 7 final.

[7] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/43905/st07510-re01-en20.pdf

[8] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2020/06/18/

Eastern Partnership priorities[9]". With the overall objectives of strengthening resilience and generating concrete benefits to the people, the new agenda is structured around two pillars (i) investment- supported by an economic and investment plan, and (ii) governance- underpinned by reforms and fundamental shared values. The policy objectives, the economic and investment plan as well as the new targets will underpin the regional programming 2021-2027 for the Eastern neighbourhood, setting out common priorities, along with the joint documents between the EU and partner countries, (e.g. Partnership Priorities and Association Agendas).

The EU's activities in the Eastern neighbourhood are complemented by other EU policies and initiatives which foster cooperation within the broader neighbourhood, namely the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension. The **Black Sea Synergy** is the EU's regional cooperation policy framework towards the Black Sea, aiming to develop deeper regional cooperation among Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. Actions under this initiative are based on the Black Sea Synergy implementation review and on the June 2019 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on EU engagement in Black Sea regional cooperation[10]. They are also guided by the Common Maritime Agenda and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea. The **Northern Dimension** is the EU's common policy with Russia, Norway and Iceland with participation of Belarus, the United States of America and Canada as observers. under this initiative will be based on the December 2019 Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on EU Arctic Policy, the Northern Dimension Senior Officials Meeting conclusions of 5 March 2019 and the October 2021 Joint Communication on a stronger EU engagement for a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic[11]; along with stakeholder consultations, most recently in the Northern Dimension Steering Group of 20 April 2021. Both policies are of high importance in order to achieve EU policy objectives in the region. Furthermore, they bring direct benefits to the EU citizens and regions as well as EU Member States.

EU cooperation with the region will continue to be based on a shared commitment to international law and fundamental values, with the aim to strengthen the stability, prosperity and resilience of the Eastern neighbourhood, while also partnering with other regional organisations. The regional programmes complement the bilateral ones in order to achieve the policy objectives of the Eastern Partnership framework and cooperate on specific topics and sectors with added value for regional cooperation. In addition to the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership, regional cooperation will also be driven by the Black Sea Synergy and Northern Dimension policies aiming at achieving EU policy goals.

Complementarity between regional and bilateral programmes, as well as with other thematic programmes and projects, is ensured through close coordination at the level of policy dialogue, choice of sectors and funding allocations. This allows the EU to:

- Promote regional cooperation on priorities that go beyond borders and are better addressed in a regional context;
- Contribute to confidence-building, foster exchanges, dialogue and political cooperation between the EU and partners as well as intraregional; and
- Support social, cultural and economic integration through people-to-people contacts, regional market integration for goods and services, and coherent sectoral approaches.

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[9] SWD(2021) 186 final.

[10] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/39779/st10219-en19.pdf

[11] JOIN(2021) 27 final

The policy objectives and the new targets are fully aligned with the needs deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic, including support to sustainable fair and inclusive socio-economic recovery and health resilience, to ensure green growth and innovation, social cohesion and just transition towards less resource and carbon-intense economic model. Gender equality will be mainstreamed in all programs and actions where possible throughout all programmes and actions. For all actions and priorities, the "do no significant (environmental) harm" principle shall apply.

Ensuring **visibility and strategic communication** of the Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Synergy and Northern Dimension will be further strengthened through improved tailor-made messaging and campaign-based communication, raising awareness of the positive impact of EU policies and actions to both people across the region and within the EU. This is especially important in relation to the need to make EU communication more strategic and impactful in the wake of growing disinformation, notably COVID-19-related or against EU values. Outreach will focus on key multipliers, such as young people, as well as opinion leaders including at local and regional level, to help promote EU values and actions. Targeted strategic communications will also seek to counter disinformation and raise awareness both in the region and the EU.

Priority areas of the EU's cooperation with the partner countries at the regional level will include:

> Priority area 1: Resilient, sustainable and integrated economies
> Priority area 2: Accountable institutions, the rule of law and security
> Priority area 3: Environmental and climate resilience
> Priority area 4: Resilient digital transformation
> Priority area 5: Resilient, gender equal, fair and inclusive societies
> Priority area 6: Activities to underpin EU regional policies

The current Multi-annual Indicative Programme will ensure that all Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe targets will be met. Particular attention will be given to the NDICI climate target which will be directly supported through interventions foreseen in the third priority sector, but also mainstreaming climate targets in the other priority sectors.

All actions taken under this programming exercise shall comply with EU legislation, in particular EU restrictive measures (sanctions) adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

1.2. Justification and context

The multi-annual programming also takes place in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on the socio-economic development of the partner countries. In this context the short term priority is to strengthen the socio-economic recovery while strengthening overall resilience of the partner countries.

In order to strengthen our joint resilience and the partnership, the EU already provided quick and substantive support to partners in 2020 of more than EUR 1 billion to address immediate needs - including to address the health pandemic - but also to support the sustainable long-term socio-economic recovery that leaves no one behind. Together with national authorities, the EU and its Member States have shown collective resolve to respond to partner countries' needs

under the Team Europe approach. As piloted for the COVID-19 response it will be expanded with new dedicated Team Europe Initiatives primarily in the EU's bilateral cooperation, but also in the regional cooperation framework where this brings a clear added value.

Regional programming in the Eastern neighbourhood for the 2021-2027 period will be guided by the post-2020 policy framework outlined in the Joint Communication on the **Eastern Partnership** policy beyond 2020, and by the specific EU policies for regional cooperation such as the **Black Sea Synergy** and **Northern Dimension**, along with **Erasmus+**, cooperation with **civil society,** and with **International Financial Institutions**.

Eastern Partnership

The Eastern neighbourhood programming for 2014-2020 under the European Neighbourhood Instrument was largely based on commitments undertaken at the Vilnius and Riga Summits and on the **Eastern Partnership** "20 Deliverables for 2020" framework and more precisely the four priority sectors of governance, economy, connectivity and people-to-people support. As confirmed by the broad and inclusive structured consultation on the Eastern Partnership held in autumn 2019, the 20 Deliverables framework delivered envisaged results. This approach based on a common reform agenda will continue after 2020, with the necessary adjustments to bring it in line with the post-2020 policy objectives and recommendations outlined in the Joint Communication.

Annual monitoring of the "20 Deliverables for 2020" implementation has shown across the board progress on the different deliverables. This is particularly the case for deliverables in the area of economy (with for instance progress noticed in EU support to small and medium enterprises including access to finance in local currencies, as well as support for creating and sustaining jobs), people-to-people contacts (with for instance substantial academic and youth mobility through Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 but also through other EU supported mobility programmes). In the area of green and connectivity, important achievements have been made in energy efficiency and nature protection and water management. In the governance area, although results have been more uneven, some progress has also been made. For instance, access to public service delivery has increased. However, on the rule of law, security, judiciary and anti-corruption reforms, gender equality and the enabling environment for civil society and media, results have been mitigated and several challenges remain. These will continue to be important themes for our cooperation in the region.

The overriding **Eastern Partnership** objective of strengthening resilience will also drive the programming process. The five policy objectives outlined in the Joint Communication[12] are based on the EU's foreign policy priorities for the neighbourhood including the 2015 European Neighbourhood Policy review, the achievements and the remaining challenges of the Eastern Partnership "20 Deliverables for 2020" agenda, as well as a broad and inclusive structured consultation held in autumn 2019.

In line with the five policy objectives, the concrete post-2020 agenda outlined in the Joint Staff Working Document[13] and the EU support will be focussed around two mutually supporting and reinforcing pillars, namely investments and governance, supported through the various EU tools and modalities of financial support, including NDICI-Global Europe and the Team

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[12] See footnote 1.
[13] See footnote 2.

Europe initiatives, cross-border cooperation programmes (Interreg NEXT programmes) and the partners' own investments. To strengthen long-term resilience, EU and partner countries' joint investments into socio-economic recovery will be forward-looking and inspired by the European Green Deal[14] to "build back better" and pursue the twin green and digital transformations in a fair and inclusive manner, and for the first time cooperate with partners on health matters. The economic and investment plan, including its flagship initiatives for each partner country, will support post-pandemic recovery using specific EU tools, including blending and guarantees, to foster sustainable development and leverage public and private investment in line with good governance tax standards. To underpin and sustain our investments and help consolidate resilient and fair societies, sustained engagement on good governance, justice and rule of law, security and fair and inclusive societies, will be central to EU support in the coming years. Continued delivery on the reform agenda, alongside respect for shared fundamental values, remain the foundations of our partnership. In line with the European Green Deal, EU investments will be done on the basis of the do no significant harm principle. As part of the comprehensive agenda of joint commitments, a selection of Top Ten Targets has been identified, which together with the flagship initiatives under the economic and investment plan, will contribute to maximising impact and visibility on the ground.

<u>Regional cooperation</u>

Activities to underpin EU regional policies will contribute to the implementation of wider EU policies and goals such as: Green Deal[15] and Digital Agenda[16], the specific 2021 EU Communication on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU, the 2018 EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, and specifically for the Black Sea Synergy, the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea and its scientific pillar, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Regional cooperation is complementary and closely intertwined with the Eastern Partnership components and activities foreseen under the present MIP.

The **Black Sea Synergy** aims to enhance confidence building and fostering regional dialogue by identifying solutions for regional challenges in an area marked by diverging and conflicting neighbours. It will help to strengthen the EU position as an active Black Sea regional player, by boosting multilateralism and addressing transnational challenges. The progress in the implementation during 2014-2020 was uneven: key achievements were registered in blue economy; maritime research and innovation; fisheries and aquaculture; environmental protection; civil society engagement. Some progress was noticed in energy and transport, tourism and culture as well as in social affairs and employment. The 2021-2027 programming period will be crucial for a direct continuation of the work already undertaken, and on the achievements, on regional cooperation frameworks promoted by the EU and on enhancing the interaction with regional organisations (particularly the Black Sea Economic Cooperation), considering EU priorities and alleviating the COVID-19 pandemic impact.

The **Northern Dimension** has been another successful channel of maintaining dialogue and practical cooperation with neighbours. Its work is undertaken in line with EU's Arctic policy, the Northern Dimension political declaration, frameworks and conclusions and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region[17]. Measures also aim to support the existing multilateral co-operation within the framework of the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States. Supporting the work of the partnerships and other cooperation bodies

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[14] COM(2019) 640 final
[15] See previous footnote.
[16] COM(2021) 118 final
[17] https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/baltic-sea/

will maintain crucial channels of dialogue and cooperation with Russian regions, Belarus and other counterparts. The main achievements during the previous programming period have been observed in the environmental interventions in locations around Baltic Sea; nuclear safety projects on the Kola peninsula, and the launching of a black carbon project pipeline; improvements in people-to-people relations; addressing challenges in digitalisation and decarbonisation. The next programming period will take stock of these achievements and will take them forward and continue specific cooperation in the region.

Other measures

Regional and bilateral Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe support will be complemented with other instruments such as the **Erasmus+ programme**, which will continue to promote intercultural dialogue and awareness of European cultures and values. Having facilitated cooperation and exchanges between the EU and the Eastern Partnership region in the areas of higher education and youth, Erasmus+ will be opened up as a vehicle to deliver on external action objectives also in other areas, such as inclusion, employability, vocational education and training, and consolidating intercultural dialogue through youth and virtual exchanges actions.

As one of the main elements of our policies, the EU will also continue to engage with **civil society** including the main social partners (trades unions and employers' organisations) in partner countries and the whole region, and will keep promoting a safe space and enabling environment for all civil society actors. The EU will further support the capacity of civil society organisations to meaningfully engage in policy-making processes and policy dialogue, and promote a rule of law culture, reforms, gender equality and public accountability. Civil society and private stakeholders' engagement will be critical for reaching the environmental and climate objectives of limiting global temperature growth to 1,5 Celsius degrees, in line with Paris Agreement objectives.

In terms of financial assistance and financing of its actions, the EU has stepped up the strategic collaboration with **International Financial Institutions**, bringing substantial support for small and medium sized enterprises and 'green' investments. The EU intends to further step up its partnership by making better use of the possibilities offered by the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) (EFSD+ guarantee and for blending activities) to strengthen resilience of our partner countries and boost the private sector, while upholding commitments stemming from the Association Agreements and other bilateral agreements.

1.3. Duration of the MIP and option for synchronisation

The Multi-annual Indicative Programme for the Eastern neighbourhood will have a duration of seven years (2021-2027). The mid-term review of this and other multiannual indicative programmes is planned for 2024, as well as possible ad-hoc review if needed. The review exercise will take stock of the ongoing actions and implementation of the policy objectives of the Eastern Partnership framework, and provide the necessary flexibility to adjust to new contexts.

