



Brussels, 17.10.2019
C(2019) 7436 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.10.2019

on the ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action ⁽²⁾ and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the ‘ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020’, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme for 2019 and 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU ⁽³⁾.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) ⁽⁴⁾ and the Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020) ⁽⁵⁾ which set the following priorities: (i) building resilience and promoting stability; (ii) fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development and job creation; and (iii) support for capacity development/institution building of regional bodies.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁴ http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/financing-the-enp/regional_south_strategy_paper_2014_2020_and_multiannual_indicative_programme_2014_2017_en.pdf

⁵ C(2018) 6362 Commission Implementing Decision adopted 5 October 2018.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument ⁽⁶⁾ are to: facilitate regional integration through trade and investment; strengthen the consultative function of economic and social partners in the Euro-Mediterranean region and contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region.
- (5) The first action entitled ‘Inclusive Economic Development and Job Creation in the Neighbourhood South’ aims to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth focused on decent job creation and greater regional integration through enhanced and better informed trade and investment policy-making processes in the Southern Neighbourhood countries.
- (6) The second action entitled ‘EU Support to the Council of Europe South Programme IV’ aims to allow the Council of Europe to continue delivering its actions in the Southern Neighbourhood in favour of democratic governance, rule of law, reinforcement of the constitutional processes, justice, anti-corruption and human rights with particular attention given to activities combatting violence against women.
- (7) The third action entitled ‘Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood, SOLiD II’ will support two components; (1) ‘Inclusive and structured social dialogue’ and (2) ‘Social dialogue to bridge the employability gap’ which aim to build resilient societies through an enhanced and reinforced social dialogue and partnerships, decent work and social inclusion and access to social justice for all in the Southern Mediterranean region.
- (8) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) because it is the main international trade union organisation, representing the interests of 207 million employees in 163 countries and territories and has 331 national affiliates. The ITUC has general consultative status at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC).
- (9) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (10) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (12) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

- (13) The actions provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020, to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex I: Inclusive Economic Development and Job Creation in the Neighbourhood South;
- Annex II: EU Support to the Council of Europe South Programme IV;
- Annex III: Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood, SOLiD II.

Article 2
Union Contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 and 2020 is set at EUR 21 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- Annex I - budget line 22.040102 for an amount of:
 - EUR 11 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019;
- Annex II - budget line 22.040101 for an amount of:
 - EUR 3 million from the general budget of the Union for 2020;
- Annex III - budget line 22.040102 for an amount of:
 - EUR 3 million from the general budget of the Union for 2019;
 - EUR 4 million from the general budget of the Union for 2020.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2020, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions may be entrusted under indirect management to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 5.3.1 of the Annexes I and II and in point 5.3.2 of Annex III.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible shall adopt the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Grants

A grant may be awarded without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the body referred to in point 5.3.1 of Annex III.

Done at Brussels, 17.10.2019

For the Commission,
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX I

Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020

Action Document for Inclusive Economic Development and Job Creation in the Neighbourhood South

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Inclusive Economic Development and Job Creation in the Neighbourhood South CRIS number: 2019/042-205 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ⁽¹⁾ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ⁽²⁾ , Syria ⁽³⁾ and Tunisia	
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014-2020 – Regional Neighbourhood South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) – and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020)	
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG(s): SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth; SDG 10: Reducing Inequalities. Other significant SDG(s): SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	
5. Sector of intervention/	Trade Related Technical	DEV. Assistance: YES

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

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

⁽³⁾ On hold – activities suspended in previous phases due to conflict.

thematic area	Assistance-Aid for Trade			
6. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 11 million Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 11 million			
7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Indirect management with: Component 1: the International Trade Centre (ITC) Component 2: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Component 3: the International Labour Organization (ILO)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	250- Business and Other Services 25010- Business support services and institutions (trade information)			
b) Main Delivery Channel	41000- United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN) 47080- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)			
9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Not applicable		

SUMMARY

The action is aiming at contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth focused on decent job creation and greater regional integration through enhanced and better informed trade and investment policy-making processes in Southern Neighbourhood countries. It is articulated around three components:

1) Broadening the scope of the Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (TIFM) on-line one-stop shop to also cover services and investment, in co-operation with ITC which developed and implemented the initial phase.

This initiative was endorsed at the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Trade Ministerial in March 2018, where UfM Ministers officially launched the Euromed Trade Helpdesk-TIFM.

2) Improving the investment climate in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth;

The action, in co-operation with the OECD, seeks to achieve the following expected results:

1. Targeted policy advice to support and ensure effective implementation of investment climate reforms; 2. Improved investment climate reforms in the EIP (External Investment Plan) investment windows through strengthened regional and national public-private dialogues; 3. Improved monitoring process for the implementation of selected reforms supported by the intervention in selected beneficiary countries.

3) Strengthening trade and investment policy reforms, in particular their links with job creation and quality of work created, in cooperation with the ILO.

The project aims to strengthen the capabilities of partner countries to analyse and design sectoral, trade and investment policies that would enhance employment creation and better jobs. It aims at supporting and building capacity among partner countries to enhance the positive impact of sector, trade and investment policies on employment; and at assisting partner countries in the region in harnessing international trade and foreign investment to provide more opportunities for decent work and increase the number of productively employed workers.

1. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

Much of the Southern Neighbourhood continues to be dominated by the enduring effects of the global recession of 2008 and the Arab Spring in 2011. The civil war in Syria and current conflict situation in Libya have serious implications for the political and social stability of their neighbours and the region.

Foremost among the challenges is the need to create jobs for a high number of young people coming into the labour market every year. Almost 60% of the regional population is today under the age of 30 and the number of young people under the age of 15 is forecast to increase by over 18% by 2020. With an average of about 30% rate of youth unemployment and around 50% for young women (to be noted that female labour force participation in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries stands at only 20.2% according to ILO 2018 statistics), the region has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world. Employment and growth are still very much dependent on the informal sector, representing often more than 30% of the economy, but employment is in that case very vulnerable.

After a sharp fall in 2017, the World Bank expects economic growth in MENA to continue at a modest pace of about 1.5% to 3.5% during 2019-2021. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the MENA region experienced a 47% decrease in FDI inflows between 2010 and 2017, owing

in part to a spike in risk perceptions in the wake of the Arab Spring. FDI fell to an all-time low of 1% of the GDP in 2015. Similarly, the MENA region only captured 6.5% of total FDI inflows to developing countries in 2017, compared to 19% in 2008.

According to UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), FDI represented in 2017 37.7% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in North Africa, against 36.3% in 2016. Looking at the Middle East countries, and excluding Israel, FDIs are not increasing yet, and are still 36.5% lower than in 2010.

If the limited growth perspectives and the persistent insecurity can explain part of the poor performance, much has still to do with the investment and business climate that are not necessarily conducive. The Doing Business (DB) 2019 score for the region (excluding Libya and Syria) stands now at 61.6, just slightly better than the 58.7 of the DB 2010. Only Morocco, Jordan and Palestine have substantially improved, with Egypt benefitting from a new wave of reforms that have led to improve the score from 55.8 to 58.6 in the last year.

Export performance has been modest for all countries, with the exception of Morocco as well as with an improvement in 2016 for Tunisia, Lebanon, and more recently for Egypt. The Southern Mediterranean is one of the least integrated regions in the world with intra-regional trade accounting for only 9% of all exported goods. The potential for increased integration is huge and would bring significant benefits for the region. However, this could only be achieved through higher levels of direct investments, facilitation of trade and wider market access. EU-Partner Country Association Agreements that are also free trade agreements have provided a positive framework for the development of economic relations in the region but insufficient progress has been achieved so far, with a strong trade imbalance in favour of the EU for some of the partner countries.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

The EU strategic objectives for the South Mediterranean region are building state and societal resilience as well as stabilisation, in the framework of the revised ENP (European Neighbourhood Policy) and the Global Strategy, the policy frameworks that govern the European Neighbourhood Policy. Fostering inclusive economic development and job creation can make a key contribution towards resilience and stabilisation. It therefore constitutes one of the three main thematic pillars of the Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-2020.

The Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-20 identifies four specific objectives for fostering inclusive and sustainable economic development and job creation: a) facilitating regional economic cooperation and integration; b) strengthening a regional approach to economic reforms and an effective business climate; c) promoting access to finance and financial inclusion for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises), and d) supporting emerging forms of economic activity and new actors with an impact on socio-economic inclusion and job creation, especially among young women and men, such as social economy/social entrepreneurship and green and circular economy.

In addition, the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) and the European External Investment Plan (EIP), the EU initiative launched in 2017 to leverage an estimated EUR 40 billion of investment in the Neighbourhood regions and Africa, also play a vital role in mobilising finance where grant funds alone are insufficient. Energy grids, transport networks and digital infrastructures are the backbone of economic development and competitiveness. The EIP seeks a comprehensive and integrated approach, linking investment mobilisation, in

particular through guarantee and blending operations (Pillar 1), with technical assistance (Pillar 2) and investment climate improvements (Pillar 3). Without adequate reforms, the large-scale investments foreseen will not have the desired effect on growth and employment. Pillar 3 of the EIP therefore focuses on removing constraints to private investment in partner countries, supporting priority reforms, and establishing or strengthening the structured and sustained dialogue with the local and European private sector present in partner countries to identify the most important barriers to investment and prioritise the investment climate reform agenda.

Regional programmes can play a significant role, aiming at facilitating economic cooperation through enhanced trade and investment policies, by improving the investment climate, setting up tools for trade facilitation, supporting the EU External Investment Plan through in-country dialogues, and creating better understanding for the nexus between trade and investment policies and employment creation. These actions will be in the mutual interest of both the Southern Mediterranean partners and the EU.

1.3 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders will be the governments and key line ministries, trade and investment promotion agencies, sectorial business organisations, national and regional chambers and business councils, IFIS (International Financial Institutions), EFIS (European Financial Institutions), local banking sector, private companies, in particular SMES, NSAs (Non-State Actors), employers and workers associations, workers and unemployed people, especially young and women which are the ultimate beneficiaries of the interventions covered by this action.

Component 1: EUROMED TIFM-Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (ITC)

The main stakeholders will be policy makers; key line ministries; trade and investment support institutions; regional trade configurations, such as the Agadir Agreement Technical Unit; the Primary and Secondary National Focal point institutions and individuals that were already appointed by the countries in the previous phase, economic operators in the region; and private sector.

Component 2: Improving the investment environment in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth (OECD)

The main stakeholders will be institutional authorities and administrations in charge of investment and business climate policies; policy makers; Ministries of Investment, Trade, Industry, and other line ministries, such as Finance, Justice, Agriculture or Planning, when relevant, as well as relevant national agencies involved in the promotion of investment (Investment Promotion Agencies - IPAs), but also in trade promotion (exports agencies), statistics (Central Banks, Statistical Units) or infrastructure (PPP Units).

The private sector, sectorial business associations (in particular those of the sectors covered by the 5 investment windows of the EIP), national and regional chambers of commerce (i.e. the Arab League Chamber of Commerce), IFIS, EFIS and local banking sector will also benefit, as well as trade unions and civil society. Journalists specialised in economic issues might also benefit from some awareness raising and communication activities.

Component 3: Mainstreaming employment into Trade and Investment Policies (ILO)

There is a need for a shared understanding among key stakeholders, such as policy-makers and social partners, on the positive interaction between sectoral, trade and employment policies and the elaboration of a policy framework allowing sectoral and trade and investment policies to be formulated and implemented in a coherent way aiming at job creation and inclusive growth. Key stakeholders for this component are ministries responsible for Trade, Labour, Agriculture, Industry, Finance, Economic Policy Planning; National Statistical Agencies and Central Bank Balance of Payments Statistics units, employer confederations and workers associations and NSAs.

1.4 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

One of the key constraints in the Southern Mediterranean region remains the relatively low and erratic levels of economic growth, which are currently insufficient to deal with the rapidly expanding workforce.

High unemployment rates remain a key social, economic and stability challenge, as job creation has remained concentrated in low-paying and low-productivity sub-sectors, in narrow geographic clusters and in the expanding informal economy. Job creation, in particular for youth and women, is the biggest challenge for the region and a top priority that the European Neighbourhood Policy addresses, since it is closely related to the sustainability of democratic reforms, political stability and inclusive policy making.

With the current demographic trends, at least 5 million new jobs need to be created every year to employ a growing work force and ensure social inclusion. To create this number of jobs, economic growth in the region should accelerate from the previous 2.5% to 3.5% in recent years to above 6%.

Trade and investment reform policies and their impact on employment is another area of concern. A limited regional integration (low intra-regional trade and investment) slows down the region's significant potential for economic growth and job creation. In the case of North African countries, trade remains oriented mainly towards Europe. Intra-regional trade among MENA countries is limited to less than 9% of all exported goods, a figure well below that of other regions. In 2016, intra-African exports made up 18% of total exports, compared to 59 and 69 percent for intra-Asia and intra-Europe exports, respectively.

Equally worrying are the inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the Southern Neighbourhood region, which decreased by almost half between 2010 and 2017. While the latest data shows an upward trend, FDI has still not reached pre-2010 levels. Private domestic investment is also low in most of these countries, at below 15% of the GDP.

Much still remains to be done to improve the investment and business environment, since many Southern Neighbourhood countries still suffer from a weak regulatory and administrative environment. Policymaking in the region in the areas of trade and investment is complex, non-inclusive, non-structured and can be biased.

- Poor governance and insufficiently inclusive models of participatory decision-making affect economic policymaking;
- Economic policymaking is generally weak and over-captured by special interests, including for trade and investment.
- Investment policy is superficial and not strategically targeting efficiency-seeking investment.

- Trade policy is increasingly influenced by populist protectionism and mostly uncoupled from investment policy.
- Lack of trade and investment is impacting employment policy coherence.

Moreover, regional economic integration can be perceived by some stakeholders as an employment threat, rather than an inclusive growth and job creation opportunity. The employment benefits of regional trade and economic integration need to be better unveiled in a manner coupled with investment opportunities, to entice the private sector and special interests to press governments for greater and higher quality reforms.

It is worth mentioning the limited awareness and understanding of the links between trade and investment policies and employment; the scarcity of quality data and statistics on trade, investment and employment (and their interconnection); limited institutional capacity for assessing and analysing impact of investment and trade on employment and job creation; and limited and not structured and not systematic public-private dialogue.

In this context, there is a great need for creating new trade and investment opportunities that will lead to quality job creation. Openness to trade and investment stimulates job creation, technological progress and innovation. All the challenges mentioned above can be properly addressed through structural interventions aiming at:

- Improving the investment and business climate and regulatory frameworks;
- Reforming labour markets and improving skills development systems to reduce unemployment, especially for youth and women;
- Promoting the public-private dialogue and the involvement of the private sector in the policy making;
- Supporting the deepening of regional economic integration, in particular trade integration;
- Increasing transparency of trade- and investment-related information towards economic operators in the region;
- Supporting economic diversification.

The three components of the intervention proposed aim at addressing the main problems encountered in the region that are job creation, lack of regional economic integration and diversification of the economies. The proposed regional program complements the priorities set out under the bilateral cooperation jointly agreed with the beneficiary countries. It will leverage bilateral trade and investment cooperation by providing regional means that will bring policy-makers, national agencies and the private sector from these countries to engage in a wider South-South dialogue as well as an EU-South dialogue. It will also allow for more convergence of trade and investment policies to be conducive to regional trade integration and intra-regional investment leading to sustainable growth and job creation.

The **regional value added** of the this programme is intrinsic to the objectives insofar as it introduces and pilots new trade and investment policy approaches, methodologies and tools to the region, specifically with regard to the assessment of trade and investments on employment, with a particular focus on the interplay of these policy frameworks within the Euromed context. The programme also represents a vehicle for experience sharing and peer learning mechanisms that can contribute to enhanced institutional capacity.

2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level	Mitigating measures
Changes in beneficiary governments' priorities	Medium	Any potentially relevant changes in the political environment will be closely monitored and the necessary adjustments will be taken during the implementation of the actions proposed.
Challenge of bringing together different ministries, public and private stakeholders	Medium	The action will enhance a public-private dialogue by providing venues for dialogue and cooperation through different activities in the three proposed components, with a view to steering structured dialogue and building consensus on reforms needed. The role of the private sector in the policy-making will be strengthened through targeted interventions.
Lack of national involvement in the initiatives presented	Medium	Communication efforts will emphasise the ownership of the initiative by the national institutions involved in the implementation of the action. The initiative will complement existing systems to avoid duplication and a lack of up-take by potential users and providers.
Sustainability of the action	Medium	It will enable capacity building for key stakeholders during the implementation of the three interventions. When needed MoU will be signed with national institutions to secure institutional involvement and commitment.
Overlapping with other ongoing initiatives at the national level	Medium	The projects' management will be in close contact with NEAR B2 colleagues, the EU delegations in the region and other development partners in order to avoid duplication. In some cases, this may result in adapting the proposed approach.
Poor statistics and data availability in the countries	Medium	The three implementing partners will collaborate closely with various national stakeholders to ensure that the provision of data can be sustained beyond the lifetime of the project. Capacity building actions are foreseen concerning those areas that might require building of national capacities. A Training of

		Trainers (ToT) approach will be used for the capacity building and skills development activities foreseen to make it sustainable.
Assumptions		
There are no substantial changes in national governments' policies on trade and investment policy reforms; general political situation is stable and conducive for the implementation of the projects in the MENA countries.		

3. LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

It is important that regional programmes build on a proper assessment of the problems faced by the Neighbourhood South region related to the implementation of policies and the regional integration and build on past lessons learned, especially those drawn by the Mid Term Review of the ENI instrument and in a recent evaluation on competitiveness. This Review considered that regional cooperation responded to ENI policy orientations and promoted regional dialogue, but it also emphasised that the impact of regional cooperation suffered from the weakness of regional organisations, insufficient exchange of information between regional and bilateral programmes and limited support received from the beneficiaries, which put the ownership at stake. The dedicated evaluation on competitiveness also pointed out the fact that regional cooperation responds more to an EU-perceived interest rather than beneficiaries' interest in the region.

In general, trade and investment facilitation reforms in the region have been insufficient for achieving regional integration. Investment climate reforms have not yet resulted in attracting sustainable and employment-intensive investments. This is coupled with a lack of coherence between investment and trade policies and limited understanding of how to create a positive employment impact in the region.

The identification study for this action confirmed the limited enthusiasm for regional integration as well as the fact that visibility of regional programmes, complementarity with bilateral programmes and the engagement of counterparts in partner countries require particular attention. In this respect, in the new programmes, an improved exchange of information with regional actors and EU delegations, complementarity with bilateral programmes and improved synergies will be explicitly sought.

The regional approach is pursued in the understanding that strengthened institutional capacities, better access to information for both private and public sector actors, strengthened capacities to assess a potential employment impact of trade and investments as well as harmonisation of approaches can enhance integration opportunities, especially now that a more global integration is sought also at an African continental level, with the new Africa-EU Alliance.

Lessons learned from previous phases have been integrated for all three components, notably:

Component 1: EUROMED-TIFM: Trade and investment Facilitation Mechanism (ITC)

EuroMed TIFM project had a trade ministerial level commitment and its launch was endorsed at the latest UfM Trade Ministerial in 2018. TIFM National Focal Points were selected among governmental organisations in each country. Yet, during the previous phase, the main difficulty was countries' ownership. National Focal Points requested more capacity building and trainings. It was noted that another recurrent problem in some countries was the overlapping lack of information to populate the tool, the multiplicity of actors overlapping mandates. In some cases, NFPs were not clearly appointed or there were several focal points, which are changeable. It is of a paramount relevance to identify and appoint only one national contact point since the beginning of the intervention.

In the first phase, there were no resources allocated for training, capacity building, networking and promotion of the tool. For long-term sustainability in the second phase, there will be structured ToT (Training of Trainers) in place for the NFPs; annual meetings for the NFPs and a communication and visibility component, with raising awareness events on the tool in each country. The need to strengthen awareness raising and dissemination of information on the potential of the tool has been clearly identified and output 3 will focus on this particular area. During the first phase, there had been few interactions with other bilateral programmes on trade. Such interaction and exchanges of information will therefore be facilitated during the implementation of the next phase.

Component 2: Improving the investment Climate in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth (OECD)

From the first EU-OECD programme on investment, one of the lessons that can be drawn is the need to further involve the private sector in the implementation of the action. Therefore, the private sector will be one of the main stakeholders in the new action. Regional policy discussions will need to be brought down to the national level to cover the specificities of each country. It will also be necessary to better cater for beneficiaries' demands at the regional level, with a focus on concrete recommendations to improve the investment climate in the relevant region, in particular in areas where there is no risk of overlapping with already ongoing bilateral initiatives. Ongoing bilateral public-private dialogues will be taken into account to complement the work already carried out by the EU delegations in each country. Emphasis should be put on those countries where there is a more limited support to trade, investment and private sector development at the bilateral level. In addition, the new phase will support the implementation of the EIP, in particular the thematic areas covered by the five Investment Windows.

Component 3: Mainstreaming employment into Trade and Investment Policies (ILO)

Based on the implementation of the STRENGTHEN programme in Morocco, several lessons learnt can be taken into consideration for a similar intervention at the regional level, including the importance of well defining the sectors to be studied from the beginning of the project, since sectoral studies are a tool for mobilising stakeholders. The need to take into account the difficulty of conducting a survey at the sector level because of the unavailability of quantitative data and the low response rate of companies; the difficulties of the topic to be dealt with as well as the multitude of partners must be taken into consideration to allow for an adequate implementation period. Potential synergies and complementarities will be explored with sectoral strategies developed through other interventions at the bilateral level.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

The intervention will be aligned with EU's and other development partners' already ongoing programmes/interventions in the region, at the regional and national level, and will seek synergies and complementarities with other projects already implemented by the OECD, the ILO, the ITC, and the EU, such as:

- Business at OECD (BIAC) is an international business network with a global membership representing over 7 million companies, which officially represents the business voice to the OECD. It represents a source of practices, knowledge and contacts for the development of this component.
- The MENA-OECD Business Advisory Board (BAB) was launched in 2018 under the co-chairmanship of the main Spanish and Tunisian Employers' Organisations (CEOE and UTICA) to bring in the private sector into the policy networks of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme and promote PPD (Public-Private Dialogue) in the MENA region. A specific platform was also developed to build policy advocacy capacity of Youth Business Associations. In this context, the OECD is developing analytical work on PPD in the region and mapping existing business associations.
- The MENA-OECD Programme on Competitiveness and MENA Transition Fund projects.
- The STRENGTHEN project (Morocco) is a **joint initiative of the EU and the ILO** and aims to strengthen capabilities of partner countries to analyse and design sector and trade policies and programmes that would enhance employment creation. The programme focuses on sector policies and supports and builds capacity among partner countries and development practitioners to enhance the positive impact of sector policies and programmes on employment; and on trade policies to assist countries in harnessing international trade and trade-related foreign investment to provide more opportunities for decent work and increase the number of productively employed workers.

The EU and the ILO promote job creation and decent work in the MENA countries with different interventions in:

Morocco: territorialisation of the national employment strategy; decent work promotion; protection of the rights of migrant workers;

Algeria: improving employability and access to employment of youth; entrepreneurship development for women and youth; the ILO-TAWDIF project in Algeria closely co-ordinated with the EU-AFEQ Project (Adequation, Formation Emploi Qualifications);

Tunisia: creating employment opportunities and improving the employability of youth; strengthening social dialogue and governance; protection of migrant workers; support to the decentralisation process; support to the national employment policy; support to the social and solidarity economy;

Libya: an intervention planned to develop the capacities of constituencies in the strategic framework of post-crisis reconstruction;

Egypt: EU-ILO Support to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency and affiliates by developing their capacity to analyse and address business development services needs of MSMEs in manufacturing and traded services; support the operationalisation of the newly created SME Unit of the Federation of Egyptian Industries by developing their capacity to analyse and address business environment challenges for MSMEs;

Jordan: EU-ILO Collaboration in e monitoring of labour aspects in the implementation of the EU's rules of origin initiative for Jordan; ILO's response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan; programme of support to the Jordan compact; employment centres for Jordanians and Syrian as well as services provided at these employment centres;

Lebanon: the Employment Intensive Infrastructure Programme in Lebanon; improved access to employment opportunities for Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees;

Complementarities and synergies will be established with relevant **regional EU programmes**, in particular:

- 'Support to an enabling business environment for MSME development and financial inclusion';
- EBSO MED 'Support to Business Support Organisations';
- 'Support to the implementation of Agadir Agreement (Phase IV)';
- Trade and Competitiveness programme under the NIP regional envelope with EBRD and EIB covering Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan;
- 'Enhancing investment policies and promotion in the Southern Mediterranean' (OECD);

In addition, with **bilateral EU programmes**:

Algeria: Improvement of business climate in Algeria (PADICA); Twinning Project in support of the Customs Direction General;

Egypt: Trade and Domestic Market Enhancement Programme (TDMEP);

Lebanon: Supporting Lebanon's 'Vision for Stabilization, Growth and Employment'; 'Supporting the private sector development: enhance productivity and competitiveness'; TAIEX experts missions on Rules of Origin (RoO), pharmaceutical sector, technological transfer; ad hoc assistance to IDAL the Investment Agency on investment and export promotion;

Libya: 'EU for Private Sector in Libya' which will develop and establish EU Trade Helpdesks within Chambers of Commerce in Libya; and 'Support to Libya for Economic Integration, Diversification and Sustainable Employment';

Morocco: Support to Youth Employment; Support to Investments SMEs/SMEs for Youth +;

Jordan: 'EU Support to the Private Sector Development in Jordan'; 'EU Support to Economic Reforms for Growth and Jobs in Jordan'; Trade-for Development Measures to Support Inclusive Economic Growth in Jordan'; Macro financial assistance: increase job opportunities; Economic stability, growth, and job creation: reforms enabling growth and job creation; access to finance; innovation policy framework;

Palestine: Productive investment and ensuring territorial contiguity;

Tunisia: Budget Support Programme for Competitiveness and Exports (PACE)-regulatory simplification; State Building Contract multi-sectorial: improving investment climate.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

The overall objective of the action is to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth focused on decent job creation and greater regional integration through enhanced, better-informed trade and investment policy-making processes in the Neighbourhood South countries.

This objective will be pursued through three different but complementary specific interventions aiming at an improved access to market information related to trade and investment (component 1); the promotion of an improved investment climate and investment facilitation (component 2), and a trade and investment policymaking that reflects a more informed perception of what the employment implications of those policies can bring about (component 3).