2. EU support per priority area and proposals of Team Europe Initiatives

2.1. Priority area 1: Resilient, sustainable and integrated economies

Strengthening the economy is key to meeting citizens' expectations, reducing inequality, and making partner countries places where people want to build their futures. Better-integrated economies that are inclusive, sustainable and fair, deliver for all. The aim is to create decent

jobs and economic opportunities, ensuring prosperity for people living in the partner countries. This will entail increased trade and further regional and bilateral integration of the economies of partner countries and the EU, together with cooperation for progressive decarbonisation towards climate neutrality, embracing the opportunities of the circular economy and from the twin green and digital transformation. Building on the existing Association Agreements, and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas and other trade agreements, the EU, jointly with partner countries, will focus on supporting their full implementation for maximum benefits, including as regards subsidy control and fair competition. In line with the EU new growth strategy, the European Green Deal and the Digital Strategy, the EU and partner countries will further support the modernisation of Eastern Partnership economies, making them more competitive, more resource efficient and innovative, and linking them better to European value chains. In addition, the EU and the partner countries will invest in physical connectivity and infrastructure (in transport, energy and digital) as underpinning conditions for economic development while taking fully into consideration the cumulative environmental impacts of such projects. This MIP will also support the implementation of the EU Global Gateway strategy[18], which puts forward a global strategy and vision for sustainable and transparent connectivity. Supporting structural reforms, improving access to finance, and supporting small and medium enterprises and promoting good tax governance will foster sustainable growth and investment and decent work. Investing in people, particularly the young, and better connecting education, research and innovation with private sector needs will prepare the partner countries to face tomorrow's challenges.

Actions under priority area align primarily with SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG 13 (climate action).

2.1.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The three specific objectives related to the priority area are the following:

1. Strengthen **economic, small and medium enterprises and trade development**;
2. Support **transport and connectivity** (*including for the Black Sea)*;
3. Invest in **human capital and knowledge societies.**

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

*For specific objective 1 (**economic, small and medium enterprises and trade development**):*

- Increased intra-Eastern Partnership and EU-Eastern Partnership trade and deepened economic integration, including by maximising the benefits of the Association Agreements and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas, the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement and other trade arrangements;
- Increased number of start-ups and small and medium enterprises (including women-led small and medium enterprises), and small and medium enterprises contribution to employment and gross domestic product, as well as green/circular economy;
- Economic growth opportunities outside capital cities further developed, linking to European / developing greenvalue chains.

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[18] https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/joint_communication_global_gateway.pdf

*For specific objective 2 (**transport and connectivity**, including for the Black Sea):*

- Improved transport infrastructure, including by advancing the implementation of the indicative extension of the core Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) network and its Investment Action Plan and enhanced Black Sea connectivity;
- Advanced implementation of the Common Aviation Area Agreements with Georgia and Moldova, implementation of agreements with Ukraine and Armenia and conclusion of negotiations with Azerbaijan;
- Improved transport safety, including enhanced cooperation on aviation, maritime and road safety.

*For Specific objective 3 (**human capital and knowledge societies**):*

- Enhanced quality, relevance, innovativeness and inclusiveness of education systems at all levels of education and training, including vocational education and training, in particular as regards development of skills needed for green and digital transition. This also includes increased studies and teaching opportunities for students, researchers and teachers from the Eastern Partnership region in another European higher or research education institute;
- Better skills matching the labour market needs, increased decent employment and employment opportunities for young people including through entrepreneurship support, youth employment partnerships, introducing active labour market measures and more targeted services;
- Strengthened innovation capacity including through support to research and innovation (R&I) reforms, capacity building of key research and innovation institutions, increasing participation of Eastern Partnership institutions in Horizon Europe, while providing further support through design and implementation of Smart specialisation strategies at local, regional and national level and development of technology transfer roadmaps, including the peer exchange and leearnig activities in the region.

2.1.3. Indicators

Below is a list of key indicators envisaged under this priority area, arranged by specific objective. For the full list of indicators, and details on targets and baselines, please refer to Annex 1 – Intervention Framework.

*For specific objective 1 (**economic, small and medium enterprises and trade development**):*

- EU - Eastern Partnership trade and intra-Eastern Partnership trade, and application of international customs and payment standards;
- Number of structured reform facility recommendations implemented;
- Number of EU supported small and medium enterprises including women-led small and medium enterprises and jobs created, as well as contribution to the gross domestic product and employment including high quality green jobs;
- Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises applying Sustainable Consumption and Production practices with EU support;
- Number of local authorities benefiting from EU support and economic growth outside capital cities.

*For specific objective 2 (**transport and connectivity**, including for the Black Sea):*

- Kilometres of priority roads and railways built or upgraded in line with EU standards;
- Signed common aviation agreements and Eastern Partnership partner countries competent, national authorities cooperating in aviation safety oversight;
- Eastern Partnership Declaration on road safety implemented, including establishing the road safety observatory and reduced annual road fatalities across the Eastern Partnership region in line with the 2030 reduction target;
- Enhanced maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection capabilities of the competent national authorities;
- EaP Partner countries benefitting from the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS).

*For specific objective 3 (**human capital and knowledge societies**):*

- Number of mobilities in Erasmus+ youth, higher education, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, European Solidarity Corps, EU4Youth and other EU-funded non-formal learning and volunteering opportunities;
- Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), youth unemployment rate and number of policies and strategies supporting youth employment and youth transition from education to work;
- Cross-sector multi-stakeholder partnerships for policy dialogue and coordination on youth employment are piloted in three or more partner countries;
- Policy recommendations and implemented national research and innovation strategies increased, as well as score of the Global Innovation Index and participation in Horizon Europe;
- Number of countries with Smart Specialisation Strategies adopted (and started implementation) and with Technology Transfer Roadmaps developed.

2.1.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Together with the bilateral and regional allocations, the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) will play a critical role to scale up and mobilise significant volumes of investments to ensure the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan. Blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+ will be used to support the above defined priorities, and to complement other implementation modalities (e.g. technical assistance, grants). Priority will be given to: (1) Support sustainable transport connectivity by strengthening core transport links, with a focus on the extended indicative core Tran-European Transport Network including connections across the Black Sea; (2) Provide access to finance for 500,000 small and medium enterprises and accelerate their integration into EU value chains; (3) Support education and research crowding in investments in people and knowledge societies.

2.2. Priority area 2: Accountable institutions, the rule of law and security

Good governance, public administration reform and democratic institutions, rule of law, successful anti-corruption policies, fight against organised crime, respect of human rights and security, as well as support to populations affected by conflict, are the backbone of strong and resilient states and societies and the prerequisite for cooperation within the Eastern Partnership framework. They are also significant preconditions for a functioning market economy and for sustainable growth. The EU's support for resilient institutions, rule of law and security will include: (i) proposing ways to better measure the impact of judicial reforms; (ii) consider progress in rule of law reforms when deciding on assistance; (iii) further developing capacity

to produce reliable and comparable statistical data for evidence-based policy design and monitoring of progress in policy implementation; (iv) continuing EU support for fighting corruption and economic crime; (v) improving cross-border cooperation to better protect people against organised and serious crime; (vi) stepping up support for security dialogues and cooperation, including on countering hybrid threats where appropriate; vi) promoting the peaceful settlement of the conflicts in the region while enforcing the role of women and young people in peacebuilding; and (vii) continuing cooperation with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Actions under this priority area align primarily with SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

2.2.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The three specific objectives related to the priority area are the following:

1. Support **judicial reforms, the rule of law, prevention and fight against corruption, and economic, organised and serious crime, including trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking and cybercrime**;
2. Support partners' efforts for a **modern, accountable and effective public administration**, including reliable and comparable official statistics**;**
3. **Foster security and civil protection.**

2.2.2. Expected results per specific objective

*For Specific Objective 1 (**judicial reforms, rule of law and good governance, prevention and fight against corruption, and economic, organised and serious crime, including trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking and cybercrime**):*

- Improved quality, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, independence and accountability of the judicial system, including through adoption and enforcement of constitutional and legislative frameworks for the justice systems, including prosecution services, in line with European standards as well as through effective, systematic and data-based monitoring and evaluation of justice systems including prosecution services in line with European standards;
- Reduced corruption, including high-level corruption, and support towards increased transparency, independence, effectiveness, integrity and accountability of institutional frameworks;
- Reduced economic crimes, including through improved legal and operational approach towards financial investigations, money laundering, enhanced asset recovery and greater transparency of beneficial ownership;
- Reduced organised crime including the trafficking in human beings and an improved legal and operational approach towards the detection of the victims of trafficking and increasing the number of convictions. The rights of the victims as well as their protection should be reinforced;
- Reinforced international cooperation including with both Europol and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) to fight organised crime, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, illicit drugs, firearms, and goods (notably in the framework of European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats - EMPACT), while addressing hybrid threats; reinforced cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA);

- Improved alignment with EU legal, institutional and policy frameworks on cybercrime, implementation of relevant international cooperation mechanisms to fight cybercrime and access digital evidence.

*For Specific Objective 2 (**modern, accountable and effective public administration**):*

- Increased accountability, capacity and citizen orientation of public administrations;
- Improved governance, transparency and accountability of public finances, including at subnational level;
- Improved production of reliable and internationally comparable statistical data to enable evidence-based policy making and monitoring;
- Provided capacity building for public institutions;
- Strengthened gender-responsive policy making and service delivery including gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting.

*For Specific Objective 3 (**fostering security and civil protection**):*

- Stepping up support for security dialogues and cooperation, including on countering hybrid threats where appropriate;
- Enhanced capacity to prevent, prepare, and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Increased cooperation among Eastern Partnership countries as well as between Eastern Partnership countries and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism;
- Support provided to the peaceful settlement of unresolved conflicts and improving living conditions of conflict-affected populations as well as enforcing the role of women and young people in peacebuilding.

2.2.3. Indicators

Below is a list of key indicators envisaged under this priority area, arranged by specific objective. For the full list of indicators, and details on targets and baselines, please refer to Annex 1 – Intervention Framework.

*For Specific Objective 1 (**judicial reforms, rule of law and good governance, prevention and fight against corruption, and economic, organised and serious crime, including trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking and cybercrime**):*

- Rule of law score;
- The Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment methodology introduced in EaP;
- Number of operational actions carried out under the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), as action leader, co-leader or participant;
- Number of SIENA messages exchanged with Europol and number of new cases opened;
- Number of participants in the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training activities, including within the Training and Operational Partnership against Organised Crime (TOPCOP) regional project, and number of joint investigation teams;
- Number of investigations launched in cases of trafficking of human beings, number of victims and the number of convictions. Number of training courses for law enforcement officers on specific aspects of trafficking in human beings including the detection and identification of victims and the use of technology to enhance the outcome of investigations;

- Number of countries fully implementing the Council of Europe Budapest Convention on cybercrime, as well as signing, ratifying and implementing the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention, as well as training programmes on cybercrime and electronic evidence and number of cooperation requests on cyber incidents, cybercrime and electronic evidence and cybercrime-relevant operations involving EaP countries in the framework of EMPACT.

*For Specific Objective 2 (**modern, accountable and effective public administration**):*

- Percentage of data collected in annual Eurostat data collection from Eastern Partnership countries;
- Number of training courses on evidence based policy making;
- Ranking in the Gender Inequality Index (GII).

*For Specific Objective 3 (**fostering security and civil protection**):*

- Number of EU civil and military missions where Eastern partners participate;
- Number of joint (bilateral or multilateral) civil protection exercises;
- Number of countries cooperating with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism;
- Score in Global peace index;
- Share of women's participation in all peace and security related projects.

2.2.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) guarantee and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform for blending activities for investment under EFSD+ may be used to support the above defined priorities, and to complement other implementation modalities (e.g. technical assistance, grants).

2.3. Priority area 3: Environmental and climate resilience

The European Green Deal makes it clear that environmental and climate challenges require urgent action by the EU and the partner countries. Modernising economies and trade patterns will help reducing the risk of carbon leakage. This is important given advanced economic integration between the EU and the partner countries. Decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation and pursue the aim of reaching climate neutrality by 2050 will offer multiple opportunities of growth and jobs and will increase quality of life and competitiveness. Reducing air pollution will receive special attention. Cooperation in transboundary river basins will be further strengthened. Shared action will be taken to halt biodiversity loss, deforestation, and ecosystems degradation. The EU will also help partner countries fulfil their nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement through modernising their economies and infrastructure. This will enable partner countries to reduce their carbon footprint and move towards climate neutrality and circular economy, while addressing the investment challenges of the green transition. The EU will also support the transition towards sustainable food systems in line with the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy[19]. In parallel, climate change adaptation, including disaster risk reduction, will be supported at different levels of governance, targeting potentially at risk sectors and population groups. The EU will work together with the partner countries to transform the region into fair and prosperous societies, with modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular and competitive economies, while increasing their environmental protection and climate resilience, including

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[19] COM(2020) 381 final

through more sustainable use of natural resources. This will be based on both public and private action.

Actions under this priority area align primarily with SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 15 (life on land).