The activities mentioned below are indicative and may be modified and/or completed at a later stage during the contracts negotiations.

Component 1: EUROMED Trade and Investment Facilitation Mechanism (ITC)

The first component aims at enabling SMEs in EuroMed countries to have more data on market access, information on investment and on export trade potential as well as enhancing the understanding of the regulatory and procedural obstacles to trade in goods and services faced by SMEs.

Specific Objectives:

- Facilitate closer economic ties between the EU and South Mediterranean countries and enhance regional economic integration between these countries;
- Improve trade and investment transparency by providing free access to information for economic operators and policy makers to a state of the art online portal to facilitate trade in goods and services and investment.

Expected results:

Output 1: Enhance Euromed TIFM (investment, rules of origin, WTO notifications, export potential assessment tool, trade procedures guides, and trade in services).

Output 2: Enhance understanding of regulatory and procedural trade obstacles faced by SMEs in the region and identify options to reduce costs of trade in goods and in services.

Output 3: Raise awareness on the Euromed Trade Helpdesk and strengthen market analysis and research skills using the tool.

Indicative Activities:

Activities Output 1:

- Assess availability and quality of additional trade- and market-related data, including investment information and trade in services.
- Develop new modules to include investment, rules of origin, WTO notifications on SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures) and TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade), untapped trade potential and trade in services.
- Collect in-depth documentation of trade procedures for selected products displayed in an online guide;
- Build capacity of key institutions on the methodology for the collection and processing of data;
- Enhance the problem-solving network of the Helpdesk function to answer queries related to new added types of information.

Activities Output 2:

- Hold stakeholder consultations in each of the eight EuroMed countries to adjust the survey methodology to country's context, and once survey results are available, validate results and build consensus on mitigating actions;
- In each country, compile a business register of companies involved in international trade in goods and services and calculate the country's sample size for the goods sectors and for two to three services sectors;
- Hold national workshops to present the survey results and propose means to resolve the issues identified;
- Present the survey results and outcomes of the national workshops at a regional workshop to the EuroMed Trade Panel.

Activities Output 3:

- Customise for each country a training programme on market analysis and the new EuroMed Trade Helpdesk, including a training of trainers to certify key actors in the country and ensure sustainability;
- Deliver trainings as per the training programme;
- Conceptualise a communication and visibility plan; develop and produce communication and visibility materials, including for dissemination via media and social media channels, and organise annual meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs), the ITC and the EU;
- Prepare and validate with national stakeholders the ownership and sustainability plan beyond the project.

With the aim of ensuring coherence and effectiveness of this component, Turkey, which is already participating in TIFM's first phase, will be one of the countries participating in Phase II.

Component 2: Improving the investment climate in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth (OECD)

This second component aims at supporting sustainable growth and decent jobs creation through an integrated approach to investment climate development and enhancing the ability of Neighbourhood South countries to self-assess, improve and implement investment climate

policy reforms that attract higher quality investment, including leveraging public-private dialogues to reflect demand-driven policy reforms.

Specific Objectives:

- Improve sustainable impact of investment, based on more robust and transparent legal and institutional frameworks governing businesses activities and clear, reliable FDI statistics;
- Design and implement sound business climate reforms in the areas covered by the five EIP Investment Windows, both at the regional and national levels, by facilitating a more structured process of a public-private dialogue.

Expected results:

Output 1: Targeted policy advice to support and ensure effective implementation of investment climate reforms;

Output 2: Improved investment climate reforms in the EIP investment windows through strengthened regional and national public-private dialogues;

Output 3: Improved monitoring process for the implementation of selected reforms supported by the intervention in selected beneficiary countries;

An inception phase (three months) will allow to fine-tune the below activities according to priority needs of the beneficiary countries.

Indicative Activities:

Activities Output 1:

- Support investment-related regulatory reforms and reinforce legal certainty to improve the investment environment;
- Strengthen investment promotion and facilitation frameworks;
- Identify policies that maximise the impact of foreign investment on sustainable development, skills upgrading and decent job creation;
- Strengthen FDI statistics, with particular focus on Algeria, Lebanon, Libya and Palestine that have not yet benefitted from the OECD technical assistance on FDI statistics.

Activities Output 2:

- Map and assess private sector representation and engagement in the five EIP investment windows;
- Organise regional and national dialogues with the private sector on the investment constraints in the investment windows.;
- Produce position papers on the challenges and recommendations identified by the private sector in light of public strategies and policies to inform the public-private policy dialogues;
- Further assess investment constraints in selected EIP investment windows;
- Organise national and regional public-private dialogues to discuss the position papers and the assessments towards effective implementation;
- Provide policy guidance and capacity building on due diligence in agribusiness sector.

Activities Output 3:

- Report periodically on various reforms implemented by targeted countries;
- Analyse FDI trends in the region against global trends using OECD tools;
- Develop country-specific mechanisms for monitoring reforms in selected countries;
- Present the results of the reporting and the country-specific monitoring at dedicated seminars;
- Enhance communication on reforms and raise awareness of the action through a wide range of stakeholders.

Component 3: Mainstreaming employment into Trade and Investment Policies (ILO)

The aim of the third component is to strengthen the capacity of the Neighbourhood South countries to anticipate the effects of trade and investment policies on employment, enabling them to design effective and coherent investment, trade and labour market policies that enhance sustainable employment creation, in terms of both quantity and quality of jobs.

Specific Objectives:

- Strengthen country-level knowledge on the impact of sectoral, trade and investment policies in the Neighbourhood South on productive and decent employment and measures to optimise the employment effects of these policies;
- Build capabilities of governments, social partners, development practitioners, and other relevant stakeholders in partner countries to identify, measure and assess the employment effects of sectoral, trade and investment policies, as well as conduct policy dialogue based on such assessments;
- Develop ways to address the employment opportunities and challenges resulting from sectoral, trade and investment policies in the Neighbourhood South countries;
- Provide assessments to governments, financial institutions, EU delegations and other relevant stakeholders on the implications of infrastructure investments in relevant sectors/subsectors for employment in the Neighbourhood South countries.

Expected results:

Output 1: Knowledge on the positive and negative impact of trade and investment policies and infrastructure on productive and decent employment in the Neighbourhood South countries is generated, improved, discussed and disseminated.

Output 2: Capacity of policy makers, social partners, and staff in statistical offices and research institutions in participating countries to collect and analyse trade, investment and employment data, to produce and use evidence on the effects of trade and investment policies on productive and decent employment and to discuss and design policies is improved.

Output 3: Employment opportunities arising from trade and investment policies specifically are enhanced and export-oriented value chains and industries that are job-rich are promoted.

Output 4: Governments, financial institutions, EU delegations and other relevant stakeholders are aware of the potential employment effects of infrastructure investments in the Neighbourhood South countries in relevant sectors/sub-sectors.

Indicative Activities:

Inception Phase:

The project will start with a six-month inception phase that will include assessments of institutional capacities and knowledge and training needs of governments, social partners, development practitioners and other relevant stakeholders in relation to mainstreaming employment into trade and investment policies.

Activities Output 1:

- Data collection and analysis;
- Review studies on the impact of trade and investment policies on employment in all partner countries;
- Country-level studies will be conducted in collaboration with national researchers in the partner countries to assess the impact of trade on productive employment. All country studies will be discussed with stakeholders, published and disseminated.

Activities Output 2:

- Strategic training for high-level planners, policy and decision-makers and social partners on the relationship between trade and investment, on assessing the effects of trade and investment (including infrastructure) policies and employment;
- Technical training for specialists and researchers on assessing the effects of trade and investment on employment, including data and methodological considerations;
- Establishing policy working groups to facilitate knowledge sharing, policy coherence and, tripartite social dialogue.

Activities Output 3:

- Implement the ILO's TRAVERA (Trade and Value Chains in Employment-Rich Activities) approach to raise productive employment and mitigate unproductive employment. TRAVERA aims to help firms in developing countries integrate into export value chains in a way that results in higher employment and increasing levels of productivity and incomes for workers. At the core of TRAVERA are two activities:

- i) the selection of a value chain based on export and employment potential, and
- ii) a survey among enterprises whose activities contribute to the selected export value chain.

The outputs of TRAVERA are: i) an analysis of export and employment potential, ii) a value chain study based on survey data and iii) consultations and policy-discussion workshops at national and sectoral levels.

- Use the ILO's STED (Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification) methodology for the selected export value chain to map out and identify relevant and existing policies on skills, the current gaps and challenges in skills and the potential skills and skills opportunities for increased trade and export growth and economic diversification. The outcomes of STED are concrete recommendations at the policy, institutional, and enterprise level. The tool will be applied in selected value chains of partner countries.

- Raising awareness and stimulating dialogue in the partner countries among key actors within the selected export value chains.

- The activities in Output 3 will be aligned with related EU initiatives under the EIP (External Investment Plan) or the EU Trade and Competitiveness programmes.

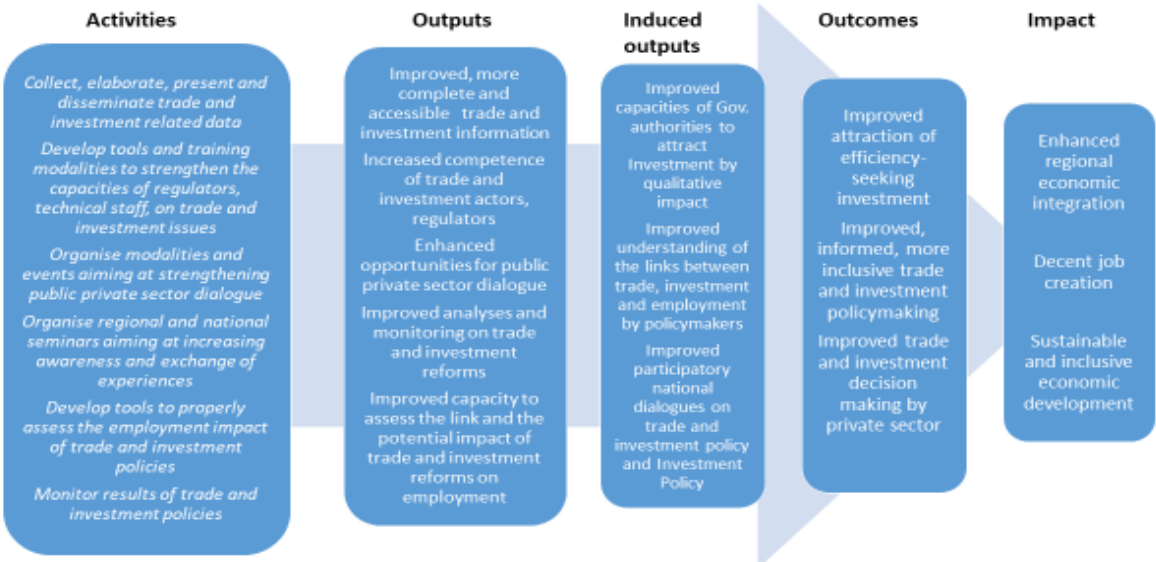
Activities Output 4:

- Studies on the potential employment impact of infrastructure investments in relevant sectors/subsectors in selected partner countries;
- Validation meetings of the studies with policy and decision makers, social partners and other relevant stakeholders.

4.2 Intervention Logic

The following graph attempts to represent the theory of change behind the proposed intervention. The overall coherence of the intervention could be ensured by setting up of a Joint Steering Committee and/or participation of the three implementing partners in each project's steering committee, aiming at encompassing the different interventions, with the involvement of the three organisations implementing the action, as well as other relevant stakeholders. During the implementation period, it will be important to build and complement existing interventions at national level.

The proposed approach takes into account the assessment of the situation of the Neighbourhood South region. It tries to address the need to enhance sustainable development, with a special attention to decent job creation and regional integration, looking at the interlink between trade and investment policies and their impact on employment, working on a series of tools and events on capacity development and public-private dialogues that can contribute to the overall objective from a regional perspective.



4.3 Mainstreaming

The intervention will address the gender aspects of trade and investment through equity policies and reforms, including equal pay for work of equal value by 2030. By offering increased and free access to data, transparency of data and market access issues, the intervention will provide a valuable information asset to women-owned enterprises and young

entrepreneurs, facilitating women and youth economic empowerment. The projects will be aligned with the EU Gender Action Plan.

The intervention will address human rights issues, in particular core labour standards, through the interventions proposed aiming at creating sustainable and decent jobs; reducing wages gaps and inequalities; skills development schemes and policies to make workers more employable.

Public-private policy dialogue and civil society engagement are very important for the success of this intervention.

Sustainable Development and Core Labour Standards are fully integrated in the EU trade agenda. The new waves of FTAs (Free Trade Agreements) negotiated by the EU contain a Sustainable Development Chapter.

Our interventions will support investors and traders in aligning with Responsible Business Conduct policies with economic, social and environmental impacts.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 8, which aims to ‘promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’, specifically through Target 8.5 concerning ‘achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value by 2030’.

The intervention will also contribute to SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

International trade has been advocated as a means of achieving sustainable development. Paragraph 79 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda states that 'with appropriate supporting policies, infrastructure and an educated work force, trade can also help to promote productive employment and decent work, women’s empowerment and food security, as well as a reduction in inequality, and contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals'.