2.3.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The three specific objectives related to the priority area are the following:

1. Preserve **human health, biodiversity and natural assets**;
2. Support **circular economy, decarbonisation, climate neutrality and green growth**;
3. Strengthen **energy security and nuclear safety** and stronger uptake of **renewable energy sources.**

2.3.2. Expected results per specific objective

*For specific objective 1 (**human health, biodiversity and natural assets**):*

- Improved health and wellbeing due to prevention and reduction of air, water, soil, and noise pollution – based, among others, on modernised municipal infrastructure; prevention of environmental crime and enforcement of environmental liability including by reforming and training the public administration bodies to enforce them;
- Biodiversity and natural assets preserved and restored, including through integrated river basin management, extension of protected areas and forests, land restoration, improvement of maritime management, as well as citizen science and action; deforestation and forest degradation prevented and promotion of the most biodiversity and climate-friendly forest management practices.

*For specific objective 2 (**circular economy, decarbonisation, climate neutrality and green growth**):*

- Resource productivity and circular economy promoted including through better waste management, recycling, and product and eco-innovation policies, as well as through adoption and use of Best Available Techniques (BAT) or similar norms;
- Decarbonisation promoted, including through updating and implementing the nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement, defining Low-Emission Development Strategies, finalising and implementing national and sub-national climate adaptation strategies (including disaster risk reduction), aligning sectoral policies with climate goals and ensuring the measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as launching of pilot programmes for the reconversion of mining-dependent regions and support for developing of carbon pricing; creating synergies between carbon emission reductions and addressing (air) pollution;
- National frameworks conducive to the development of sustainability-related financial instruments, both public and private, in a context where sustainable finance represents a real potential in the region and could help accelerate financial flows towards green, inclusive and resilient transitions, e.g. through green bonds and other relevant sustainable finance instruments.

*For Specific objective 3 (**energy security and nuclear safety** and stronger uptake of **renewable energy sources**):*

- Reduced energy intensity;
- Strengthened functioning of energy markets, including alignment with the Energy Community treaty, Association Agreements or the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement commitments, and European standards;
- Countries' energy-security is enhanced and their energy-mix greened;
- The highest level of nuclear safety and radiation protection, as well as sufficient transparency, is ensured in countries operating nuclear installations.

2.3.3. Indicators

Below is a list of key indicators envisaged under this priority area, arranged by specific objective. For the full list of indicators, and details on targets and baselines, please refer to Annex 1 – Intervention Framework.

*For specific objective 1 (**human health, biodiversity and natural assets**)*

- Number of additional individuals having access to safe water and sanitation services;
- Number of municipalities with improved air quality and of countries to regularly supply up to date data to the EU air quality index, as well as welfare costs of premature mortality from exposure to pollutants in ambient air (especially particulate matter PM 2.5), and the mean population exposure to particulate matter (PM 2.5);
- Number of officially approved river basin management plans developed in line with EU Water Framework Directive, as well as number of countries where water abstraction remained below 20 % of available renewable freshwater resources according to the Water Exploitation Index (WEI), and protecting at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas;
- Share of Emerald network sites with adequate management plans, as well as number of countries that extended forest areas with EU support, share of traceable timber, number of forest-dependent communities supported by the EU;
- Notifications of emissions control areas in the Black Sea.

*For specific objective 2 (**circular economy, decarbonisation, climate neutrality and green growth**)*

- Number of countries maintaining positive trends in domestic materials consumption, involved in regional policy dialogue on circular economy, that introduced and started to implement regulatory measures to reduce single use plastic, that further enhanced the use of extended producer responsibility, and that further operationalised green procurement and eco-labelling;
- Natural areas under protection and/or sustainable management with EU support, as well as number of countries assisted with reformulating, updating and implementing their National Determined Contributions, including related work, e.g. on Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, Low-Emission Development Strategies, carbon pricing, and emissions-trading systems, as well as carbon footprint- decrease of level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (per unit of gross domestic product and per capita);
- Climate and environmental policies mainstreamed into all priority sectors of the economy, as well as climate adaptation and/or disaster risk reduction strategies developed and implemented at national and sub-national levels;

- Number of sustainable urban mobility plans developed or under implementation with EU support;
- Volume of EU supported sustainable investments, including in innovative finance instruments such as green bonds.

*For specific objective 3 (**energy security and nuclear safety**):*
- Number of households with energy consumption reduced by at least 20%, as well as number of countries that apply the "Energy efficiency first" principle in sectoral policy, investment and planning decisions;
- Degree of alignment with the EU *acquis*, the Energy Community treaty, association agreement or CEPA commitments, and European standards;
- Share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix, options for renewable hydrogen generation and use investigated, volume of methane emissions;
- Volume of investments into sustainable energy infrastructure (ex. renewable energy generation installations, interconnectors, distribution grids, and heating systems) and number of bankable projects developed;
- Number of nuclear safety peer review recommendations implemented.

2.3.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) will play a critical role to scale up and mobilise significant volumes of investments to ensure the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan. Blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+ will be used to support the above defined priorities, and to complement other implementation modalities (e.g. technical assistance, grants). Priority will be given to: (1) Improved health and wellbeing including air and water quality, and water supply and sanitation infrastructure; (2) Promote better waste management and recycling; (3) Invest in sustainable energy, moving towards a more energy-efficient, energy resilient and interconnected region.

2.4. Priority area 4: Resilient digital transformation

As indicated in the Strategy on Shaping Europe's digital future, a strong digital presence in the EU's neighbourhood will enable growth and drive sustainable development. In this respect, the EU will invest further in the digital transformation of the partner countries, in line with EU legislation and best practices. Work in this area beyond 2020 will aim to extend the benefits of the Digital Single Market to the partner countries and support the full implementation of the partner countries' commitments in the Association Agreements and other bilateral agreements. Work will build on the success of the policy initiative for the Harmonisation of Digital Markets in the Eastern Partnership and the operational programmes launched under the EU4Digital brand.

Actions under this priority area are crosscutting in nature and align primarily with SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).

2.4.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The three specific objectives related to the priority area are the following:

1. Invest in **digital infrastructure** development and upgrading, including **roaming**;
2. Promote **e-Services**, supporting integration into EU Digital Single market, enhancing e-skills;

3. Align institutional, policy and legislative **cybersecurity and cyber-threat frameworks**.

2.4.2. Expected results per specific objective

For specific objective 1 (digital infrastructure, development and upgrade, including roaming):

- Increased number of households in the Eastern Partnership region with affordable access to high-speed internet, including in rural areas;
- Reduced retail prices for international roaming among Eastern Partnership countries.

For specific objective 2 (e-Services, supporting integration into EU Digital Single market, enhancing e-skills):

- Enhanced offer of on-line public services in the Eastern Partnership region through interoperable e-governance platforms;
- Increased cross-border e-Commerce, between Eastern Partnership countries and with the EU;
- Increased number of documents transferred cross-border between Eastern Partnership countries, being digitally signed;
- Digital transport corridors operational in the Eastern Partnership region;
- Digital education platform created and Eastern Partnership citizens digitally empowered.

For specific objective 3 (institutional, policy and legislative cybersecurity and cyber-threat frameworks):

- Institutional, policy and legislative cybersecurity frameworks in all Eastern Partnership countries made compatible with EU legislation and guidelines, notably the EU Directive on security of network and information systems and relevant European Union Agency for Cyber Security (ENISA) guidelines;
- Introduction of ENISA's cyber threat landscape methodology in all Eastern Partnership countries.

2.4.3. Indicators

Below is a list of key indicators envisaged under this priority area, arranged by specific objective. For the full list of indicators, and details on targets and baselines, please refer to Annex 1 – Intervention Framework.

For specific objective 1 (Investing in digital infrastructure, development and upgrade, including roaming):

- Percentage of households across the Eastern Partnership countries (Eastern Partnership region) with affordable high-speed internet connections, including fiber, fixed and mobile;
- Retail prices for international roaming among Eastern Partnership countries.

*For specific objective 2 (**Promoting e-Services, supporting integration into EU Digital Single market, enhancing e-skills**):*

- Percentage of public services available in the Eastern Partnership region through interoperable e-governance platforms;
- E-Commerce trade volume between Eastern Partnership countries and with the EU;
- Number of cross-border documents, including for trade, authenticated through mutually recognised trust services;
- Number of Eastern Partnership citizens benefitting from digital education platforms;
- Increased number of high performance digital start-ups and related high quality jobs in the Eastern Partnership countries.

*For specific objective 3 (**Aligning institutional, policy and legislative cybersecurity and cyber-threat frameworks**):*

- Average score of the Eastern Partnership countries on the Global Cyber Security Index;
- Number of Eastern Partnership countries having successfully introduced the European Union Agency for Cyber Security's (ENISA) cyber threat landscape methodology.

2.4.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) will also play a critical role to scale up and mobilise significant volumes of investments to ensure the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan. Blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+ will be used to support the above defined priorities, and to complement other implementation modalities (e.g Technical assistance, grants). Priority will be given to: (1) Develop and upgrade the infrastructure that provides access to the broadband internet (optic fibre, mobile systems), in particular in remote and rural areas; (2) Support the development of e-governance; (3) Stimulate investment in innovation and digital start-ups.

2.5. Priority area 5: Resilient, gender equal, fair and inclusive societies

Free and fair elections together with an engaged civil society, free, plural and independent media and the protection of citizens' rights are key ingredients for resilient, fair, inclusive, and democratic societies. Cooperating with the partner countries in these areas will be a key priority for the EU. Access to evidence-based information supports democratic systems and empowers people to make informed choices. Support under this heading also includes strengthening of the countries' health resilience, a renewed priority following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As addressing migration challenges is also a joint priority, the EU will continue to work with the partner countries to further enhance mobility and people-to-people contacts in a secure and well managed environment.

Actions under this priority area align primarily with SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

2.5.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The specific objectives related to the priority area are the following:

1. Strengthen **civil society** capacity and enabling environment, **youth participation**, **cultural** cooperation and **free media** environment;

2. Strengthen democracy, **gender equality**, **human rights** and **anti-discrimination**;
3. Support **health** resilience;
4. Enhance **mobility** and **people-to-people** contacts including cooperation on migration and integrated border management.

2.5.2. Expected results per specific objective

*For specific objective 1 (**civil society, youth, culture and media**):*

- Strengthened capacity of local civil society organisations as well as think tanks to meaningfully engage in policy making and dialogue, promote open civic space, foster social investment, and serve the needs of local communities;
- Enhanced participation of young people in society and economy, including through strengthened capacity and networking of Eastern Partnership National Youth Councils and other representative youth organisations to engage young people in a more structured Eastern Partnership Youth Dialogue for the development, implementation and evaluation of policies affecting their lives at local, regional and national level; strenghten the capacity of the local civil society organisations to contribute in practice at the elaboration, implementation and enforcement of the environmental and climate goals of the green transition;
- Cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue strengthened and potential of the cultural and creative industries maximised, to foster culture as an engine for socioeconomic development and growth and social development, help improve local governance in the sector and promote intercultural dialogue and knowledge exchange across the Eastern Partnership partner countries;
- An improved regulatory environment for independent, reliable and credible media, to enable and empower journalists to safely work free of influence, counter disinformation and support and promote media, information and digital literacy.

*For specific objective 2 (**democracy, gender equality, human rights, anti-discrimination**):*

- Strengthened pluralistic, inclusive, participatory and representative democracy;
- Increased gender equality and women's empowerment including by combating gender stereotypes, closing gender gaps at home and in the labour market, and by ratifying and implementing the Istanbul Convention;
- Increased respect for human rights.

*For specific objective 3 (**health resilience**):*

- Enhanced health security, including through the strengthening of national immunisation policies and more effective vaccine deployment practices and infrastructure;
- Improved health services, including through the provision of digital tools and e-health services.

*For specific objective 4 (**mobility and people-to-people contacts, reinforced cooperation on migration**):*

- Continued cooperation on and satisfactory implementation of agreements on visa facilitation and readmission;
- Continued fulfilment of relevant visa liberalisation benchmarks by Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and implementation of recommendations of the regular Visa Suspension Mechanism reports issued by the Commission;

- Balanced and mutually beneficial migration and mobility Partnerships implemented, including EU Talent Partnerships to facilitate legal migration and mobility (foreseen in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum), in line with EU and Member States' competences;
- Enhanced cooperation on irregular migration, including addressing the issue of unfounded asylum applications;
- Integrated border management and related capacities enhanced, including through increased national and international cooperation, in particular, with European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex);
- Bilateral working arrangements between relevant Eastern Partnership countries and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) renewed;
- Subject to operational needs, negotiation of status agreements with relevant Eastern Partnership countries on deploying European Border and Coast Guard teams considered and, if appropriate, commenced.

2.5.3. Indicators

Below is a list of key indicators envisaged under this priority area, arranged by specific objective. For the full list of indicators, and details on targets and baselines, please refer to Annex 1 – Intervention Framework.

*For specific objective 1 (**civil society, youth, culture and media**):*

- Number of local civil society organisations, including women's organisations, that benefit from EU-funded capacity building programmes;
- Number of Eastern Partnership countries that report improvement in at least two Civil Society Organisations Meter (CSO Meter) areas and no significant deterioration in other areas;
- Number of think tanks from partner countries actively participating in the Eastern Partnership think tanks network and providing input to Eastern Partnership policy;
- Share of young people, including young women, and disadvantaged young people, actively participating in society, as well as number of youth supported by the EU, Young European Ambassadors, media/journalists;
- Improved World Press Freedom Index and Media Sustainability Index.