Investment is a powerful development tool that delivered in a sustainable way and through the right channels can have a big impact on creating jobs, building skills, boosting economies, increasing the capacity of the local economy and the public sector, facilitating innovation and transfer of know-how. Sustainable development goals are every time more present in domestic and international investment policies and investors and companies are increasingly aligned with Responsible Business Conduct policies with economic, social and environmental impacts. Investment, in particular from the private sector, can spur sustainable development and play a crucial role in the implementation of the SDGs.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

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

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision.

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

5.3 Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁴.

5.3.1 Indirect management with entrusted entities

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the International Trade Center (ITC), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

This implementation entails carrying out of the activities identified in section 4.1, related to the objectives of the action.

The envisaged entities have been selected using the following criteria: in the case of the ITC and the OECD to continue and broaden the scope of the work already carried out in previous actions. The ILO has been selected to implement the component 3 since it possesses a wealth of technical expertise as well as empirical and policy research. A core part of the ILO's work on trade, investment and employment is geared towards assessing the employment's effects of trade and investment reform policies. The ILO has developed global and country-specific assessment tools, which have been applied to evaluate the labour market effects of trade shocks. The ILO has carried out a number of assessments in beneficiary countries and has experience in cooperating with the EU in this area since 2009 as well as experience in (and local presence) in many of the Neighbourhood South countries. Specifically, the ILO can leverage its existing relationship with the main stakeholders identified for the component 3 in the beneficiary countries.

In case one of the envisaged entities would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

⁴ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Indirect management with (cf. section 5.3.1):	
- ITC for Component 1	2,500,000
- OECD for Component 2	4,000,000
- ILO for Component 3	4,500,000
Total	11,000,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A project steering committee will be established for each of the three components, including representatives of the EU (relevant Commission services as appropriate) and the implementing partners: the ITC, the OECD and the ILO. The steering committee of each project shall meet at least once a year to assess progress and issue recommendations on the direction of the project. To ensure better coordination, complementarity and synergies between the three components, the three implementing partners will be invited to attend the steering committees of all three projects and some ad hoc technical meetings can be foreseen to discuss possible joint actions to be carried out by the implementing partners.

Considering that the trade and investment dimension is present in all three-programme components, a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) might be set up at the action level to ensure complementarity and proper monitoring of implementation of activities as well as good cooperation among different partners. Besides the three implementing organisations, the EU's relevant services, including DG NEAR units dealing with bilateral programmes, DG TRADE, DG GROW, EEAS, the UfM and other key stakeholders will be part of the JSC.

5.7 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partners’ responsibilities. To this aim, each implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix.

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators, as for instance per Joint Programming document, should be taken into account.

The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

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

5.8 Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

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

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

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

5.9 Audit

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

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

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

6. PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOG FRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

The indicative AD log frame should have a maximum of 10 expected results (impact, outcome and output) and associated indicators.

On the basis of this indicative log frame matrix, a more detailed log frame(s) might be developed at contracting stage linked to this AD. The indicative log frame matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the Intervention. The activities, the expected outputs and related indicators are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the Intervention as agreed by the parties (the European Commission and the implementing partner/s).

The log frame matrix must be used for monitoring and reporting purposes. At the latest in the first progress report, implementing partner/s should include the complete log frame including all baselines and targets for each indicator). Each progress report should provide the most up to date version of the log frame as agreed by the parties (the European Commission and the implementing partner/s) with current values for each indicator. The final report should enclose the log frame with baseline and final values for each indicator.

Indicators to be presented, when relevant and possible, disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, disability, any disadvantaged group, income quintile etc.

Additional notes: The term ‘results’ refers to the outputs, outcome(s) and impact of the action. Assumptions should reflect risks and related management strategies identified in the Risk analysis.

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact (Overall Objective)	Contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth focused on decent job creation and greater regional integration through enhanced and better informed trade and investment policy-making processes in EU Southern Neighbourhood countries;	SDG 8 ‘promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’, specifically, Target 8.5 concerning ‘achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value by 2030’ Employment rate, disaggregated by sex, age Trade/GDP (%) Doing Business score World Competitiveness Index	SDG Reviews Eurostat, UNCTAD, World Bank World Economic Forum	<i>Not applicable</i>

<p>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</p>	<p><u>Component 1: EUROMED TIFM</u> -Facilitate closer economic ties between the EU and South Mediterranean countries and enhance regional economic integration; -Improve trade and investment transparency by providing free access to information for economic operators and policy makers.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Improving the investment climate in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth</u> -Improve sustainable impact of investment, based on more robust and transparent legal and institutional frameworks as well as clear and reliable statistics; -Design and implement sound investment climate reforms in the areas covered by the five EIP (External Investment Plan) Investment Windows, both at the regional and national levels, by facilitating a more structured process of public-private dialogue.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Mainstreaming employment into Trade and Investment Policies</u> -Strengthen country-level knowledge on the impact of sectoral, trade and investment policies on productive and decent employment and on measures to optimise the employment effects of these policies; -Build capabilities of governments, social partners, and other relevant stakeholders to identify, measure and assess the employment effects of sectoral, trade and investment policies as well as conduct policy dialogue based on such assessments; -Develop ways to address the employment opportunities and challenges resulting from sectoral, trade and investment policies; -Provide assessments to governments, financial institutions, EU delegations and other relevant stakeholders on the implications of relevant</p>	<p>Number of SMEs reporting that their trade decisions have benefited from the market information available on EuroMed Trade Helpdesk, and/or from the Helpdesk's problem solving network</p> <p>Infra-region trade flows/total trade flows</p> <p>Intra- countries trade in goods (imports and exports) as a percentage of total trade in goods</p> <p>Intra-target countries trade in services (imports & exports) as a percentage of total trade in services</p> <p>Intra-target country stock of FDI as a percentage of total FDI (inflows & outflow)</p> <p>Trade flows/GDP</p> <p>OECD FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index</p> <p>Global Competitiveness Index</p> <p>Doing Business scores</p> <p>FDI/GDP</p> <p>Employment in foreign-controlled enterprises as a share of total domestic employment</p> <p>Employment development in foreign-controlled enterprises and foreign affiliates</p> <p>Unemployment rate, disaggregated by sex</p> <p>Ratio of male to female unemployment rates</p> <p>Wage employment share of people in income-earning activities (percentage; total and disaggregated by sex)</p>		<p>Country's ownership and NFP availability for the full duration of the project's implementation</p> <p>Political stability. Willingness on governments' side to share national statistics and release key information</p> <p>National institutions, social partners and other stakeholders agree to participate in the policy analysis of the impact on employment of trade and investment policies</p>
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	infrastructure projects under the EIP for employment.			
Outputs	<p><u>Component 1: EUROMED TIFM</u></p> <p><i>Output 1:</i> The Euromed TIFM is enhanced with additional information on investment, services, rules of origin, WTO notifications on regulations and export potential assessment tool.</p> <p><i>Output 2:</i> Enhance the understanding of regulatory and procedural trade obstacles faced by SMEs in the region and identify options to reduce costs of trade in goods and services;</p> <p><i>Output 3:</i> Raise awareness on the Euromed</p>	<p><u>Component 1: EUROMED TIFM</u></p> <p><i>Output 1:</i> Number of new modules or features in the EuroMed Trade Helpdesk Number of countries with investment data on priority sector Number of trade agreements for which detailed information is displayed Number of new or updated support materials Number of participants to trainings delivered for NFP Number of launch events Level of satisfaction on advisory services delivered to gather detailed information on administrative procedures Number of administrative procedures on-line Number of new NTM business surveys implemented Number of country for which trade in services data are available in EuroMed Trade Helpdesk</p> <p><i>Output 2:</i> Number of stakeholder consultations Number of participants disaggregated by sex to stakeholder events to share results and recommend solutions to overcome the issues identified in the NTM (Non-Tariff Measures) surveys Number of participants disaggregated by sex to be delivered trainings on methodology to collect services data Business register compiled in each country</p>	Eurostat, ITC statistics, TIFM number of visits and number of technical enquiries received and answered, WB, UNCTAD and national statistics ICT evaluation and certification on trade in services; data collection and processing Media monitoring system: ITC will track items in the media that mention, or use data, from the portal and compile them into a report.	SMEs willing to share experiences on the use of the portal and its influence on their business decisions; National governments remaining committed to operate the portal; Data to populate the tool supplied in a timely manner; National agencies represented by the National Focal Points participating in an active way in the network and its annual meetings;

	<p>Trade Helpdesk and strengthen market analysis and research skills using the tool;</p> <p><u>Component 2: Improving the investment climate in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth</u></p> <p><i>Output 1:</i> Targeted policy advice to support and ensure effective implementation of investment climate reforms;</p> <p><i>Output 2:</i> Improved investment climate reforms in the EIP investment windows through strengthened regional and national public-private dialogues;</p> <p><i>Output 3:</i> Improved monitoring process for the implementation of selected reforms supported by the intervention in selected beneficiary countries.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Mainstreaming employment</u></p>	<p><i>Output 3:</i> Number of participants, disaggregated by sex, to customised capacity building programmes established in consultation with national focal points Number of trained people, including share of women participants Number of national communication and visibility plans conceptualised and implemented Number of participants, disaggregated by sex ,attending annual meetings with the ITC, the EU and the NFP Number of national communication materials produced and disseminated A credible sustainable plan for the tool produced and in place</p> <p><u>Component 2: Improving the investment climate in the South Mediterranean region towards sustainable jobs and growth</u></p> <p><i>Output 1:</i> Number of regional peer-learning seminars and technical consultations at the national level on specific investment related policy reforms; FDI statistics produced with a particular focus on Algeria, Lebanon, Libya and Palestine</p> <p><i>Output 2:</i> Number of PPDs and focus groups meetings for the 5 EIP windows; Increased engagement of private sector in the policy making and production of policy papers Impact stories on reforms Number of reforms accompanied</p> <p><i>Output 3:</i> Development of monitoring mechanisms at the</p>	<p>OECD and national FDI statistics ; IPAs monitoring and reporting on policy advising on investment reforms and climate; PPDs meetings’ reports and recommendations produced; List of companies and sectoral business organisations consulted; Sectoral business position papers produced to influence policy; OECD monitoring reports</p>	<p>Willingness of governments and other key stakeholders to share national FDI statistics and release key information; full commitment to actively participate in PPD process</p>
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	<p><u>into Trade and Investment Policies</u> <i>Output 1:</i> Knowledge on the positive and negative impact of trade and investment policies on productive and decent employment in Neighbourhood South countries is generated, improved, discussed and disseminated.</p> <p><i>Output 2:</i> Capacity of policy makers, social partners, and staff in statistical offices and research institutions in participating countries to collect and analyse trade, investment and employment data, to produce and use evidence on the effects of trade and investment policies on productive and decent employment and to discuss and design policies is improved.</p> <p><i>Output 3:</i> Employment opportunities arising from trade and investment policies specifically are enhanced and export-oriented value chains and industries that are job-rich are promoted.</p> <p><i>Output 4:</i> Governments, financial institutions, EU delegations and other relevant stakeholders are aware of the potential employment effects of infrastructure investments in the Neighbourhood South countries in relevant sectors/subsectors.</p>	<p>national level Number of reforms monitored</p> <p><u>Component 3: Mainstreaming employment into Trade and Investment Policies</u> <i>Output 1:</i> Country-level impact studies produced; Studies disseminated among policy makers, social partners and other relevant institutions in partner countries</p> <p><i>Output 2:</i> Number of specialists, policy makers and researchers trained on assessing the effects of trade and investment on employment; Number of social partners trained on the relationship between trade and employment; policy working groups established; Workshops organised for tripartite social dialogue and knowledge sharing;</p> <p><i>Output 3:</i> Policy briefs based on impact assessments are provided to stakeholders to facilitate the design of sectoral programmes; Better intra-national coordination, policy planning and the policy making itself; Enhanced quality and more focused national dialogue on mainstreaming employment into trade and investment policymaking</p> <p><i>Output 4:</i> Results of analysis/studies disseminated among policy makers, social partners and other relevant institutions in the partner countries; Number of stakeholders validation meetings on the studies</p>	<p>National labour market and employment statistics</p> <p>Training curricula</p> <p>Trainings evaluation surveys</p> <p>Data Collection Guidelines</p> <p>Trade and Value Chains in Employment-Rich activities (TRAVERA) survey STED studies mapping out skills opportunities for increased trade and export growth and economic diversification</p> <p>Studies on infrastructure investments in the Neighbourhood South</p>	<p>National governments and local authorities grant access to available data</p> <p>National officials available for data collection and training</p> <p>Sustained Tripartite Dialogue at the national and regional levels</p>
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX II

Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020

Action Document for EU Support to the Council of Europe South Programme IV

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	EU Support to the Council of Europe South Programme IV CRIS number: 2020/042-208 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ⁽¹⁾ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ⁽²⁾ , Syria ⁽³⁾ and Tunisia	
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014-2020, Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020)	
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	
5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area	Partnership with People -Support regional institutional cooperation	DEV. Assistance: NO ⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾ See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

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

⁽³⁾ On hold – activities suspended in previous phases due to conflict.

⁽⁴⁾ Official Development Assistance is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

6. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 3,334,000</p> <p>Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 3 million</p> <p>The contribution is for EUR 3 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p> <p>The action is co-financed in joint co-financing by the Council of Europe for an amount of EUR 334,000.</p>			
7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Indirect management with the Council of Europe</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15150 Democratic Participation and civil society			
b) Main Delivery Channel	47000 Other multilateral institutions OR 50000 Other			
9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship	Not applicable			

SUMMARY:

The Southern Neighbourhood region continues to face important challenges at regional level. Despite the unquestioned democratic gains with recent constitutional democratic reforms in certain countries such as Morocco and Tunisia, others still face fragility and instability. The continued Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the ongoing conflict in Syria with more than 5.6 million

refugees having fled to neighbouring countries⁵, the socio-political instability in Libya, and the recent upheavals in Algeria continue to hamper efforts towards regional integration.

As pointed out by the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy, good governance, respect and protection of human rights, as well as an effective, functional and impartial rule of law system are key for the development of sustainable, peaceful and stable democratic societies. In this light, the overall objective of this action is to contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European and international human rights legislative standards.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has a long-standing cooperation relationship with the EU, including European Commission services such as DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement), through the implementation of bilateral cooperation programmes, and the successive editions of the South Programme at regional level.

South Programme IV seeks to continue assisting Southern Mediterranean countries in reforming their legislation and reinforcing their democratic governance institutions as well as accompanying reform processes. Additionally, particular attention is given to activities combatting gender-based violence against women and human trafficking. A special focus on regional activities would complement bilateral programmes, together with strengthening regional networks through knowledge exchange, capacity building, peer review, and experience sharing that would positively nurture a sense of regional ownership.

The South Programme IV will concentrate specifically on creating a common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean as well as among countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region itself, based on the accession of Southern partner countries to relevant CoE conventions, in particular the Istanbul Convention dealing with violence against women. It will seek to favour regional application of human rights and rule of law standards, referring specifically to CoE conventions and institutions where these have been agreed with partner countries, as well as relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, building capacity of national institutions. The successive phases of the South Programme have confirmed the relevance and sustainability of the programme in providing institutional support to the region, which has the added value of CoE's standard setting know-how, its independent monitoring process, and the support of independent experts and advisory opinion bodies.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

Southern Neighbourhood countries face important challenges concerning regional integration. Despite the unquestioned democratic gains in certain countries, the heated debates about new social configurations and public affairs are strongly polarising Arab societies. A very young population with little access to decent work and employment⁽⁶⁾, the disenfranchisement of

⁽⁵⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/our-mission_en (data consulted on 25th July 2019)

⁽⁶⁾ The region has some of the world's highest rates of youth unemployment. According to recent data, the most recent youth unemployment rates in the other ENP-South countries ranged from 22.5 % in Morocco (2016) to 35.0 % in Tunisia (2015 data) with the 44.7 % rate in Palestine in 2017. In Jordan, unemployment youth rate stands at 36.1% (2017).

women in private, public and political spheres⁽⁷⁾ due to gender inequality and gender-based violence, conflict, forced migration and displacement also pose serious challenges to achieving regional stability, security and peace as well as arrest economic development. The continued Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the ongoing conflict in Syria with its international repercussions⁽⁸⁾, and the socio-political instability in Libya continue to hamper efforts towards regional integration.

Sustainable and inclusive growth together with human and economic development anchored in the indivisibility of human rights are still key challenges in the Southern Neighbourhood region. They are also powerful tools to build resilience as well as wide-ranging, inclusive, transparent and responsive public institutions that are accountable to all citizens, women and men, and able to hold their trust.

In addition, the situation of human rights defenders and civil society organisations have worsened in the region, with little room for activism and advocacy as well as the overall circumscription on debates on human rights issues⁽⁹⁾.

In this context, good governance, respect and protection of human rights, as well as an effective, functional and impartial rule of law system are key for the development of sustainable, peaceful and stable democratic societies. It is in this framework that the current programme is at play.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

By the end of 2015, the EU completed its review of the **Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**, with a series of new orientations for future cooperation with the region: promotion of democratic, accountable and good governance, justice reform as well as a shared commitment to the rule of law and human rights as important universal values, which are preconditions for sustainable development and stability. The ENP review strongly supports the implementation of the **United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a framework in which to engage with the ENP partners based on universal values and principles. Democratic governance is central for achieving the SDG 16, specifically dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, the provision of access to justice for all as well as building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. These same tenets drive the new **European Consensus on Development** (May 2017) and are central to the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy** (2016). These three policy frameworks reinforce each other's priorities and actions. They also guide the EU cooperation efforts to:

- Support domestic and regional interventions which are context-specific,
- Build sustainable democratic states resilient to external and internal shocks, and
- Address the drivers of vulnerability, including inequality⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽⁷⁾ According to a recent survey by the World Bank, female Labour Force Participation (LFP) in the MENA region remains the lowest worldwide. It accounted for an average of 21% in 2017, compared to a 50% average in the European Union (and 51% average in the OECD countries).

⁽⁸⁾ According to Amnesty International, by the end of 2018, 6.6 million people were internally displaced since the start of the crisis in 2011. Makeshift camps have turned into homes for thousands, with poor and dire living standards.

⁽⁹⁾ An example of this is the 'NGO law', passed by the Egyptian Parliament in May 2017. This law places constraints on the formation of civil society organisations as much as their general activities, both of which are subject to security intervention. However, as of 15 July 2019, the Egyptian Parliament has passed a new NGO law of which no analysis of its provisions from the EU Delegation in Egypt is yet available, so we cannot assess yet its relationship with the 2017 NGO Law, and the impact on civil society organisations and their activities.

⁽¹⁰⁾ See the new [European Consensus for Development](#) for further details.

These are also strong pillars of the Council of Europe's comprehensive pan-European mandate, sustained by more than 220 conventions, around 150 of which are open to ratification by non-member States, constituting a significant part of the all-embracing international human rights law corpus. Fundamental rights are enshrined in a powerful CoE legal instrument, **the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**, which offers protection and legally binding frameworks to monitor compliance, protection and fulfilment of human rights, while ensuring their core presence within Europe's multilateral actions, cooperation and development interventions, as well as overall democratic stability. Regarding the latter, an independent, impartial, and fully working judiciary as well as free media, independent from political and economic interests and pressure, are key to justice, the rule of law and for a fair distribution and exercise of power in society as well as serve as accountability mechanisms. Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and associations, healthy and solid democratic institutions, and inclusive and egalitarian societies are building blocks of states, worthy of people's trust as guarantors of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In this light, the Council of Europe's policy towards the Southern Neighbourhood region ⁽¹¹⁾ aims to promote political dialogue and cooperation, based on common values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

All of the above policy frameworks reaffirm the essential role of respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights as well as the central importance of equality between women and men for the EU and its cooperation policy, women and girls being important drivers for sustainable development and peace. Accordingly, the **Joint Staff Working Document on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020' (GAP II)**, endorsed by the European Council in October 2015, stresses the need for the complete realisation of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout EU external actions ⁽¹²⁾. The GAP II is in strong synergy with all the SDGs, particularly with the SDG 5 that calls to 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls' and the SDG 16, stressing the need to ensure women's and girls' access to justice as well as a fully functional and gender-responsive rule of law system that addresses gender inequalities in both public and private spheres.

Through the Objective 7, '*girls and women free from all forms of violence against them both in the public and in the private sphere*', the GAP II works in parallel with the **Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Elimination of Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)**. The Istanbul Convention not only constitutes an instrument to protect women against gender-based violence but also to prevent, prosecute and eliminate it (2011: 7) ⁽¹³⁾. Importantly, it specifically covers issues relating to public policy, international cooperation and the development of an assistance network for women victims/survivors of this type of violence,

⁽¹¹⁾ The Council of Europe's policy with regards to neighbourhood and enlargement is designed for partners in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, and pursues the following three objectives: 1) facilitation of democratic political transition in the countries concerned; 2) promotion of good governance through the protection of human rights and the rule of law; and 3) reinforcement and enlargement of the Council of Europe regional action in combating transborder and global threats.

⁽¹²⁾ Four pivotal areas outlined in the GAP II: ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity; promoting the social and economic rights /empowerment of women and girls; strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation; and finally, shifting the institutional culture to deliver more effectively on EU commitments.

⁽¹³⁾ It provides detailed guidance on the attention, services and assistance mechanisms to support victims/survivors of GBVAW, the response of the State to this type of violence, the legal and criminal architecture needed to tackle it effectively, and the specific measures to work with the perpetrators of such violence.

as well as providing support and guidance to organisations and law enforcement agencies to eradicate it (2011: 7).

For the scope of this action, the Istanbul Convention, the GAP II, and other key international and regional human rights instruments (i.e. the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, the **Beijing Platform for Action**, and the **EU *acquis on gender equality***) are the legislative tools for developing interventions in the specific field of gender-based violence against women and girls (GBVAWG) in the Southern Mediterranean region as well as for building inclusive, transparent and egalitarian good governance systems.

Finally, as the Southern Neighbourhood represents an important gateway for Europe and the transition space between continents along the South/North divide, the **South Programme IV** will also address serious violations of human rights, such as forced labour, human trafficking and irregular migration, which further jeopardise national and regional stability and peace in the region as well as are the sustenance for organised crime. In this respect, the Council of Europe **Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** represents the most comprehensive anti-trafficking instrument in the European Union. Targeted work in this area has powerful synergies with the Istanbul Convention and the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, representing an important breakthrough and a strategic area for action from a human rights and good governance perspective ⁽¹⁴⁾.

1.3. Stakeholder analysis

All actions under this programme are geared to be beneficial for **citizens in the Southern Neighbourhood countries**. In this respect, civil society will be involved in specific activities as a target group, and civil society organisations and women's rights organisations will be engaged for effective participation, whenever relevant. Women victims/survivors of gender-based violence are also direct beneficiaries of this action.

In creating a common legal space and strengthening human rights stakeholders are: governmental bodies at all levels, notably Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Interior; Ministries responsible for public administration; Parliaments; public structures with specific responsibilities in relevant areas (i.e. anti-corruption bodies, gender equality national machineries); the judiciary, judicial professions and judiciary supervisory bodies.

In combatting gender based violence against women stakeholders are: Ministries of Women, Gender Equality National Machineries, state agencies, including the judiciary, public prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, local and regional authorities as well as non-governmental organisations and other organisations and entities active in protecting and supporting victims and witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Given the categorisation of human trafficking as transnational organised crime, the gross violations of human rights as a result, and the flow of global and human capital it generates, the Convention echoes other treaties and declarations of international human rights law such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**, the **UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)**, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)**, the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**, the **UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (2000)**, and the **Palermo Protocol (2000)**.

1.4. Problem analysis/priority areas for support

Main issues relating to sustainable development, stability and peace in the Southern Neighbourhood region ⁽¹⁵⁾ relate to numerous factors, ranging from the still side-effects of the 2008 global economic crisis, the post-Arab Spring political swerve, shrinking political freedoms and the space for civil society, to ongoing conflicts and democratic challenges (i.e. slow economic and human development, unregulated migration, human trafficking, disenfranchised populations, high rates of unemployment among women, youth, and middle class high-skilled professionals, etc.).

This programme will contribute **to support the Southern Neighbourhood to enhance and achieve socio-political stability in its development of a common legal space at regional level that would ensure sustainable peace and promote resilient societies**. In this respect, and in line with the **ENP**, the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy**, and the **EU-CoE Statement of Intent** (2014) ⁽¹⁶⁾, the South Programme, launched in 2012 after the Arab Spring, is one of the main joint strategic initiatives between the EU and the CoE to support democratic reforms in the Southern Neighbourhood, of which Arab countries have greatly benefitted. Regarding the South Programme IV, in line with the work initiated under previous phases, it is suggested to target democratic governance, respect for the rule of law, and human rights **as priorities**. The South Programme IV will focus particularly on:

- Pursuing the progressive creation of a common legal space between the Southern Mediterranean and Europe;
- Strengthening human rights international standards and their ratification among Southern Neighbourhood partner countries;
- Combating violence against women in the region;
- Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

¹⁵ See the **Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (2014-2020)** for further details.

¹⁶ The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) further developed its relations with representatives from Parliaments of Southern Mediterranean beneficiaries, notably through the PACE PfD status. This status allows parliamentary delegations from beneficiaries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean and the Middle East (but also from Central Asia) to take part in the PACE's activities in return for commitments to pursue the values upheld by the Council of Europe, hold free and fair elections, and work towards abolishing the death penalty, among other things. Morocco has benefited from this status since June 2011, Palestine* since October 2011, and Jordan since January 2016.