*For specific objective 2 (**democracy, gender equality, human rights, anti-discrimination**):*

- Improved country scores in Global Democracy Index and country assessments in Global Freedom Scores and Democracy Scores;
- Number of countries having ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention);
- Improved ranking in the Global Gender Gap Number of victims of human right violations directly benefitting from assistance funded by the EU;
- Number of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support.

*For specific objective 3 (**health resilience**):*

- Enhanced health security, including through the strengthening of national immunisation policies and more effective vaccine deployment practices and infrastructure;
- Improved health services, including through the provision of digital tools and e-health services.

*For specific objective 4 (**mobility and people-to-people contacts, reinforced cooperation on migration**):*

- Actions taken to ensure the continuous fulfilment of the visa liberalisation benchmarks and to address the recommendations of Visa Suspension Mechanism Report;
- Country-specific quantitative indicators: number of nationals illegally staying in the EU from partner countries ordered to return and effectively returned; issuance rate of travel documents following readmission requests from Member States;
- Country-specific quantitative indicators: Number of unfounded asylum applications submitted by nationals of the Eastern Neighbourhood countries in the EU;
- Number of EU legal migration pilot projects developed with increased funds and extended geographical scope, notably via Talent Partnerships;
- Modernised network of border crossing points maintained through enhanced commitment to and integrated border management and policy dialogue in the area of integrated border management (IBM);
- Number of capacity building projects on integrated border management, including with Frontex;
- Number of renewed/ revised EaP bilateral working arrangements with Frontex;
- Further harmonization of relevant national instruments and procedures to the standards and good practices of the Technical and Operational Strategy for European IBM;
- Number of negotiations of Status Agreements concluded or commenced.

2.5.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Blending and guarantees for investment under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus may be used to support the above defined priorities, and to complement other implementation modalities (e.g. technical assistance, grants).

2.6. Activities to underpin EU regional policies

The **Black Sea Synergy** will aim at developing EU objectives in multiple fields of cooperation: developing sustainable blue and circular economy; improving environmental protection; strengthening connectivity, including digital; enhancing experts' cooperation, research and innovation, including on maritime and marine actions; increasing the civil society engagement and cultural links; addressing cross-cutting issues of green and digital transformation and alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The **Northern Dimension** aims among others to encourage sustainable development, address health and environmental concerns, increase regional connectivity and strengthen people-to-people relations, including youth and indigenous peoples, increasing the resilience of regional networks and the efficiency of regional councils, advancing synergies with EU cross-border and transnational programmes strengthening cultural links and empowering creative and cultural industries, both regionally and in relation to Russia and Belarus. Furthermore, it will reinforce the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, one of the aims of which is to dismantle nuclear hazards close to European borders.

Actions under this priority area align primarily with SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities); SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

2.6.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

The three specific objectives related to the priority area are the following:

1. A **green recovery**, including the sustainable **blue economy and environmental protection**;
2. **Connectivity**, including digital;
3. **People-to-people**, including communication, research, innovation as well as health cooperation.

2.6.2. Expected results per specific objective

*For specific objective 1 (A **green recovery**, including the sustainable blue economy and environmental protection):*

-   Improved Black Sea environmental status by: reducing pollution and marine litter; improving sustainable use of coastal and marine resources; reinforcing the protection and restoration of the ecosystem, reducing the degradation of aquatic ecosystems; increasing the valorisation of biodiversity and natural heritage;
-   Enhanced Black Sea sustainability of fisheries and activities related to small-scale fisheries and high-tech aquaculture; improved traceability and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;
-   Expanded Black Sea blue economy entrepreneurial environment by creating business hubs/labs and accelerators, uptake of R&D into the market, increasing match-making platforms, innovative maritime clusters and networks for investors, promoting circular economy processing and related valuechains;
-   Enhanced digital and/or marine scientific knowledge for the Black Sea, including on renewable energy and fisheries via regional platforms/projects;
-   Better promoted models of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism;
-   For the Northern Dimension, enhancing regional initiatives on sustainable practices in economic activity, promoting circular economy models;
-   Increased creation and sustainable management of protected areas, enhanced environmental risk management and disaster response coordination;
-   Improvements in nuclear safety in the European Arctic, as well as in toxic waste management in the Baltic Sea catchment area;
-   Significant reductions in phosphorus and nitrogen emissions to the Baltic Sea from Russia and Belarus; meaningful reductions of use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions from local heat and power generation.

*For specific objective 2 (**Connectivity, including digital**):*

-   Increased connections across the Black Sea, including multimodal transport, digitalisation of ports and infrastructures, green-shipping, eco-ports and ports as smart hubs;
-   Increased use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative to oil-derived fuels for ships in the Black Sea;
-   Better implemented International Maritime Organisation instruments in the Black Sea;
-   Improve regional connectivity in the Northern Dimension area, in particular decarbonisation of transport, traffic safety, emerging trade routes, digitalisation of transport;
-   Improved cross-border logistics and increased compatibility of relevant systems.

*For specific objective 3 (**People-to-people, including communication, research and innovation and health cooperation**):*

- Improved blue careers, skills offer and governance for the blue economy across the Black Sea, increased collaboration frameworks between industry/small and medium enterprises and educational institutions targeting blue economy careers;
- Enhanced ocean/sea literacy actions and awareness for a clean, plastic free, healthy and productive Black Sea;
- Increased youth cooperation and participation, as well as regional cultural exchanges and actions, as well as academic cooperation in the Northern Dimension context;
- Strengthened northern regional cooperation on health and social wellbeing, among others on infectious diseases, healthy aging, antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens and cancer, as well as social inequalities.

2.6.3. Indicators

*For specific objective 1 (**A green recovery, including the sustainable blue economy and environmental protection**):*

- Amount of marine litter collected and treated; number of studies/analyses and projects supporting an improved Black Sea environmental status; number of studies/analysis on basic ocean/sea observations;
- The increased percentage rate of SMEs/ start up benefitting from new/improved investment tools and R&D uptake; number of blue economy entrepreneurial networks/clusters;
- Increased percentage of natural or/and man-made disasters forecasted and prevented;
- The increased percentage rate of innovative maritime technologies and IT monitoring tools; stakeholders' involvement and satisfaction (survey);
- Completion of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership nuclear safety project in Andreeva Bay, removal of spent nuclear fuel containers;
- Successful execution of project facilitating the lifting of the contaminated K-159 and K-27 submarines from the Arctic seabed;
- Addressing the Krasnyi Bor toxic waste site;
- Completion of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership wastewater treatment projects in the Baltic and Barents region;
- Conduction of new relevant projects to limit eutrophication in the region;
- Completion of existing and future Black Carbon mitigation projects in north-west Russia.

*For specific objective 2 (**Connectivity, including digital**):*

- Increased number of direct maritime transport routes between EU and non-EU Black Sea ports;
- Number/type of pipeline of projects on digitalised and green maritime transports, eco-ports/ports-hubs;Number and quality of partnership and Northern Dimension Institute events, studies and publications;
- Number of successfully executed projects addressing regional connectivity issues, in particular decarbonisation of transport, traffic safety, emerging trade routes, digitalisation of transport and transport education.

*For specific objective 3 (**People-to-people, including communication, research and innovation and health cooperation**):*

- Number of new vocational, educational and training programmes targeting blue and green careers and skills;
- Number of initiatives of ocean literacy and awareness raising campaigns;
- Increased number of collaborative cultural and youth activities with regional councils (Council of the Baltic Sea states and Barents Euro-Arctic Council in particular);
- Updated and more widely and more frequently viewed visual and online presence of Northern dimension cooperation, partnerships and structures;
- Increased number and quality of briefings and other material, as well as courses and events produced by Northern Dimension Institute in cooperation with other structures.

2.7. Proposals of regional Team Europe Initiatives

The below proposals are indicative and subject to further discussion and consultations with EU Member States and EU Financial Institutions. The EU's indicative contribution to this TEI is subject to the confirmation of the Team Europe partners' indicative meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the absence thereof, the EU's indicative contribution may be redirected in accordance with the priority areas of the MIP and their allocations. The obligation of the Union and the Member States to coordinate their development policies following initiatives by the Commission to this effect, as per article 210 TFEU, always applies.

Team Europe Initiative on Health

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU, as part of the Team Europe approach, rapidly mobilised a support package to the Eastern Partnership of close to EUR 1 billion to support partner countries address the immediate (health) impact of the pandemic as well as its longer-term consequences. This included key support for critical health care facilities and health workers, such as procurement of personal protective equipment and means to detect and treat the disease. The Team Europe approach in the health sector was working well in several partner countries, where for instance emergency medical teams (often with support from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism) complemented critical equipment and technical assistance provided by the EU to the health sector. As we are entering the next phase of the pandemic, support to vaccines and more broadly on strengthening health resilience could be an interesting area to team up between EU and Member States in order to maximise impact and visibility. In the domain of vaccine preparedness and deployment, the European Commission announced vaccination technical support for Eastern Partnership countries in response to calls for action from the partner countries and EU Member States. A multi-country action was formulated to enable rapid and effective COVID-19 vaccination and strengthen countries' immunisation systems in the longer-term. Building on the ongoing "EU Solidarity for Health Initiative", this action will prepare the partner countries for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines with a focus on those received from COVAX and through vaccine sharing or resell by EU Member States. Based on this work and EU Member States' plans for COVID-19 vaccine sharing (either through reselling or donating), a regional Team Europe Initiative in which EU and Member States could complement and reinforce their engagement with partner countries could well be envisaged.

Team Europe Initiative on [Water and] Zero Pollution

Cross-border environmental management is an area where the EU and several Member States have been successfully working together to support partner countries bringing their legislation closer to EU policy in the field of pollution regulation across several media, in particular

focussing on trans-boundary river basins. For instance, the EU and several Member States have supported the development and implementation of pilot river basin management plans, building on the improved policy framework and ensuring a strong participation of local stakeholders. Moving towards a toxic-free environment for all citizens is an area with a strong interest from partner countries, clear added value and expertise of several EU Member States and EU (Member States) Development Finance Institutions. It has good potential to bring together different initiatives and concrete results under one single Team Europe heading, therefore adding EU impact and visibility. Initially, the focus of this regional Team Europe Initiative will be on water and health, especially water supply and sanitation, management of transboundary river basins, air quality, and environmental monitoring and information.

Team Europe Initiative on Youth

The Joint Communication on the future of the Eastern Partnership foresees a new deal for youth, emphasising the importance to invest in the employability and engagement of youth in economy and society. This Team Europe Initiative could bring together several strands of work under the New Deal for Youth. This includes, mobility schemes where well-established established EU schemes such as the Erasmus+ program could be complemented by similar EU Member States' mobility schemes adding clear value, impact and visibility to the EU's engagement in this domain. In the same vein, EU practices in the area of youth, such as the Youth Dialogue inside the EU and linked to the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 or the Youth Guarantee and the European Alliance of Apprenticeship inside the EU could serve as a source of inspiration for similar actions in the Eastern Partnership.

3. Support measures

3.1. Measures in favour of civil society

An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and contributes to the democratic and economic transformation of the partner countries. Engaging with civil society has been critical in ensuring effective reforms and the EU support plays a key role enabling it. As part of the new strategic approach to civil society in the partner countries, the EU has established framework partnership agreements with key civil society organisations to channel support more effectively and increase impact. Building on innovative actions and engagement to date, further support will be provided to civil society organisations across the region, particularly grass root organisations, in view of building stronger democracies, improving accountability of public authorities and overall policy, and economic and social development. Increased re-granting through strategic framework partners should further increase outreach in the East, including by organisations that operate in the local languages and women's organisations. We will build upon the leadership skills of civil society activists, and engage with social partners. Social innovation and social entrepreneurship will also be supported. Working with the partner countries to promote an enabling environment for civil society through the implementation of favourable regulatory frameworks in line with international standards will be key. The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum will remain a key partner in advancing the role of civil society in policy dialogue. Core support to civil society, including capacity building assistance and support to strengthen the civil society organisations' enabling environment, is also included under Priority area 5: Resilient, fair and inclusive society, while civil society engagement is mainstreamed throughout all sectors. The EU will also more systematically engage with think tanks in a structured policy dialogue on the Eastern Partnership and the implementation of its priorities.

Moreover, civil society initiatives including youth actions and platforms will also be further supported in the Black Sea, particularly through the Black Sea NGOs Forum. A special focus will be given to strengthening Black Sea civil society resilience and long-term sustainability. Lastly, incorporating civil society empowerment and public engagement into projects supported by Northern Dimension funding is envisaged as well as promoting youth initiatives, exchanges and participation in decision-making in the framework of northern regional organisations.

3.2. Cross-regional support measures

Support for the cross-regional dimension may include:

- Supporting policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders;
- Facilitating coordination of Team Europe approach at country level;
- Financing communication including strategic communication and fight against disinformation and visibility actions on EU cooperation and public diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda in the partner country;
- Supporting the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the Union's cooperation, including via technical assistance, in particular exchanges of public sector expertise through TAIEX, both for demand-driven requests as well as for strategic priorities of the Union;
- Cooperation and interaction with international and regional organisations active in the Black Sea, in particular the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean;
- Cooperation and interaction with international and regional organisations active in the Baltic and Barents regions, such as the Helsinki Commission for the Baltic Sea (HELCOM), the World Health Organisation Regional office for Europe, the Baltic Sea States Sub-Regional Cooperation, the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

The **Black Sea Synergy** will aim at developing EU objectives in multiple fields of cooperation: developing sustainable blue and circular economy; improving environmental protection; strengthening connectivity, including digital; enhancing experts' cooperation, research and innovation, including on maritime and marine actions; increasing the civil society engagement and cultural links; addressing cross-cutting issues of green and digital transformation and alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **Northern Dimension** aims among others to encourage sustainable development, address health and environmental concerns, increase regional connectivity and strengthen people-to-people relations, including youth and indigenous peoples, increasing the resilience of regional networks and the efficiency of regional councils, advancing synergies with EU cross-border and transnational programmes strengthening cultural links and empowering creative and cultural industries, both regionally and in relation to Russia and Belarus. Furthermore, it will reinforce the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership, one of the aims of which is to dismantle nuclear hazards close to European borders.

4. **Support to investments under the EFSD+**

The Multi Annual Indicative Programme will continue supporting the legacy programmes of the European Fund for Sustainable Development and the External Lending Mandate of the European Investment Bank targeting Eastern Partnership countries[20].

In addition, the Programme will extend guarantees under the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), to reduce the cost of financing for both public and private investments and to reduce the risks for investors. This guarantee support will complement blending activities and is expected to mobilise investments (sovereign, sub sovereign and private sector) along the following orientations:

- Investments in sustainable transport connectivity will strengthen core transport links, with a focus on the extension of the Trans-European Transport Network.
- Investments in innovative and competitive economies will facilitate access to finance for small and medium enterprises, support their integration into wider EU value chains.
- Investment in sustainable energy will support Eastern Partnership countries moving towards a more energy-efficient, energy resilient and interconnected continent.
- Investments in environmental and climate resilience will participate in modernisation of water supply and sanitation, improvement of municipal services including air quality and green urban areas, help restore degraded land and improve forest management, and speed up circular economy uptake.
- Investments in the digital transformation will focus on developing infrastructure that provides access to broadband internet, on supporting the development of public e-services available through inter operable platforms, and on incubating and accelerating start-ups.
- Investments in resilient heath will focus on modernising hospitals and local health centres to enhance citizens' protection against communicable and non-communicable diseases, and on strengthening national immunisation policies and vaccine deployment practices.
- Investment in people and knowledge societies will focus on education reform (including primary education, vocational education and training and life-long learning), and development of research and innovation systems.

The EFSD+ will play a critical role to scale up and mobilise significant volumes of investments. Synergies can also be sought with other financial tools offered by Member States, such as export credits, investment guarantees, et cetera. EU support will reflect the EU's conditionality principle. It will influence structural reforms, particularly in the rule of law, justice reform and anti-corruption sectors, in order to unlock the sustainable economic recovery of the country.

Indicative allocation for EFSD+ guarantee provisioning and blending is included in section 6.

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[20] In particular, the Neighbourhood envelope will cover the necessary provisioning for the "legacy" External Lending Mandate of the EIB for the period 2014-21. In accordance with Article 31.8 of the NDICI – Global Europe Regulation, the provisioning of guarantees previously backed by the Guarantee Fund for External Actions shall continue to follow the methodology that was set out in Regulation (EU) 480/2009. That methodology requires annual ex post replenishments to be made in favour of the provisioning fund in order to keep the provisioning at 9% of outstanding disbursed exposure for the portfolio in question. These replenishments will be calculated annually on the basis on the actual evolution of the outstanding disbursed portfolio under the ELM 2014-21. The same mechanism will apply to provisioning for EU Macro-Financial Assistance loans extended to Neighbourhood countries in 2014-20. This also means that amounts of legacy ELM and MFA provisioning mentioned in the Financial overview below are only indicative and subject to annual adjustments. Possible increases or decreases in the amounts of "legacy" provisioning compared to those indicated below may need to be traded off with provisioning of EFSD+ guarantees and Macro Financial Assistance for the 2021-27 period.

5. **Macro Financial Assistance**

The Multi Annual Indicative Programme will set aside provisioning for possible macro-financial assistance (MFA) to Eastern Partnership countries experiencing a balance of payments crisis, while supporting reforms in those countries.

This assistance will take the form of loans or grants, or a combination of these. It will remain exceptional in nature and will mobilised on a case-by-case basis to help countries dealing with serious balance-of-payments difficulties. Its objective is to restore a sustainable external financial situation, while encouraging economic adjustments and structural reforms. The disbursement of MFA funds is subject to the fulfilment of the political pre-condition - respect of human rights and effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system and the rule of law. MFA is also conditional on the existence of a non-precautionary credit arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a satisfactory track-record of implementing IMF programme reforms. MFA funds are released in tranches strictly tied to the fulfilment of conditions aimed at strengthening macro-economic and financial stability, including by supporting structural reforms.

Financial overview

The table below provides indicative allocations/percentages to the different priority areas and support measures (in million euros).

Priority areas	*Indicative Amounts (EUR million)*	*Indicative % of total allocations*
Priority area 1: Resilient, sustainable and integrated economies	*EUR 126.44*	*20%*
Priority area 2: Accountable institutions, the rule of law, and security	*EUR 94.83*	*15%*
Priority area 3: Environmental and climate resilience	*EUR 126.44*	*20%*
Priority area 4: Resilient digital transformation	*EUR 63.22*	*10%*
Priority area 5: Resilient, fair and inclusive societies	*EUR 126.44*	*20%*
Priority area 6 Activities to underpin EU regional policies and Support measures (covering both measures for Civil society and the Cooperation Facility)	*EUR 94.83*	*15%*
TOTAL for initial period[21]	*EUR 632.24*	*100%*

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[21] The initial period covers 2021-2024. To note that the amounts cover both blending and regional programmes. The indicated percentages related primarily to the regional programmes.

In addition, an allocation of EUR 929.88 million is foreseen to support deployment of budgetary guarantees in the Eastern Neighbourhood:

Provisioning of EFSD+ guarantee and Macro Financial Assistance	EUR 803.12 million
Provisioning of Macro Financial Assistance loan dating from 2014-2020	EUR 51.93 million
Provisioning of the legacy External Lending Mandate of the European Investment Bank legacy (2014-2020)	EUR 50.83 million
Technical Assistance programme	EUR 24 million
Total	**EUR 929.88 million**

Attachments

   1.   Intervention framework (Attachment 1)

Attachment 1. Intervention framework

Priority area 1: Resilient, sustainable and integrated economies

Specific objective 1: Strengthen **economic, small and medium enterprises** and **trade development**

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Increased intra-EaP and EU-EaP trade and deepened economic integration	A1) EU/EaP Trade in million EUR; A2) intra-EaP trade; A3) Application of international customs and payment standards; A4) number of structured reform facility recommendations implemented;	A1) Target: Percentage increase compared to 2019 A2) Target: Percentage increase compared to 2019 A3) 2020: 0 Target: >3 countries A4) will be defined following the launch of the structural reform facility phase III	National statistical services, Eurostat, international data providers Relevant standard authority reports Programme reports Eurostat COMEX database
B) Increased number of start-ups and SMEs, (including women-led SMEs) and SME contribution to employment and GDP	B1) Number of EU-supported SMEs (including women-led SMEs); B2) Number of jobs provided by EU-supported SMEs; B3) Number of SMEs in the EaP; B4) SME contribution to GDP and employment; B5) unemployment rate; B6) Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises applying Sustainable Consumption and Production practices with EU support	B1) 2019: 79 000 SMEs Target: 500 000 (or 20% of all SMEs in the region) B2) 2019: 670 000 Target: 1 000 000 B3) 2019: 2.5 million Target: >2.5 million B4) increased compared to 2020 [baseline to be evaluated by EU4BusinessFacility] B5) Target: reduce unemployment by 20% compared to 2019 B6) Target: 10% of supported SMEs apply sustainable consumption and production	Programme reports and national statistics SME Policy Index National Statistics Programme and project reports (including from IFIs); reporting on SDGs from partner countries; surveys
C) Economic growth opportunities outside capital cities further developed	C1) Number of Local Authorities benefitting from EU support; C2) Economic growth outside the capital cities;	C1) 2020: 253 local authorities Target: >300 C2) increased compared to 2019 [baseline to be evaluated by M4EG programme]	Programme reports National statistics

Specific objective 2: Support **transport and connectivity** *(including for the Black Sea)*

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Improved transport infrastructure	A1) km of priority roads and railways built or upgraded in line with EU standards; A2) TEN-T financing of investment committed;	A1) 2020: 560 km Target: 3 000 km A2) 2020: 62% Target: 100%	World Bank reports

B) Advanced implementation of the Common Aviation Area Agreements with Georgia and Moldova, implementation of agreements with Ukraine and Armenia and conclusion of negotiations with Azerbaijan	B1) signed common aviation agreements;	B1) 2020: 2 agreements signed; 2 negotiations completed pending signature; 1 negotiation still on-going Target: 5 signed agreements	Official Journal/EUR-lex
C) Improved transport safety	C1) EaP Partner countries competent, national authorities cooperating in aviation safety oversight;	C1) 2020: 5 Target: maintain enhanced cooperation of at least 5 EaP Partner countries	Official Journal/EUR-lex
	C2) EaP Declaration on road safety implemented, including establishing the road safety observatory;	C2) 2020: partially implemented. Target: Full implementation of the EaP Declaration on road safety	EASA reports World Bank reports WHO reports
	C3) Reduced annual road fatalities across the EaP in line with the 2030 reduction target;	C3) Baseline: 2019 WHO validated data on road fatalities Target: reduction of road fatalities in line with the 50% target by 2030	
	C4) Enhanced maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection capabilities of the competent national authorities;	C4) Baseline: 2020 Target: enhanced cooperation with at least 3 EaP countries	
	C5) EaP Partner countries benefitting from EGNOS;	C5) 2020: 0 Target: 6 EaP Partner countries benefitting from EGNOS	

Specific objective 3: Invest in **human capital and knowledge societies**

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Enhanced quality, relevance, innovativeness and inclusiveness of education systems at all levels of education and training	A1) Improvement in basic skills achievement aiming at reaching EU wide target of less than 15% of 15-year-olds underachieving in reading, mathematics and science (Pisa indicators);	A1) Baseline: PISA 2018 results for AZ (Baku), BY, GE, MD, UA Target: less than 15% of 15-year-olds	OECD Pisa 2025 results report EaP National statistics DG EAC, EACEA, SALTO, DG NEAR reporting
	A2) number of mobilities in Erasmus+, EU4Youth, European Solidarity Corps, Horizon Europe and other EU-funded non-formal learning and volunteering opportunities;	A2) 2020: 28 500 academic exchange opportunities for EaP students, staff and researchers; 60 000 youth learning and mobility opportunities for EaP youth and youth workers Target: to increase	
B) Better skills matching the labour market needs, increased decent	B1) % of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET);	B1) Baseline: 2020 Target: to decrease B2) Baseline: 2020	B1) ETF reports, national statistics

employment and employment opportunities	B2) Youth unemployment rate; B3) Cross-sector multi-stakeholder partnerships for policy dialogue and coordination on youth employment are piloted in three or more partner countries;	Target: to decrease B3) 2020: 0 Target: 3+	B2) ETF reports, national statistics B3) EU4Youth project reports
C) Strengthened innovation capacity	C1) number of supported researchers/research staff and number of participating organisations under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA);	C1) 2020: EAST entities have participated 143 times in MSCA actions; a total of 962 researchers of EAST nationality have participated in MSCA action under Horizon 2020 Target: to further increase EaP participation in the MSCA	C1) MSC programme statistics
	C2) Policy recommendations and implemented national R&I Strategies increased;	C2) 2020: the baseline shall be the existing PSF recommendations of the PSF Horizon 2020 reports for those EaP countries who have requested (this applies only to EaP countries associated to Horizon 2020) Target: implementation of all existing PSF recommendations	C2) ERA country reports, Joint Committees under Horizon Europe reports, JRC, EU Delegations reports etc.
	C3) score of the Global Innovation Index;	C3) 2020 score: Armenia: 32.6 Azerbaijan: 27.2 Belarus: 31.3 Georgia: 31.8 Moldova: 33 Ukraine : 36.3 Target: +3 in score	C3) Global Innovation Index
	C4) Increased participation in Horizon Europe;	C4) successful participants 2020: Armenia: 42 Azerbaijan: 12 Belarus: 50 Georgia: 53 Moldova: 87 Ukraine: 286 *Total: 530* Target: 700	C4) Horizon Europe reports
	C5) number of countries having adopted Smart Specialisation Strategies and started implementation;	C5) 2020: 0 Target: >5	C5) CORDA (Common Research Data Warehouse Horizon 2020)
	C6) Number of Technology Transfer Roadmaps developed;	C6) 2020: 0 Target: >2	C6) JRC