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Sector focus of the South Programme IV covers priority topics for EU cooperation (democratic governance, rule of law, human rights). These areas could also be covered by bilateral actions, from different angles. Thus, a risk of duplication exists.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The South Programme IV will have a strong regional focus; bilateral interventions will be complementary to regional ones and <i>will avoid duplication</i> with bilateral actions. ▪ Strong mechanisms of coordination and information sharing between the CoE and EU Delegations, both at the level of HQ and in the field, will be ensured. ▪ The programme will be structured along thematic pillars.
Difficult geo-political environment, acute and chronic conflicts, and lack of regional integration	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There will be a strong monitoring to assess the political and security risks in each country, and proceed with possible changes in the intervention as well as the level of involvement in each country. ▪ A flexible methodological approach will enable a high adaptability to changing socio-political realities across the Southern Neighbourhood geography.
Political limitations on final endorsement and ratification of CoE Conventions, mostly in the field of Human Rights; Limited transposition of CoE conventions in level legislation at country level; Lack of political willingness to finalise ratification of the main human rights conventions to the council of Europe	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The South Programme IV will strengthen 'accompaniment' mechanisms to ensure ratification of CoE conventions. ▪ Strong follow-up to ensure transposition of CoE's international standards into national legislation, and fulfilment of commitments.
Assumptions		
<p>Complementarity with ongoing national programmes will be sought in order to avoid duplication.</p> <p>There will be political willingness from national counterparts to move forward the human rights agenda.</p> <p>Regional priorities and action plans will be defined jointly in order to avoid fragmented approaches.</p>		

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

The South Programme has progressively moved from functioning as a sort of 'good governance' incubator in the region (the South Programme I and II), with targeted actions mostly on Morocco and Tunisia, to a more comprehensive regional intervention, including countries such as Jordan, Algeria and Libya. Beyond the need to further consolidate achieved results, the South Programme has reached a mature phase, with increasing and more targeted demands from partner beneficiaries and a stronger need to share experience and knowledge, as a region, on challenges to sustainable development at all levels (social, economic, geopolitical).

In fact, the **independent evaluation of the South Programme II** confirmed the relevance of this programme, its added value, and the buy-in from stakeholders. **Importantly, it also recommended to enhance its intra-regional character** to ensure a better balance among programme beneficiaries and experience sharing. Therefore, the South Programme IV will powerfully enhance its regional dimension through collaboration with the **Union for the Mediterranean** on defining and developing a regional agenda on the specific objectives of the programme. The intra-regional dimension will also enhance collective experience sharing, knowledge transfer, as well as building on good practices.

Joint action on **gender-based violence against women** within the framework of the Istanbul Convention, with the ultimate goal of its eventual adoption and ratification, will be key. Specific bilateral actions will be necessary to ensure the sustainability of the results and initiate actions in new areas of relevance for beneficiaries in the region, without jeopardising regional efforts and demands.

As **recommended** by the independent evaluation, the South Programme IV will engage in a **stronger coordination between the EU and the CoE** for the sake of amplifying the impact of the action. In so doing, the programme will ensure broad consultation, close cooperation and a regular dialogue with EU Delegations (EUDs), especially with Heads of Delegation and/or Heads of Co-operation of EUDs. **Another important recommendation** refers to **EU-CoE policy/political dialogues with partner countries**, which are to be a strong part of the South Programme IV cooperation agenda in order to design a shared intraregional plan of action. This would enable a better identification and narrowing of objectives, with realistic mid-term targets and a stronger follow-up. Also, steady and effective feedback, consultation, and communication with all participating parties must be ensured during the project design and implementation.

With regards to its methodology, the South Programme guarantees the flexibility (thematic and geographical) needed to engage Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries in work initiated under their own cooperation agreements and adapt its intervention to the level of progress in country-specific areas of reform. This approach has also been instrumental in steering work towards new areas of action identified with beneficiaries on an *ad hoc* basis, such as the work of the **European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice**, which has been key in raising awareness of international and European standards in the judiciary as well as in operationalising pilot courts ⁽¹⁷⁾. Most importantly, the effectiveness of the work of the

⁽¹⁷⁾ For example, under the South Programme III, Morocco requested for the first time to take part in the CEPEJ Evaluation of the judicial systems (2016-2018 cycle), which resulted in the collection and publication of relevant judicial data allowing for a better understanding of their judicial systems and the evaluation of their functioning. In addition, a fact-finding mission on the Council of State of Egypt has been organised in May 2019 at the request of

Venice Commission will be strengthened under the South Programme IV. The latter provided its expertise within the **Libyan** transitional context, where a Venice commission expert was also deployed in 2018 in order to assess draft electoral legislation.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

The South Programme IV will continue reinforcing synergies with actors active in the region like the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, the **European Endowment for Democracy (EED)**, and the **League of Arab States (LAS)**, with whom the CoE had already cooperated under the South Programme II. Open communication and coordination will also be fluent and up-to-date with other international partners such as the **United Nations (UN)** agencies, the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, and **EU Member States' development agencies**.

Complementarity of actions will also be strengthened with programmes financed under EU thematic instruments, such as the Instrument Contributing to Stabilisation and Peace and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Finally, further synergies will be developed with the **Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women (2019-2021)**, implemented by the Euro-Med Feminist Initiative (EfI) and managed by NEAR B2.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

Overall Objective: To contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European and other international standards;

In particular, the South Programme IV seeks to assist Southern Mediterranean countries in reforming their legislation as well as reinforcing their democratic governance institutions and accompany other reform processes.

Specific Objectives are:

Specific Objective 1: **Progressive creation of a common legal space**, by supporting constitutional and legislative reform processes in line with European standards as well as promoting key Council of Europe conventions and partial agreements;

The expertise of several CoE bodies, including the **Venice Commission**, should continue to support constitutional and legislative reform processes in countries in the region through the support to constitutional reviews, drafting of organic laws, and other legislative frameworks. This also covers the implementation of constitutional and legislative provisions, including setting-up of democratic human rights/governance instances (e.g. National Prevention Mechanisms against Torture and independent electoral bodies). The role of parliamentary bodies will be stressed throughout this specific objective of the programme.

the Egyptian Council of State in order to prepare an evaluation of the overall functioning of this high Court for improving working methods and reduce court delays.

Expected Output 1: Progress towards endorsement and ratification of relevant CoE conventions;

Expected Output 2: Progressive transposition of CoE standards (comprising the jurisprudence of the ECtHR) at national level, in areas agreed by beneficiaries;

Expected Output 3: Regular participation of partner countries in relevant CoE intergovernmental structures and networks (i.e. GRECO ⁽¹⁸⁾) to promote the acquisition of official status (observer or member) as appropriate;

Expected Output 4: Application of monitoring processes in Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries, especially Tunisia and Morocco, once they become Contracting Parties to relevant CoE conventions and partial agreements, as non-member States of the Council of Europe.

Indicative Activities:

- Assessment of the existing legal and institutional framework in areas agreed with beneficiary countries;
- Capacity building and regional workshops under the mandate of the **Venice Commission**, for example on relevant Council of Europe standards; and jurisprudence of the ECtHR
- Specific training at ministry level on, for example, good electoral practices, good governance and accountability mechanisms;
- Specific pilot visits to the European Court of Human Rights and trainings;
- Training on the specific methodologies of the CoE European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ);
- Regional exchanges on best practices and lessons learned on the CEPEJ methodologies; including on the measurement of the performance of justice systems.
- Participation of national authorities to the CEPEJ thematic groups in Strasbourg under the regional program and monitoring of the follow-up at national level;
- Regional capacity building on the role and place of independent bodies, which is a relatively recent reality in the legal and institutional framework of the countries of the region.

Specific Objective 2: Strengthening human rights international standards in the Southern Neighbourhood region

Expected Output 1: Awareness-raising and reinforcement of relevant stakeholders' know-how on European and other international standards relating to human rights;

Expected Output 2: Knowledge and skills-transfer on European and other international human rights standards, focusing on CoE conventions, with a view to enhancing national and intra-regional capacities;

Indicative Activities:

- Sensitisation and initiation workshops on human rights, standards including the CoE European Convention on Human Rights; and the modernised Convention 108, including its Amending Protocol once applicable.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption

- Organisation of **HELP** ⁽¹⁹⁾ courses for new target audiences and follow-up sessions for attendees;
- Organisation of regional HELP exchanges involving staff from different ministries;
- Specific regional capacity building on CoE standards, including the methodologies used by relevant expert groups (i.e. **GRETA** ⁽²⁰⁾), to regularly assess and respond to shared challenges regarding human rights violations.

Specific Objective 3: Combatting violence against women in the region, by joining efforts among beneficiaries in reviewing their legal and policy frameworks, pursuing a shared agenda, and through capacity building on the Istanbul Convention

Expected Output 1: Further promotion of the Istanbul Convention at regional level;

Expected Output 2: Enhanced understanding and capacity building on the Istanbul Convention and its provisions;

Expected Output 3: Development of gender-sensitive practices towards legal provisions that currently discriminate against women and girls;

Expected Output 4: Close follow-up of accession processes to the Istanbul Convention;

Expected Output 5: Enhanced level of regional cooperation on GBVAW conducive to a regional action plan, in line with the **Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial declaration following the 4th Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society**.

Indicative Activities:

- Sensitisation and promotion of the Istanbul Convention in new geographies within the Southern Neighbourhood region (i.e. Algeria, Libya, Palestine);
- Regional sensitisation on the Istanbul Convention provisions relating to early warning mechanisms and actions on supporting women victims/survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (i.e. need for shelters, free legal support, gender-responsive police);
- Capacity building for (old and new) target groups involved in legal implementation, such as prosecutors and judges, on the Istanbul Convention pillars and provisions;
- Awareness-rising activities in national bodies on the impact of GBVAW in their specific field/work and in the society at large (i.e. impact on budget, health sector, education etc.);
- Organisation of a regional network to reflect on existing discriminatory institutional instances, policies and legislation, which are conducive to gender discrimination and GBVAW or remain blind to GBVAW at institutional levels;
- EU-CoE-Southern Neighbourhood expert seminars on the nexus between gender equality, gender-based violence against women, and the rule of law;
- Devising a locally owned roadmap that would represent the foundations of a future regional action plan on the elimination of GBVAW;
- Engaging with regional institutions such as the **Union for the Mediterranean** and the **League of Arab States**, to work on GBVAW and advance a regionally set agenda.

Specific Objective 4: Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks to reinforce democratic governance and independent instances'

⁽¹⁹⁾ European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals.

⁽²⁰⁾ Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

capacity to interact both between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean and within the Southern Mediterranean region

Expected Output 1: Expansion and creation of networks focused on specific objectives 1, 2, and 3;

Expected Output 2: Exchange of experience and best practice between Europe and the Southern Neighbourhood region, including countries benefiting from CoE cooperation projects.

Indicative Activities:

- Strengthening existing regional networks on action areas relating to the **rule of law** (e.g. constitutional reform, access to justice) within the auspices of the **Venice Commission** and other CoE instances;
- Regional and intra-regional workshops (with EU and Southern Neighbourhood experts) to enhance shared learning and capacity building on existing European standards with regard to democratic good governance (e.g. fight against corruption), GBVAW, human rights challenges;
- Regional focus groups to identify common challenges and shared interests in standardising practices with regard to the specific objectives of this action (e.g. shared legal space, human rights, GBVAWG);
- Organisation of regional steering committees and 'task forces' led by different partner countries to design a roadmap on topics collectively decided by them.

The regional initiatives will provide an unparalleled opportunity for Southern Mediterranean partners to come together, at the political and technical level, to discuss common issues, share strategies and explore areas for cooperation. Ad hoc bilateral interventions in countries of the region will be also considered if preliminary needs are identified when initiating cooperation, and in the identification phase.

4.2 Intervention Logic

The Programme will provide support and advice to Southern Mediterranean beneficiaries in reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Building on the experience and achievements of the South Programmes I, II and III, it will aim at strengthening and consolidating the regional (and intra-regional) dimension. The South Programme IV will take a stronger regional stance on the scope of the action, with bilateral interventions deriving from and contributing to defining a shared regional agenda, collectively shaped by and among beneficiaries.

As under previous phases, the South Programme IV will be designed to guarantee the flexibility needed to further engage beneficiaries in work initiated under this framework, to adapt its intervention to the level of progress in the areas of reform undertaken by the beneficiaries, and to set in motion new areas of work identified with beneficiaries on an ad hoc basis.

As to the geographical scope, it will apply a regional variable geometry, taking into consideration the optimum solution for sustainable and tangible results.

4.3 Mainstreaming

This action directly targets **human rights** and **gender equality** issues. Therefore, it will develop a **gender-sensitive rights-based approach** ⁽²¹⁾ to good governance and the rule of law, ensuring that policies and public institutions are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all citizens, both women and men. The development of policies and institutions in a country/region will ensure that all groups have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through institutions that legitimately represent their interests and needs. It will also reinforce fundamental democratic principles, with strong accountable institutions, which are the foundations of **resilient societies** and **sustainable peace**. The action works within the provisions of the Council of Europe legal instruments, which are strongly rooted on the principles of equality, non-discrimination, gender balanced participation and inclusiveness of civil society.

As a component of this gender-sensitive rights-based approach and in line with the GAP II and the **EU *acquis* on gender equality**, the CoE emphasises gender mainstreaming throughout its project activities, in line with its **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023** ⁽²²⁾. This includes a gender-responsive approach to capacity building and technical assistance. Both the launch of the **Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Co-operation Projects** in 2018 and specific gender mainstreaming trainings for CoE staff in 2019 are expected to enhance the implementation of a gender dimension in cooperation activities both within the organisation and with/by national partners.

The programme will prioritise **gender equality**, equal opportunities and the participation of **women** and **youth** in its **activities** ⁽²³⁾. Any of the activities foreseen under this action will be respectful and integral to these principles, including non-discrimination. **Women** will be encouraged to participate in the existing and new networks as well as have equal opportunities to access capacity building and decision-making institutional spheres.