Priority area 2: Accountable institutions, the rule of law and security

Specific objective 1: Support **judicial reforms, the rule of law, prevention and fight against corruption, and economic, organised and serious crime, including trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, firearms trafficking and cyber crime**

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Improved quality, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, independence and accountability of the judicial systems	A1) Rule of Law score; A2) World Justice Project Rule of Law Index; A3) Council of Europe assessment reports; A4) CEPEJ evaluation reports; A5) OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN) monitoring; A6) Open Government Partnership evaluations;	A1- A6) 2020: to be assessed per country through interim results of ongoing projects / reports Target: improvement	Venice Commission reports EU funded projects' reports EU annual progress reports CEPEJ evaluation cycle report Reports of international organisations Justice Dashboard World Bank World Wide Governance Indicators
B) Reduced corruption, including high-level corruption	B1) Rule of Law score; B2) World Justice Project Rule of Law Index; B3) Council of Europe assessment reports; B4) share of implemented GRECO recommendations on fight against high level corruption; B5) relevant World Bank PEFA indicators; B6) OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN) monitoring; B7) Open Government Partnership evaluations;	B1-B7) 2020: to be assessed per country through interim results of ongoing projects/reports Target: to be in place in 6 countries	EU funded projects' reports GRECO monitoring Rule of Law Index Rule of Law Score PEFA reports
C) Reduced economic crimes, including through improved legal and operational approach towards financial investigations, rescued money laundering, enhanced asset recovery and greater transparency of beneficial ownership	C1) Rule of Law score; C2) World Justice Project Rule of Law Index; C3) share of MONEYVAL recommendations implemented; C4) share of GRECO recommendations implemented; C5) number of freezing and confiscation orders executed; C6) value of criminal assets confiscated;	C1-C4) 2020: to be assessed per country through interim results of ongoing projects Target: in place in 6 countries C5) 2020: baseline to be determined by interim results of ongoing projects Target: improvement C6) 2020: baseline to be determined by interim results of ongoing projects Target: improvement	International organisations and project reports Rule of Law index Rule of Law score GRECO monitoring MONEYVAL reports

D) Reinforced international cooperation including with both Europol and CEPOL to fight organised crime, trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants, illicit drugs, firearms and goods (notably in the framework of EMPACT), while addressing hybrid threats	D1) The Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment methodology introduced in EaP;	D1) 2020: N/A Target: EaP Threat assessment developed and regularly updated	D1) Published threat assessment for the Eastern Partnership
	D2) Number of joint operational actions carried out under the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), as action leader, co-leader or participant;	D2): 2020: 12 operational actions Target: 30 operational actions	D2) EMPACT reports / EMPACT Support Team at Europol (follow-up of involvement of EMPACT stakeholders in the various Operational Action Plans – OAPs)
	D3) Number of SIENA messages exchanged with Europol and number of new cases opened;	D3) 2020	D3) Europol
	D4) Number of participants in CEPOL training activities, including within the TOPCOP regional project;	D4) 2020: N/A Target: 1500	D4) CEPOL reports, Project reports
	D5) Number of joint investigation teams;	D5) 2020: baseline to be determined by interim results of ongoing projects Target: improvement	D5) Europol reports, Project reports
	D6) Number of investigations launched in cases of trafficking of human beings, number of victims and the number of convictions. Number of training courses for law enforcement officers on specific aspects of trafficking in human beings including the detection and identification of victims and the use of technology to enhance the outcome of investigations.	D6:2020	D6) project reports
E) Improved alignment with EU legal, institutional and policy frameworks on cybercrime, implementation of relevant international cooperation mechanisms to fight cybercrime and access digital evidence.	E1) number of countries fully implementing the Council of Europe Budapest Convention on cybercrime;	E1) 2020: to be assessed by ongoing projects Target: 6 countries	International organisations (e.g. Council of Europe) Project reports
	E2) training programmes on cybercrime and electronic evidence;	E2) 2020: All 6 partner countries benefit from dedicated training Target: training at least 500 investigators and police officers and 300 members of the judicial authorities	
	E3) Number of cooperation requests on cyber incidents, cybercrime and electronic evidence;	E3) 2020: baseline to be determined by interim results of ongoing projects Target: improvement	

Specific objective 2: Support partners' efforts for a **modern, accountable and effective public administration,** including reliable and comparable statistics			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Increased accountability, capacity and citizen orientation of public administrations	A1) Policy planning and co-ordination improved;	A1) 2020: GE: 2; AM: 3,25; UA: 3,5 Target: improvement in all measured countries	OECD-SIGMA baseline measurement reports (not AZ, BY) World Bank World Wide Governance Indicators (government effectiveness, regulatory quality)
	A2) Public Service and HR Management improved;	A2) 2020: AM: 1,5; UA: 3,5 Target: improvement in all measured countries	
	A3) Public Administration Accountability improved;	A3) 2020: AM: 2,8; UA: 2,8 Target: improvement in all measured countries	
	A4) Public Service Delivery improved;	A4) 2020: UA: 1,5; AM: 2,5 Target: improvement in all measured countries	
B) Improved governance, transparency and accountability of public finances, including at subnational level	B1) Improved performance in legislative scrutiny of audit reports (PI-31);	B1) 2020: performance in legislative scrutiny of audit reports (PI-31); GE: D ; BY: D ; AM: D ; MD: C ; UA: C ;AZ: B Target: improved average score across the region	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) assessments
	B2) Improved monitoring and costing of public investment (PI-11);	B2) 2020: monitoring and costing of public investment (PI-11); BY: D ;UA: D ; GE: C ; AZ: C ; AM: B ; MD: A Target: Improved average score across the region	
	B3) Improved procurement (PI-24);	B3) 2020: procurement (PI-24); BY: D ; AM: B ; AZ: B ; GE: B ; MD: B ; UA: A Target: improved average score across the region	
	B4) Improved fiscal risk reporting (PI-10);	B4) Fiscal risk reporting (PI-10); AM: D ; BY: C ; GE: C ; UA: C ; AZ: A ; MD: A Target: improved average score across the region	
C) Improved production of reliable and internationally comparable statistical data to enable evidence-based policy making and monitoring	C1) % of data collected in annual Eurostat data collection from EaP countries;	C1) Baseline: data received in the annual Eurostat data collection in 2019 round Target: improvement	ESTAT
D) Provided capacity building for public institutions	D1) Extension of the "Science meets Regions" (SmR) approach to the Eastern Partnership;	D1) 2021: The assessment of the feasibility of extending the SmR approach to Georgia and of implementing the pilot action in 2021 Target: >5	JRC

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
E) Strengthened gender-responsive policy making and service delivery including gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting	E1) Comprehensive gender-responsive PFM (GRPFM) baseline assessment (9 Performance Indicators) published, and subsequent action plans implemented; E2) Ranking in the Gender Inequality Index (GII);	E1) 2020: No GRPFM published in EaP countries. Target: GRPFM-based Action Plans published and implemented in at least 4 countries. E2) 2019: Armenia: 54 Azerbaijan: 73 Belarus: 31 Georgia: 76 Rep. of Moldova: 46 Ukraine: 52 Target: Increased ranking, all 6 countries	E1) Gender-responsive PFM: PEFA assessments and Action Plan progress reports. E2) Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Specific objective 3: Foster **security and civil protection**			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Stepping up support for security dialogues and cooperation, including on countering hybrid threats where appropriate	A1) Number of EU civil and military missions where Eastern partners participate;	A1) 2020: 2 (EUTM RCA and EUTM Mali) Target:-increased contribution	EU reporting
B) Enhanced capacity to prevent, prepare, and respond to natural and man-made disasters. Increased cooperation among EaP countries as well as between EaP countries and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism	B1) Number of joint (bilateral or multilateral) civil protection exercises; B2) Number of countries cooperating with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism;	B1) 2020:1 (EU Moldex in 2017) ; Target: 3 B2) 2020: 6 Target: 6 (maintaining cooperation)	Project reports, ECHO Reporting by the partner countries
C1) Support provided to the peaceful settlement of unresolved conflicts and improving living conditions of conflict-affected populations as well as enforcing the role of women in peacebuilding	C1) Score in Global peace index; C2) Share of women's participation in all peace and security related projects;	C1) 2020: EaP regional average 2.194/5 Target: improved score C2) Baseline: to be assessed Target: at least 33%	Global Peace Index Project reports GAP III monitoring reports

<div style="background-color:green; text-align:center">Priority area 3: Environmental and climate resilience</div>

Specific Objective 1: Preserve **human health, biodiversity and natural assets**			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	
A) Improved health and wellbeing due to prevention and reduction of air, water, soil, and noise pollution – based, among others, on modernised municipal infrastructure; prevention of environmental crime and enforcement of environmental liability including by reforming and training the public	A1) Number of additional individuals with access to safe water and sanitation services with EU support; A2) Number of cities/municipalities that improved air quality with EU support; A3) Number of countries regularly supplying	A1) 2020: 0 Target: 3 million A2) 2020: 80 Target: 300 municipalities A3) 2020: 0 Target: 3 countries	Project reporting SDG reporting (SDG 6.1.1 and SDG 6.2.1) WHO database European Air Quality Index National statistical reporting

administration bodies to enforce them.	on-line data to the European Air Quality Index; A4) Welfare costs of premature mortality from exposure to ambient PM2.5; A5) Mean population exposure to PM2.5;	A4) 2020: >4% of GDP, country specific Target: <4% of GDP or lower, reduced gap with EU average welfare costs A5) 2020: >18mkg/m2, country specific Target: <18 mkg/m3	
B) Biodiversity and natural assets preserved and restored, including through integrated river basin management, extension of protected areas and forests, land restoration, improvement of maritime management, as well as citizen science and action; deforestation and forest degradation prevented and promotion of the most biodiversity and climate-friendly forest management practices..	B1) Number of officially approved river basin management plans developed in line with EU Water Framework Directive; B2) Number of countries where water abstraction remained below 20 % of available renewable freshwater resources; B3) Number of countries protecting at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas; B4) Share of Emerald network sites with adequate management plans; B5) Number of countries that extended forest areas with EU support; B6) Share of traceable timber; B7) Number of additional forest-dependent communities supported by the EU; B8) % population reached through environmental information campaigns; B9) Notification of emissions control area;	B1) 2020: 3 Target: All river basin management plans in Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine B2) 2020: 4 Target: 4 B3)2020: 0 Target : 3 B4)2020: 0% Target : 50% B5) 2020: N/A Target : At least 3 countries B6) 2020: N/A Target : At least 80% B7) 2020: 0 Target: at least 30 B8)2020: 10% Target: 50% B9) 2020: 0 Target: Black Sea emissions control area notified	Project reporting National statistics Reporting to the UNECE Water Convention Bern Convention reporting

Specific objective 2: Support **circular economy, decarbonisation, climate neutrality and green growth**			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Circular economy promoted	A1) Number of countries maintaining positive trends in domestic materials consumption; 	A1) 2020: 6 Target: 6 A2) 2020: 6	Country statistics

	A2) Number of countries involved in regional policy dialogue on circular economy;	Target: 6	
	A3) Number of additional countries that introduced and started to implement regulatory measures to reduce single use plastic;	A3) 2020: 0 Target: 2	
	A4) Number of countries that further enhanced the use of extended producer responsibility;	A4) 2020: 0 Target: 6	
	A5) Number of countries that further operationalised green procurement and eco-labelling;	A5) 2020: 0 Target: 3	
B) Decarbonisation promoted	B1) Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and Low-Emission Development Strategies (LEDs) developed, updated and implemented;	B1) 2020: 3 countries submitted an updated NDC to UNFCCC; Target: 6 countries submitted updated NDCs to UNFCCC; implementation on track	UFCCC reporting Reporting by the partnership countries EU reporting
	B2) Monitoring and verification (MRV) systems developed and operational, and carbon pricing tools introduced;	B2) 2020: MRV systems and carbon pricing tools are being developed; Target: MRV systems in place for all 6 countries, pilot actions for carbon pricing tools tested in at least two countries	Project reporting CSO reporting Surveys
	B3) Decrease of level of GHG emissions (per unit of GDP and per capita);	B3) Baseline: 2020 Target: emissions reduced in line with national commitments under the Paris Agreement;	
	B4) Climate and environmental policies mainstreamed into all priority sectors of the economy;	B4) 2020: integration of climate and environmental policies in sectoral policies is underway Target: climate and environmental policies mainstreamed in priority sectors (e.g. energy, waste and agriculture) across all 6 countries	
	B5) Climate adaptation, and/or disaster risk reduction strategies developed and implemented at national and sub-national levels;	B5) 2020: adaptation planning insufficiently developed at the national, and sub-national levels Target: adaptation plans developed on the national level and to a higher degree on the sub-national level	

	B6) Number of sustainable urban and mobility plans launched and under implementation;	B6) Baseline: 2020 Target: ongoing implementation of 5 sustainable urban mobility plans in all six EaP countries	
	B7) % population reached through climate awareness campaigns;	B7) 2020: moderate awareness of climate and environmental issues, low level of concrete initiatives to improve awareness;] Target: at least 50% of the population reached, increased level of awareness among citizens and policymakers, an increase in concrete initiatives to reduce emissions	
C) National frameworks conducive to the development of sustainability-related financial instruments both public and private, e.g. green bonds and other relevant sustainable finance instruments	C1) Volume of investments, including via sustainability-related financial instruments ie.g. green bonds and other relevant sustainable finance instruments;	C1) Baseline: 2020 level of investments; green bonds under development Target: increase	IFI reporting Project reporting EU reporting
	C2) Systematic use of environmental assessments;	C2) 2020: environmental assessments are not systematically in use Target: environmental assessments are systematically carried out in relation to investments in line with EU standards	

Specific objective 3: Strengthen **energy security and nuclear safety** and stronger uptake of **renewable energy sources**			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Reduced energy intensity	A1) number of households that reduce their energy consumption by at least 20% through energy efficiency measures;	A1) 2020: high energy consumption in residential buildings, outdated building stock Target: > 250 000 households	Project reports EU Assessment reports IFIs reporting
	A2) Number of countries that apply the "Energy efficiency first" principle in sectoral policy, investment and planning decisions;	A2) 2020: 0 Target: 4 countries	
B) Strengthened functioning of energy markets	B1) Degree of alignment with the EU *acquis*, the Energy Community treaty, association agreement or CEPA commitments, and European standards;	B1) Baseline: 2020 levels of alignment with applicable legislation Target: Alignment with at least 90% of legislation, EU standards and best practice, as applicable to each partnership country	EU Assessment reports Energy Community reports International databases, notably the International Energy Agency
	B2) Strengthened Policy-making on energy sector	B2) 2020: Energy policy partially based on the sound	

		collection, use and management of data Target: all partnership countries' Energy policy is based on the sound collection, use and management of data	
	B3) Availability, quality, use and management of energy data;	B3) Baseline: 2020 data Target: quality and availability of energy data increased	
C) Countries' energy security is enhanced and their energy-mix is greened	C1) Increase the share of renewable energy sources in the energy mix by 10 percentage points in all six countries, taking into account the national final or intermediary targets on an increased use of renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, thermal and environmentally-friendly biofuel), as set by each partnership country;	C1) Baseline: 2020 levels of renewable energy sources as reported by each country Target: Increase the proportion of renewable energy sources in the energy mix by 10 percentage points in all six countries	Project reports EU Assessment reports International databases (notably those of the IEA) IFI reporting
	C2) Options for renewable hydrogen generation and use investigated;	C2) 2020: Potential for renewable hydrogen in the region not well explored Target: Options for renewable hydrogen generation and use investigated.	
	C3) Methane emissions reduced throughout the whole energy value chain;	C3) Baseline: 2020 levels of methane emissions, as reported by each country Target: Positive trend in methane emissions reduction in all 6 countries	
	C4) Volume of investments into sustainable energy infrastructure;	C4) Baseline: 2020 levels of investment flows Target: positive trend in investment flows	
D) The highest level of nuclear safety and radiation protection is ensured	D1) Number of nuclear safety peer review recommendations implemented;	D1) 2020: ENSREG and IAEA peer review recommendations not fully implemented Target: all peer review recommendations implemented, and regular peer reviews conducted to ensure compliance	ENSREG reports IAEA reports EU reporting

Priority area 4: Resilient digital transformations

Specific objective 1: Invest in **digital infrastructure** development and upgrade, including **roaming**			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**

A) Increased number of households with affordable access to high-speed internet	A1) % of household with access to fixed broad band and or 4G/5G;	A1) 2020: 74% Target: 80%	programme reports and national statistics ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database
B) Reduced retail prices for international roaming among EaP countries	B1) Percentage change of roaming charges;	B1) 2020: average unit cost EUR 0,28 Target: -80%	market studies

Specific objective 2: Promote **e-Services,** supporting integration into EU Digital Single market, enhancing e-skills

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Enhanced offer of on-line public services through interoperable e-governance platforms	A1) % public services available online through interoperable e-governance platforms;	A1) 2020: less than 50% Target: 95%	programme reports and national statistics
B) Increased cross-border e-Commerce, between the Eastern partner countries and with the EU	B1) EU-EaP e-Commerce trade-volume ; B2) intra-EaP e-Commerce trade-volume;	B1) 2020: 620 000 parcels Target: Significant increase of direct shipments B2) Baseline: 2020 intra-EaP trade volumes Target: 50% increase of direct shipments intra-EaP	programme reports and national postal service statistics *(national measurement framework to be developed)*
C) Increased number of documents transferred cross border between EaP countries, being digitally signed	C1) volume of cross-border trade formalities using mutually recognised digital signatures;	C1) 2020: no cross-border digital signatures in use Target: 30%	programme reports
D) Digital transport corridors operational	D1) Number of countries connected to EU through the digital transport corridor;	D1) 2020: 0 Target: 4 countries	Programme reports
E) Digital education platform created and EaP citizens digitally empowered	E1) number of digital start-ups receiving support through the Digital Innovation for Scale-up Initiative (DISC);	E1) 2020: 0 Target: 1 500 start-ups	Programme reports

Specific objective 3: Align institutional, policy and legislative **cybersecurity and cyber-threat frameworks**

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A)Institutional, policy and legislative cybersecurity frameworks in all EaP countries strengthened	A1) Approximation to EU legislation;	A1) baseline to be determined by interim results of ongoing projects Target: improvement in the 6 countries	Annual programme reports
B) ENISA's cyber threat landscape methodology introduced	B1) Number of countries having successfully introduced ENISA's cyber threat landscape methodology;	B1) no country has introduced ENISA's methodology Target: improvement	Annual programme reports

Priority area 5: Resilient, gender equal, fair and inclusive societies

Specific objective 1: Strengthen **civil society** capacity and enabling environment, **youth** participation, **cultural** cooperation and **free media** environment

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Strengthened capacity of local CSOs as well as think tanks to	A1) Number of local civil society organisations, including women's	A1) 2020: 1 200 Target: 3 000	A1) Dedicated tool for monitoring CSO

meaningfully engage in policy making and dialogue, promote open civic space, foster social investment, and serve the needs of local communities; strenghten the capacity of the local civil society organisations to contribute in practice at the elaboration, implementation and enforcement of the environmental and climate goals of the green transition.	organisations, that benefit from EU-funded capacity building programmes;		assistance in the EaP
	A2) Number of EaP countries that report improvement in at least 2 CSO Meter areas and no significant deterioration in other areas;	A2) 2020: 3 Target: 6	A2) CSO Meter for assessing the CSO environment in the EaP
	A3) Cumulative number of legislative changes made and other tangible actions taken by the EU and EaP state stakeholders following recommendations, inputs and advocacy of the EaP Civil Society Forum;	A3) 2020: 0 Target: 400	A3) EaP Civil Society Forum reports
	A4) Number of Think Tanks actively participating in the EaP Think Tanks Network;	A4) 2020: 0 Target: 3 per partner country	A4) EaP think-tanks project
	A5) Number of social investment vehicles / venture philanthropy funds supporting CSOs and social enterprises in the EaP;	A5) 2020: 3 Target: at least 6	A5) project reports
B) Enhanced participation of young people in society and economy	B1) Number of youth supported by the EU4Youth programme and other youth related EU funded projects outside Erasmus+ and Young European Ambassadors;	B1) Baseline: 2020 Target: increase	B1) Project reports
	B2) Number of Young European Ambassadors;	B2) Baseline: about 1 000 YEAs Target: increase	B2) Project reports
C) Cultural cooperation and intercultural dialogue strengthened and potential of the cultural and creative industries maximised	C1) UNESCO culture indicators 2030	C1) Baseline: 2020 Target: increase	National statistics EC reports
D) An improved regulatory environment for independent, reliable and credible media, to enable and empower journalists to safely work free of influence and ensuring better access to fact-based information	D1) Number of media and journalists supported;	D1) 2020: 120 independent media outlets and 2 000 journalists Target: same (continuous support)	Project reports and evaluations. World Press Freedom Index (from Reporters without Borders); IREX's Media Sustainability Index (MSI);
	D2) Country scores in World Press Freedom Index improved;	D2) 2020: GE: 28,64 (global rank 60); AM: 28.83 (rank 63); MD: 31,61 (rank 89); UA: 32,96 (rank 97); BY: 50,82 (rank 158); AZ: 50,24 (rank 167); Target: improved scores and rankings in all six countries	
	D3) Country scores in Media Sustainability Index improved;	D3) 2020: Azerbaijan 0.94: unsustainable anti-free press ; Belarus 1.46 : unsustainable mixed system ; Moldova 2.31:	

		near sustainability ; Ukraine 2.09: near sustainability ; Georgia 2.25: near sustainability ; Armenia 2.60: near sustainability Target: improved scores in all 6 countries	

Specific objective 2: Strengthen democracy, **gender equality, human rights and anti-discrimination**			
Expected Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Strengthened pluralistic, inclusive, participatory and representative democracy	A1) Country scores in Global Democracy Index;	A1) 2020: UA: 5.81 (rank 79); MD: 5.78 (rank 80) AM: 5.35 (rank 89); GE: 5.31 (rank 91); AZ: 2.68 (rank 146); BY: 2.59 (rank 148); Average rank: 105, 5 Target: improved scores and rankings in all six countries	Global Democracy Index (The Economist) Global Freedom Scores and Democracy Scores (Freedom House)
	A2) Country assessments in Global Freedom Scores and Democracy Scores;	A2) 2020 scores: AM: 55/100 ; UA: 60/100; GE: 60/100 ; MD: 61/100 ; AZ: 10/100 ; BY: 11/100 ; Average score: 42,8/100 Target: improvement in all six countries	
B) Increased gender equality and women's empowerment	B1) Ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index;	B1) Baseline: Armenia: 98 Azerbaijan: 94 Belarus: 29 Georgia: 74 Rep. of Moldova: 23 Ukraine: 59 Target: Increased ranking in all 6 countries	B1) The Global Gender Gap Index, World Economic Forum
	B2) Number of countries having ratified the Istanbul Convention;	B2) Baseline: 1 (GE) Target : 6	B2) CoE
	B3) Share of new actions deriving from this programming document that have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective and number of regional programmes with gender equality as its main objective;	B3) Baseline: 0 Target : 85 % and at least 1 programme	B3) GAP III monitoring
C) Increased respect for human rights	C1) Number of victims of human rights violations directly benefitting from assistance funded by the EU;	C1) baseline: 2020 Target: decrease	EU reports International organisations reporting National statistics
	C2) Number of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or	C2) baseline: 2020 Target: decrease	

	assisd with EU support;		

Specific objective 3: Support **health resilience**

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Enhanced health security	A1) number of health workers and vulnerable people vaccinated due to the EU vaccine sharing mechanism; A2) Number of countries that benefited from additional EU support related to cross-border health threats; A3) Score on Health Security Index;	A1) 2020: 0 Target 2021: 3 million A2) 2020: 0 Target: 6 countries A3) 2020: Target: >	Project reports WHO/ECDC and national statistics Health Security Index
B) Improved health services	B1) Share of health care facilities that benefitted from additional EU support; B2) Share of health workers who benefitted from EU support;	B1) 2020: 0 Target: 25% B2) 2020: 40% Target: 80%	Project reports WHO/ECDC and national statistics

Specific objective 4: Enhance **mobility** and **people-to-people contacts** including cooperation on migration and integrated border management

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Continued cooperation on and satisfactory implementation of agreements on visa facilitation and readmission	A1) Country-specific qualitative indicators: state of play of cooperation as ascertained by the most recent respective Joint Committees;	A1) Baseline: 2021 Target: improve	A1) Joint committee reports
	A2) Country-specific quantitative indicators: number of nationals illegally staying in the EU from partner countries ordered to return and effectively returned; issuance rate of travel documents following readmission requests from Member States;	A2) Baseline: 2020 Targets: number of nationals illegally staying in the EU to be reduced; return rates to be increased; issuance rate to be increased	A2) Eurostat, IRMA and statistics relating to the EURA implementation
	A3) Country-specific quantitative indicators: Number of unfounded asylum applications submitted by nationals of the Eastern Neighbourhood countries in the EU;	A3) Baseline: 2020 Targets: number of unfounded asylum applications in the EU to be reduced	A3) Eurostat
B) Continued fulfilment of relevant visa liberalisation benchmarks by GE, MD and UA and implementation of recommendations of the Visa Suspension Mechanism reports	B1) Actions taken to ensure the continuous fulfilment of the visa liberalisation benchmarks and address the recommendations of the Visa Suspension Mechanism Report	B1) Baseline: Visa Suspension Mechanism Reports, Third (July 2020) and Fourth (August 2021) Target: Benchmarks respected and recommendations implemented	Visa Suspension Mechanism Reports,