The South Programme IV will strengthen existing networks with **civil society organisations**, especially with women's rights organisations, to support their engagement in relevant reform processes guided by CoE ⁽²⁴⁾. In this respect, the CoE will ensure that experience and knowledge of the CoE and the **EU values** are shared with key CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) and WCSOs (Women's Civil Society Organisations) in a given field. The participation of civil society representatives in activities, in some cases together with governmental stakeholders, will help to create bridges and encourage networking ⁽²⁵⁾. Therefore, to the extent feasible, the advice provided by the CoE on constitutional issues and European conventions ought to be subject to public awareness activities involving civil society, parliaments and other relevant stakeholders.

⁽²¹⁾ This is in line with the European Consensus on Development, and the GAP II.

⁽²²⁾ For more information, see the CoE web page on gender mainstreaming.

⁽²³⁾ Youth leaders and/or youth civil society organisation can act as multipliers for instance in the framework of the Tunisian and Moroccan Schools of Political Studies, as well as the activities of the North-South Centre.

⁽²⁴⁾ The CoE also promotes effective civil society participation, as outlined in the Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations' participation in CoE's co-operation activities. See <https://rm.coe.int/1680656cef> for further reference.

⁽²⁵⁾ Civil society participated actively in the Lisbon Forum or the MedUni, and the organisation of activities in partnership with universities, such as the Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings, together with the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis at the University of Carthage organised in January 2018 under South Programme II.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

In general, the implementation of the South Programme contributes to strengthening the rule of law and democracy, by developing and nurturing sustainable peace, justice and strong institutions, strongly anchored in human rights and gender equality. Therefore, the South Programme IV will continue to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and the effective realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the SDG 16 (in particular targets 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and B). Emphasis is also laid on the SDG 5 concerning gender equality, with specific efforts dedicated to achieving targets 1 and 2. In addition, the work of the Council of Europe often touches upon and contributes to implementation of other SDGs, this is the case the SDG 3 (and specifically target 5 which aims to strengthen the prevention of substance abuse), the SDG 4 (in particular target 7 on human rights education), the SDG 8 (and specifically target 7 which aims to eradicate forced labour), and the SDG 10 (targets 2 on the inclusion of citizens from all backgrounds, and 7 on migration policies).

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

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

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision.

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

5.3 Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures ⁽²⁶⁾.

5.3.1 *Indirect management with an entrusted entity*

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Council of Europe.

This implementation entails carrying out the activities identified in section 4.1, related to the objectives of the action.

²⁶ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

The envisaged entity has been selected because of the CoE’s comprehensive history and broad recognition as a key actor in the protection, fulfilment and advocacy for human rights and the rule of law as well as its strong expertise and technical competence in these areas. The **EU-CoE Memorandum of Understanding** (2007) and the **Statement of Intent** (2014) signed between the CoE and the European Commission ⁽²⁷⁾ were also considered as guarantors of the political commitment between both institutions, with special regards to the Southern Neighbourhood region. Moreover, there is a need to ensure continuity in the actions initiated by the South Programmes I, II and III in key areas to achieve sustainable results in the medium and long term.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission’s services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria, that is, high level of technical expertise and strong past experience in the fields of human rights, rule of law and overall good governance building..

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution 2020 (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution (amount in EUR)
Indirect management with the Council of Europe (cf. section 5.3.1)	3,000,000	334,000
Total	3,000,000	334,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by the Commission services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant, in close

⁽²⁷⁾ See the [EU-Council of Europe Memorandum of Understanding](#) (2007) and the [Statement of Intent](#) (2014) signed between the Council of Europe and the European Commission for further details.

collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (the European External Action Service, the European Parliament, EU Member States).

5.7 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support).

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators, as for instance per Joint Programming document, should be taken into account.

The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

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

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, an ex post evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

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

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

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

5.9 Audit

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

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

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of the implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOG FRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact (Overall Objective)	To contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European and other international standards	<p>Relevant Indicators as relating to SDG goals and relevant targets below:</p> <p>SDG 16 ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’, and especially targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16.3 ‘Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.’ ▪ 16.6: ‘Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels’ ▪ 16.7. ‘Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.’ ▪ 16.10. ‘Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements’ ▪ 16.b. ‘Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development’ <p>SDG4 ‘Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’ and especially target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4.7 ‘By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global 	<p>Regular assessment of the action.</p> <p>Reports established by the CoE instances/ partial agreements;</p> <p>ENP and relevant European Union reports;</p> <p>Reports of Joint Human Rights Committees of the European Union;</p> <p>Steering committee meetings reports;</p> <p>Relevant UN/other international organisations reports (including Universal Periodic Reviews);</p> <p>National reports (e.g. CNDH Morocco);</p> <p>Reports by NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations);</p> <p>Reports and recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, notably related to PfD status;</p> <p>Council of Europe progress review reports on Neighbourhood Partnerships with beneficiaries of the region;</p> <p>Reports by CoE instances (i.e. CEPEJ, Venice Commission);</p> <p>Parliamentary Annual</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>

		<p>citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SDG5 ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’, and especially targets: 5.1. ‘End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere ▪ 5.2. ‘Eliminate all forms of violence’ against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation’. ▪ 5.A ‘Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws’ ▪ 5.C. ‘Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels’ 	<p>Reports;</p>	
<p>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</p>	<p><i>S.O. 1: Progressive creation of a common legal space</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of conventions/partial agreements to which the countries are Contracting Parties; ▪ Number of laws prepared with the Council of Europe’s support adopted or in the process of being adopted; ▪ New/ revised legal frameworks in areas identified as priorities for cooperation by countries, in line with European and other international standards. ▪ Level of recommendations of CoE legislative reports inserted in new legislation. 	<p>Committee of Ministers decisions. Official journals of beneficiaries. Council of Europe expert opinions and assessments. Assessment reports of the Council of Europe/ European Union/UN and other international relevant organisations (e.g. UN Special Rapporteur on torture, UPR). National reports (e.g. CNDH Morocco). Reports by NGOs.</p>	<p>Continued commitment of beneficiaries to the implementation of new/ revised constitutions in line with European and other international standards. Continued commitment to democratic governance reforms, in particular from the relevant ministries,</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new human rights institutions and democratic governance structures created. 	<p>PfD status assessments and recommendations. Feedback from participants in the various training, peer-to-peer, networking events. Venice Commission opinions.</p>	<p>independent instances and democratically elected bodies. The citizens and the non-state actors respond positively to new constitutional reforms and the establishment of new legal frameworks in general and the new democratic governance structures. Specific demands and request for expert opinions and assistance from the Council of Europe continue to be generated. Good level of absorption capacity of beneficiary institutions.</p>
	<p><i>S.O.2. Strengthening human rights international standards in the Southern Neighbourhood Region</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of accessions to relevant CoE conventions on human rights Number of requests for invitation to CoE conventions Number of national laws that have transposed international human rights standards and followed public consultations Number of human rights country strategies that include gender equality as an objective (GAP II indicator) Number of requests for assistance on human rights related issues Target groups (sex-disaggregated) that have received specific human rights training by the CoE. Number of existing or new human rights institutions/structures which have developed institutional capacity to improve their functioning with CoE's support (e.g. Ombudsmen Offices, Human Rights Observatories) 		
	<p><i>S.O.3. Combat violence against women in the region</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of laws to address GBVAW prepared with the Council of Europe's support and following meaningful public consultations Number of national strategies developed by relevant ministries in line with the Istanbul Convention Provisions. Percentage of referred cases of gender-based and sexual violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (SDG 5.39) 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of stakeholders trained on the Istanbul Convention, sex-disaggregated. ▪ Number of referral mechanisms developed at country level. ▪ Monitoring mechanisms in place to track progress on implementation of GBVAW laws. 		
	<i>S.O.4: Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of regional networks strengthened between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean ▪ Number of intra-regional networks created through transparent social dialogue ▪ Number of regional and intraregional network activity on rule of law, human rights and GBVAW (disaggregated by thematic and sex) ▪ (Intra)regional roadmaps on relevant rule of law issues, human rights issues and GBVAW developed within regional platforms and fora ▪ Number of civil society organisations that effectively participated in regional and intraregional networks (disaggregated by country, thematic and sex) ▪ Gender mainstreamed into all training provided. 		
Outputs	Specific Objective 1: Progressive Creation of a Common Legal Space Expected Output 1: Progress towards endorsement and ratification of relevant CoE conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of official processes initiated towards accession to relevant CoE conventions following official requests. ▪ Number of ratifications of CoE Conventions. ▪ Number of accessions to partial agreements. 		
	Expected Output 2: Progressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of national laws that have 		

	transposition of CoE standards at national level, on areas agreed by beneficiaries.	effectively transposed CoE international standards, with effective application.		
	Expected Output 3: Regular participation of partner countries in relevant CoE intergovernmental structures and networks to promote the acquisition of official status (observer or member) as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of partner countries participating in CoE events, intergovernmental structures and networks disaggregated by, 1) official position of attendees, 2) sex of attendees, 3) CoE network, 4) CoE working group. 		
	Expected Output 4: Application of monitoring processes in Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries once they become Contracting Parties to relevant CoE conventions and partial agreements, as non-member States of the Council of Europe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of partner countries that achieved an official status (observer or member). ▪ Number of monitoring mechanisms used to assess compliance with obligations under CoE Conventions, disaggregated per ministry/body/country 		
	<p>S.O.2: Strengthening Human Rights International Standards in the Southern Neighbourhood Region</p> <p>Expected Output 1: Awareness-raising and reinforcement of relevant stakeholders' know-how on European and other international standards relating to human rights issues.</p> <p>Expected Output 2: Knowledge and skills-transfer on European and other international human rights standards and CoE conventions, with a view to enhancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of activities organised to enhance awareness on international human rights law, disaggregated by topic/convention/working group. <p>(Indicators for EO1 and EO2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sex, status and institutional membership disaggregated of number of stakeholders targeted. ▪ Set of skills developed per target group ▪ National capacities built per training per ministry/institution ▪ Skills recognition strategy per ministry/national bodies/ national 		

	national and intra-regional capacities.	democratic structures with a view to apply new capacities at work.		
	S.O.3: Combatting Violence against Women in the Region:			
	Expected Output 1: Further promotion of the Istanbul Convention at regional level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of activities organised to raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention. ▪ Sex and status disaggregated number of officials targeted and involved in capacity building activities (per field) on the Istanbul Convention. 		
	Expected Output 2: Enhanced understanding and capacity on the Istanbul Convention and its provisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of gender-sensitive trainings organised among relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention 		
	Expected Output 3: Development of gender-sensitive practices concerning legal provisions that currently discriminate against women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of measures developed to address gender discrimination in legislation. ▪ Number of gender-sensitive practices developed in official institutions (e.g. ministries, national institutes, etc.) eradicate GBVAW. 		
	Expected Output 4: Close follow-up of developments towards accession to the Istanbul Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of accession requests to the Istanbul Convention. ▪ Monitoring mechanisms used to ensure effective accession to the Istanbul 		
Expected Output 5: Enhanced regional cooperation on addressing GBVAW conducive to a regional action plan, in line with the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration following the 4 th Ministerial Conference on Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a (intra)regional work plan to ensure roadmap development based on the Istanbul Convention standards and the UFM GBVAW 			

	<p>the Role of Women in Society.</p>	<p>monitoring mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of activities and recommendations conducive to the elaboration of a regional action plan on GBVAW. ▪ Public consultation processes held to design a regional action plan on GBVAW. ▪ Level of participation of WCSOs in consultation processes and regional cooperation on the matter. 		
	<p>Specific Objective 4: Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks</p> <p>Expected Output 1: Expansion and creation of networks focused on specific objectives 1, 2, and 3.</p> <p>Expected Output 2: Experience-sharing and best practice exchange between Europe and the Southern Neighbourhood region, including countries benefiting from CoE cooperation projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of regional networks actively engaged by the action. ▪ New intraregional networks created, disaggregated by specific objective of the action. ▪ Number of outputs produced resulting from network activities, disaggregated by specific objective of the action. 		



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX III

Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020

Action Document for Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood – SOLiD II

MULTIANNUAL⁽¹⁾ PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Promotion of social dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood – SOLiD II CRIS number: 2019/042-029 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ⁽²⁾ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ⁽³⁾ , Syria ⁽⁴⁾ and Tunisia The action shall be carried out at the following location: Neighbourhood South and EU countries
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020)
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<u>Main SDGs:</u> Goal 8 in “productive employment and decent work for all”, Goal 10 to “Reduce Inequality within and among countries”

⁽¹⁾ Within the maximum contribution of the European Union, the authorising officer responsible may adjust the allocation to the respective budget years subject to the availability of the commitment appropriations.

⁽²⁾ See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

⁽³⁾ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

⁽⁴⁾ On hold – activities suspended in previous phases due to conflict.