C) Balanced and mutually beneficial implementation of Migration and Mobility Partnerships for AM, AZ, BY, GE and MD; migration partnership with Ukraine as part of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement;	C1) Number of projects implemented on migration and mobility under NDICI with all EaP countries);	C1) 2020: Target: to maintain	Project reports
D) Cooperation on irregular migration and the issue of unfounded asylum applications enhanced;	D1) To facilitate legal migration and mobility foreseen in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, develop EU legal migration pilot projects with increased funds and extended geographical scope, notably via Talent Partnerships;	D1) Baseline: 2020 Target: reduce irregular migration	Project reports
E) Integrated border management and related capacities strengthened, including through increased national and international cooperation, in particular, with Frontex	E1) Further harmonization of relevant national instruments and procedures to the standards and good practices of the Technical and Operational Strategy for European IBM E2) Modernised network of border crossing points maintained through enhanced commitment to and policy dialogues in the area of IBM; E3) Number of capacity building projects on integrated border management, including with Frontex	E1) Baseline 2020: drafting process for a national IBM Strategy and the relevant Action Plan in one EaP country (Ukraine) directly supported by the EU (Frontex and EUAM) in 2019 Target: Reviews of IBM Stategies in the EaP countries planned between 2021- 2027 with support from Frontex E2) Baseline 2020: 7 Target: maintain E3) Baseline 2020	Project reports
F) Bilateral working arrangements between EaP countries and the and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) renewed	F1) Number of renewed/ revised EaP bilateral working arrangements with Frontex;	F1) 2021: 1 working arrangements with Georgia renewed Target: working arrangement with Ukraine and Molodova renewed, posible negotiations with other EaP countries commenced	EU reporting
G) Subject to operational needs, negotiation of Status Agreements with interested EaP partner countries on deploying European Border and	G1) Number of negotiations of Status Agreements commenced;	G1) 2020: 0 Target: increase	EU reporting

Coast Guard teams commenced			

Priority area 6: Activities to underpin EU regional policies	

Specific objective 1: A **green recovery**, including the sustainable **blue economy** and **environmental protection**

Expected Results for the Black Sea Synergy	Indicators	Baseline & targets	Means of verification
A) Improved Black Sea environmental status by: reducing pollution and marine litter; improving sustainable use of coastal and marine resources; reinforcing the protection and restoration of the ecosystem, reducing the degradation of aquatic ecosystems; increasing the valorisation of biodiversity and natural heritage	A1) number of actions reducing marine littering, specified/broken down per marine/maritime sector;	A1) 2020: 1 Target: 4 (1 from SRIA and cross-cutting in each of CMA 3 flagship projects)	A1) cross-cutting actions for CMA flagship projects; EMBLAS plus project;
	A2) volume of historically accumulated marine litter collected and treated/ recycled or reused;	A2) 2020: 0 Target: realistic estimation pending (DG MARE, NEAR, BSEC and Black Sea Commission data)	A2) through the SRIA actions on marine litter, @Pilot innovative solutions for marine litter in the Black Sea" project and EMBLAS Plus project Regional reports;
	A3) number of actions, including studies/analyses and projects supporting an improved Black Sea environmental status;	A3) 2020: 2 Target: 7	
	A4) number of countries that extended coastal or marine protected areas with EU support;	A4) 2020: 0 Target:3	A3-A10 +A12) project reports; regional reports;
	A5) number of countries that restored parts of coastal or marine areas with EU support;	A5) 2020: 0 Target: 3	
	A6) number of studies/analysis on basic ocean/sea observations;	A6) 2020: 1 Target: 3	
	A7) number of projects/updated databases on natural or/and man-made disasters;	A7) 2020:0 Target: 2	A11) European Partnership Grant Agreement(s)
	A8) number of newly introduced innovative maritime technologies and IT monitoring tools for ocean/seas observation;	A8) 2020: 1 Target: 2	
	A9) number of studies/analyses and projects supporting climate adaptation and blue and green infrastructure;	A9) 2020: 0 Target: 1	
	A10) number of novel business models, linked to marine litter, restoration and/or climate adaptation;	A10) 2020: 0 Target: 2 (marine litter + restauration/climate	

| | A11) Number of countries actively involved in the European Partnership for a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy; | adaptation could be potentially combined)

A11) 2020:0
Target: 5 | |
| | A12) number of stakeholders' involvement events and degree of satisfaction (survey); | A12) 2020: 1
Target: 3 | |
| B) Enhanced Black Sea sustainability of fisheries and activities related to small-scale fisheries and high-level aquaculture; improved traceability and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing | B1) The percentage rate increase use of innovative maritime technologies and IT monitoring tools for fisheries;

B2) number of projects supporting sustainable fisheries;

B3) number of applications and joint pilot projects on aquaculture research; | B1) 2020:
Target: 10% increase

B2) 2020: 3
Target: 6

B3) 2020: 1
Target: 2 | Project reports;

Regional reporting |
| C) Expanded Black Sea blue economy entrepreneurial environment by creating business hubs/labs and accelerators, uptake of R&D into the market, increasing match-making platforms, innovative maritime clusters and networks for investors; | C1) percentage rate increase of SMEs/ start up benefitting from new/improved investment tools; of circular economy;

C2) number of blue economy entrepreneurial networks/clusters;

C3) percentage rate increase of research and innovation uptake to the market in blue economy;

C4) number of studies/analysis and pilot test on utilisation of marine renewable energy;

C5) number of regional project supporting circular economy, incuding sustainable coastal and martime tourism;

C6) share of population reached through ocean literacy campaigns; | C1) 2020: 0
Target: 10 % increase

C2) 2020: 0
Target: 5

C3) 2020: 0
Target: 10% increase

C4) 2020: 1
Target: 4

C5) 2020: 1
Target: 4

C6 2020: 0
Target: 1% | National and regional statistics

Projects reports

Regional reporting |
| **Expected Results for the Northern Dimension** | **Indicators** | **Baseline & targets** | **Means of verification** |
| D) Enhancing regional initiatives on sustainable practices in economic activity, promoting circular economy models, | D1) Number of completed and ongoing initiatives, leverage effect of funding, impact on fields of activity; | D1) 2020: N/A
Target: Increased number of initiatives on sustainable practices | Regional reports

Projects reports

Reports to other measuring entities

Reports to regional councils' bodies |

E) Increased creation and sustainable management of protected areas, enhanced environmental risk management and disaster response coordination.	E1) Scope and quality of protected areas, quality of risk management and disaster response coordination networks, performance during disasters; E2) Verified elimination of Barents and HELCOM hotspots, and increased attainment of HELCOM standards across the region;	E1) 2020: N/A Target: Improved scope, quality and performance E2) 2020: N/A Target: Increased number of eliminated hotspots; increased levels of specific standards	Barents and HELCOM reports Regional reports Projects reports Reports to other measuring entities Reports to regional councils' bodies
F) Improvements in nuclear safety in the European Arctic, as well as in toxic waste management in the Baltic Sea catchment area	F1) Completion of Northern Dimension Environment Partnership (NDEP) nuclear safety project in Andreeva Bay, removal of spent nuclear fuel containers; F2) Successful execution of project facilitating the lifting of the contaminated K-159 and K-27 submarines from the Arctic seabed; F3) Addressing safety issues of the Krasnyi Bor toxic waste site near St.Petersburg;	F1) 2020: N/A Target: Completion of project, removal of spent nuclear fuel F2) 2020: N/A Target: Removal of the contaminated K-159 and K-27 submarines F3) 2020: N/A Target: Increased safety of Krasnyi Bor toxic waste site	Project reports to NDEP Assembly
G) Significant reductions in phosphorus and nitrogen emissions to the Baltic Sea from Russia and Belarus; meaningful reductions of use of fossil fuels and greenhouse gas emissions from local heat and power generation	G1) Completion of NDEP wastewater treatment projects in the Baltic and Barents region; G2) Conduction of new relevant projects to limit eutrophication in the region; G3) Completion of existing and future Black Carbon mitigation projects in North West Russia; G4) Reductions in Black Carbon and other GHG emissions from Barents region; G5) Increased uptake of piloted renewable energy solutions with limited emissions in Russia and Belarus;	G1) 2020: N/A Target: Increased number of projects on wastewater treatment in the specific areas G2) 2020: N/A Target: Increased number of projects to limit eutrophication brought to NDEP G3) 2020: N/A Target: Increased number of projects aiming at Black Carbon mitigation G4) 2020: N/A Target: Reduction in the levels of emissions in Black Carbon and GHG G5) 2020: N/A	Project reports to NDEP Assembly Reports to other measuring entities

		Target: Increased number of renewable energy solutions in Russia and Belarus	

Specific objective 2: **Connectivity**, including **digital**			
Expected Results for the Black Sea Synergy	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Increased connections across the Black Sea, including multimodal transport, digitalisation of ports and infrastructures, green-shipping, eco-ports and ports as smart hubs	A1) Number of direct maritime transport routes between EU and non EU Black Sea ports;	A1) Baseline: 2020 Target: increase 10%	A1) National statistics
	A2) Number of studies/analysis on digitalised and green maritime transports, eco-ports/ports-hubs;	A2) 2020: 1 Target: 10	A2 – A3) project reports
	A3) Number/type of pipeline of projects on digitalised and green maritime transports, eco-ports/ports-hubs;	A3) 2020: 0 Target: 1	regional reports
B) Increased use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative to oil-derived fuels for ships in the Black Sea	B1) Percentage rate of utilisation of alternative to oil-derived fuels for ships;	B1) 2020: 0 Target: increase 5 %	National reports
	B2) Number of pilot projects on use of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and compressed natural gas (CNG);	B2) 2020: 0 Target: 4	
C) Better implemented International Maritime Organisation instruments in the Black Sea	C1) number of incidents related to safe and secure maritime connectivity	C1) 2014-2020: N/A Target: 1% annual decrease	Regional reports/IMO reports
Expected Results for the Northern Dimension	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
C) Improve regional connectivity in the Northern Dimension area, in particular decarbonisation of transport, traffic safety, emerging trade routes, digitalisation of transport	C1) Amount and intensity of regional connectivity links, both physical and digital; increasing uptake of related innovations and practices;	C1) 2020: N/A Target: Increased levels of regional connectivity links and increased quality of uptake	Regional reports
D) Improved cross-border logistics and increased compatibility of relevant systems.	D1) Speed and frequency of cross-border logistics and increased compatibility of relevant systems;	D1) 2020: N/A Target: improved quality of impact, improved flow of traffic	Regional reports

Specific objective 3: People-to-people, including **communication, research, innovation and health** cooperation			
Expected Results for the Black Sea Synergy	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**
A) Improved blue careers, skills offer and governance for the blue economy across the Black Sea, increased collaboration frameworks between industry/SMEs and educational institutions targeting blue economy career	A1) number of new vocational, educational and training programmes targeting blue and green careers and skills;	A1) 2020: 1 Target: 4 cooperative projects, events	Project reports Regional reporting
	A2) number of persons participating to blue career and skills offer;	A2) 2020: 17 Target: 100 people	
B) Enhanced ocean/sea literacy actions and awareness for a clean, plastic free, healthy and productive Black Sea	B1) number of initiatives of ocean literacy and awareness raising campaigns;	B1) 2014-2020: 1 Target: 10 initiatives and campaigns	Project reports Regional activities
	B2) stakeholders involvement (number of surveys);	B2) 2020: 6 Target: 10 surveys	
Expected Results for the Northern Dimension	**Indicators**	**Baseline & targets**	**Means of verification**

C) Increased and strengthened youth cooperation and participation, as well as regional cultural exchanges and actions, as well as academic cooperation	C1) Number and quality of cultural events, workshops, and other activities facilitated by the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture;	C1) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of specific projects and events	Regional reports Reports to NDPC steering group, regional councils' bodies
	C2) Amount and intensity of cultural and creative industries networks in the region;	C2) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of specific networks	
	C3) Number of collaborative cultural and youth activities with regional councils (Council of the Baltic Sea states and Barents Euro-Arctic Council in particular);	C3) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of events and activities	
	C4) Updated and more widely and more frequently viewed visual and online presence of Northern dimension cooperation, partnerships and structures;	C4) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of viewers of the NDI website and partnership websites, improved quality of banners and paraphernalia	
	C5) Number and quality of briefings and other material, as well as courses and events produced by Northern Dimension Institute in cooperation with other structures;	C5) 2020: N/A MIP Target: increased number of briefings, downloads, references, participation, quality and recognition	
D) Strengthened northern regional cooperation on health and social wellbeing, among others on infectious diseases, healthy aging, antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens and cancer, as well as social inequalities	D1) Activity of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health and Social Wellbeing expert groups;	D1) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of meetings and projects	NDPHS reports Regional reports Reports to regional councils' bodies Reports to other measuring entities
	D2) Number and quality of events, seminars, publications, and related policies;	D2) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of events, seminars, publications, and perceived increase of policy impact	
	D3) Amount and intensity of regional networks in the field of health, also vis-à-vis regional councils and WHO regional office;	D3) 2020: N/A Target: increased number of cooperative projects, activities and events	