	<u>Other significant SDGs:</u> Goal 5 on “gender equality and empowering all women and girls” Goal 16 on “building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”			
5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area	Building resilience and promoting stability	DEV. Assistance: YES		
6. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 7.7 million Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution EUR 7 million. The contribution is for an amount of EUR 3 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2019 and for an amount of EUR 4 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths. The action is co-financed in joint co-financing by the International Labour Organization for an amount of EUR 400,000.			
7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management through grant Indirect management with the International Labour Organization			
8 a) DAC code(s)	15110 Public sector policy and administrative management (25%) 15150 Democratic participation and civil society (75%)			
b) Main Delivery Channel	20000 Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society 41000- United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)			
9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	10. Global Public	Human Development, including decent work, social justice and culture:		

Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship	Employment, skills, social protection and social inclusion.
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SUMMARY

Social dialogue has an important role to play to contribute to balanced policy-making and social policy that lead to social development, by making labour markets and social protection systems more efficient and adapted to new and changing economic and social realities and ultimately **reducing inequalities. Social dialogue is also recognised as an important component of good governance, and an instrument for participation and accountability.**

The SOLiD Project is the result of a long term support of the EU to social dialogue in the region reinforcing economic and social councils and gradually opening up the dialogue to civil society organisations. The SOLiD Pilot project, implemented in three countries (Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) integrated civil society as a full partner in the project along with, and at the same level, as employers’ and workers’ organisations and contributed to produce the *Charter for the promotion of social dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean countries.*

The overall objective of the SOLiD II programme is to build resilient societies through enhanced and reinforced social dialogue and partnerships, to promote decent work and to foster social inclusion and access to social justice for all in the Southern Mediterranean region.

The new action proposes a working package along two components:

Component 1: Inclusive and structured social dialogue

Implemented by the International Trade Union Confederation and its partners, this component will translate the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean into concrete national action plans in the countries of the pilot phase and extend the action to 3 new countries, Algeria, Lebanon and Palestine. It will pursue the following objectives:

- Creating and improving an enabling environment for social dialogue between social and economic actors in the Southern Mediterranean region
- Promoting democratic and functional civic and multi-stakeholder dialogue among with civil society organisations (CSOs) and regional and local authorities to build consensus on issues of common interest (i.e. decent work)
- Promoting a Euro-Mediterranean Community of Practice (CoP) on effective social dialogue to better address challenges related to sustainable economic and social development in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Component 2: Social dialogue to bridge the employability gap

Will tackle the employability issues and the transition from the informal to formal labour using social dialogue tools. This component will be implemented by the International Labour Organisation, in the framework of the implementation of the ILO Recommendation No 204 on “Transition from the informal to the formal economy” and the implementation of chapters 4 and 11 of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean. It will pursue the following objectives:

- Supporting the tripartite partners to develop enabling policy framework through social dialogue to facilitate the transition of informal workers’ transition to the formal economy

-Fostering skills development systems to enable young people and women in the informal economy to access formal employment

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

Policy dialogue and the exchange of best practices are modalities of implementation that cover a wide variety of sectors ⁽⁵⁾. Most of these dialogues and exchanges of best practices stem from long standing existing programmes that allowed the identification of stakeholders and common understanding of the issues. These programmes are bearing fruit and there is a need to maintain a certain level of dialogue and exchange of best practices in the domains concerned.

Strengthening social dialogue:

Social dialogue is a universal recognised value, enshrined under the International Labour Organisation (ILO) constitution and European Union (EU) treaty. Social dialogue has an important role to play to contribute to balanced policy-making and social policy that lead to social development, by making labour markets and social protection systems more efficient and adapted to new and changing economic and social realities and ultimately **reducing inequalities**. Social dialogue has also being recognised as an **important component of good governance, and an instrument for participation and accountability**.

Social Dialogue is a process where the actors consult, negotiate or exchange information in order to influence socioeconomic policies (labour market, social protection...) and is key to **foster social and economic progress**. It can occur between the social partners themselves (bipartite) or with an active involvement of Institutions (tripartite), where the government has a more prominent role. It is a flexible instrument that allows workers' and employers' associations and governments to manage changes and reach social and economic targets with the ultimate aim for workers to obtain **decent work in conditions of freedom, human dignity, equality and security**. It is also relevant to any effort aiming to achieve **more productive and effective enterprise and sectors, and a fairer and more efficient economy**. It is often dictated by the realities of economic and social life. In the EU social dialogue is considered one of the pillars of the social model of the EU and is usually well structured in all the sectors. In addition to its flexible nature, social dialogue is also be a strategic instrument that can secure long-term gains. Social dialogue is thus a dynamic process that can contribute to **progress in many difficult and challenging situations, including those related to globalisation, regional integration and transition**.

⁽⁵⁾ An indicative list of these sectors is already included in the regional Neighbourhood South programming document (2014-2020).

As rightly noted in joint ILO-TUDCN (Trade Union Development Co-operation Network) research paper, “*It should be noted that there is no single model for social dialogue. It is essential that each social dialogue process take on board the cultural, historical, economic and political context of each country, so that the local partners are able to take ownership of it and make it a truly participatory and representative space.*”⁽⁶⁾ In order to do so innovative partnerships and new forms of alliances among different stakeholders are key in order to reach solutions to common problems. It is, therefore, particularly relevant to have these exchanges at a regional level. Issues generally addressed by social dialogue, be it in a bipartite or tripartite, national or regional level or in the context of a company, are typically the same in all countries (working conditions, pay and gaps in labour, economic and social equality...). Creating a regional dynamic for the improvement of a vibrant social and societal dialogue as a central driver for sustainable economic and social development and for democratic governance in the region leads, as demonstrated, to a community of practice on social dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It offers a common perspective and framework for further actions on social dialogue policies and practices in the countries and in the region.

The existence of an **appropriate institutional framework and the access to adequate information and training** for participants to effectively exercise their right to participate are also of utmost importance. In this respect, governments have a critical role to play in providing the right conditions and an enabling environment for fruitful social dialogue.

SOLiD II

The action capitalises and builds upon successive phases of the TRESMED project. It aims to build on the positive results achieved by the *SOLiD pilot project*, implemented in three countries of the Southern Neighbourhood region, namely Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. While continuing to strengthen capacities of employers and workers’ organisations in existing countries, it will define context specific strategies to implement the *Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean: Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco*⁽⁷⁾, adopted as an outcome under SOLiD I, and extend the action to new countries in the region, namely Algeria⁽⁸⁾, Lebanon and Palestine⁽⁹⁾. In this way it will promote not only North-South exchanges but also South-South learnings. Through its second component, it will strive to tackle key challenges of youth and women employability gap in the region through concrete actions and

⁽⁶⁾ The contribution of social dialogue to the 2030 Agenda, Formalising the informal economy, TUDCN-ILO, Research Paper, 2018, 2, p.7

⁽⁷⁾ http://medsocialdialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SOLiD_Charter_EN.pdf and http://medsocialdialogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Charter_12_Points.pdf. The Charter on Social Dialogue was formulated following consultations, dialogues, seminars and conferences, based on the outputs and conclusions of the successive phases of the SOLiD Pilot Project. The outputs, mostly constituted by new and unprecedented studies and researches conducted in the Arab region. The Charter takes into account international charters, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the countries' pledges to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, the relevant ILO standards, constitutional provisions, legal sources, institutional experiences and practices related to social and civil dialogue in the three countries, and is built around 12 thematic chapters.

⁽⁸⁾ Considering evolution of current political situation.

⁽⁹⁾ Although participation of representatives from **Egypt** was ensured under SOLiD I, the inclusion of Egypt in this new action will have to be considered in light of the recently adopted NGO Law from July 15, 2019 and the analysis of its provisions. Participation of actors from Egypt will continue to be ensured in SOLiD II.

strategies by the social and economic actors, mainly from the angle of the transition from the informal to the formal labour market. The challenge of addressing formalisation was addressed as well in the Charter on promoting social dialogue. This is in line with the ILO's Recommendation No. 204⁽¹⁰⁾, which emphasises the critical role of social dialogue in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes for the informal economy, including regarding its formalisation. R 204 particularly notes that “*decent work deficits – the denial of rights at work, the absence of sufficient opportunities for quality employment, inadequate social protection and the absence of social dialogue – are most pronounced in the informal economy*”.

Civil society, including trade unions and employers' organisations, recognised as an important actor for development and governance, will be a recipient but also a full partner in the action. Supporting civil society participation will also reinforce societal linkage across the Southern Neighbourhood region. Particular attention will be paid to **young people and women in governance processes at all levels**, including at the regional one, and to protecting the space for civil society to operate freely.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

The overall strategic objective for the EU relationship with the region is building state and societal resilience, as well as stabilisation. The Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy (the 'Global Strategy')⁽¹¹⁾ defines resilience as "a broad concept encompassing all individuals and the whole of society" that features "**democracy, trust in institutions and sustainable development, and the capacity to reform**". This is reinforced by the fact that **human rights, good governance and the rule of law and the strengthening of civil society** figure among the main objectives for assistance under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

In addition the EU's relations with the region are guided by the **2017 European Consensus on Development**⁽¹²⁾ and the **2015 revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**⁽¹³⁾. These new policy frameworks call for the need to focus on **achieving sustainable development and the overall goal of increasing the resilience and stabilisation of our neighbours**. The EU is committed to an ever deeper partnership with civil society and towards achieving a more enabled environment in order to strengthen societal resilience, including by strengthening regional mechanisms for dialogue, broadening and diversifying its support to civil society in the Southern Neighbourhood. It also calls for deepening work on education, culture and youth to foster pluralism, coexistence and respect as a way for strengthening resilience and promoting stability. The actions proposed under this Action Document result from the above joint priorities for co-operation, translated into EU's strategic objectives for the South Mediterranean region for the period 2018-2020.

With regard to the Southern Neighbourhood, the EU has adopted Partnership Priorities for the coming four years with a number of Neighbourhood South countries. The EU is also committed to supporting regional co-operation bodies, namely the Union for the

⁽¹⁰⁾ Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204).

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en>

⁽¹²⁾ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2017:210:FULL&from=EN>

⁽¹³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/151118_joint-communication_review-of-the-enp_en.pdf

Mediterranean (UfM) and the League of Arab States, in order to promote effective co-operation, dialogue, stability and sustainable development with the Mediterranean region. Therefore policy dialogue should also take place in the context of the UfM, as acknowledged by Council conclusions on the ENP Review, for being a key regional framework for political dialogue and regional co-operation efforts.

The actions proposed are fully reflected in other key EU policy frameworks, such as the priorities expressed in the **Declaration of the UfM ministerial conference on Employment and Labour** (27 September 2016) adopted by the EU and Mediterranean employment ministers. It underlined the crucial **importance of well-functioning and effective social dialogue**, both tripartite and bipartite, to address growth and employment related challenges more effectively and contribute to competitiveness, social progress and democracy. It further welcomed the joint “Declaration on Social Dialogue” of the Social Partners and highlighted in particular their call for strengthening social dialogue in the region and involving social partners in the design and implementation of economic and social policies. The Conference also agreed on **policy orientations to be implemented at national level in relation to employment and social dialogue** with a focus on the Southern Mediterranean region, and on concrete steps to foster co-operation with the UfM on employment and labour.

More recently the Declaration of the Ministerial conference (3 April 2019), reiterated “the crucial role, at all pertinent levels, of an effective and on-going social dialogue, (...) to help **addressing the challenges of growth, democracy and social justice** in the region”. Ministers called on national authorities to adopt strategies to, among others, promote a well-functioning social dialogue, at all pertinent levels, including the involvement of social partners in the **design, implementation and monitoring of economic and social policies**.

The Ministers further highlighted the **high rates of informal employment** which, among other factors, prevent promising small enterprises from growing and limit job creation by the formal sector.⁽¹⁴⁾ They underlined the need to address the challenges facing the region, in line with UN and ILO commitments, including the transition from the informal to formal economy.⁽¹⁵⁾ The Ministers discussed how to ensure that public policies, initiatives and efforts by the social partners and civil society result in significant progress in employment and labour. Boosting skills and employability, notably of young and women workers, must form an integral part of strategies to facilitate transition to the formal economy in this region, given the high rates of unemployment and informal employment among these groups.

1.3 Public policy analysis of the partner country/region

Since the 1950s, most EU South Mediterranean Neighbourhood countries have ratified the ILO's Conventions on social dialogue. Some of them have set-up an Economical and social Committee (ESC). An ESC is conceived as a consultative body or forum where trade unions, employers' associations, and civil society organisations as well as local and national authorities can act and propose policies and initiatives to improve social dialogue. In the long run it can result in more accurate and better informed economic and social policies that can enhance sustainability in governance and in development strategies for the countries

⁽¹⁴⁾ Ministerial Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Employment and Labour Ministers (2-3 April, Cascais Portugal), para.19.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Idem, para 14.

concerned. However, the role of the ESC was overall very weak with a negligible contribution to the economic and social policy making due to the highly centralised nature of the political systems in these countries. The major political changes which happened in 2011 and concerned mostly all South Mediterranean countries, at different extents, showed the limits of the economic and social policies followed thus far and made more evident the need of institutional reforms. Most of all, the popular uprisings showed that **social justice is at the heart of peoples' aspiration for a better life**. Until then, the social dialogue in the Mediterranean region was government driven, defining its agenda, its periodicity and its operating rules. This experience of an unbalanced dialogue has not been fruitful. Since 2008, the EU has engaged – in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) – in a process that associates governments and representatives of employers and employees. This process aims to give a “more effective” role to the social dialogue in the Mediterranean neighbourhood

Today much of the Southern Neighbourhood continues to be dominated by the enduring effects of the global economic recession in 2008 and the subsequent Arab Spring in 2011. The civil war in Syria has had serious implications for the economies and political and social stability of its neighbours. There is still no established government in Libya, while Tunisia, Morocco and to a lesser extent Jordan, represent the countries where democracy is slowly being established but is facing severe economic, cultural and historical and social challenges. While the current situation in Algeria shows that political discontents are being reinforced by deep economic, social and regional imbalances, the country continues to face considerable security challenges from the volatile situation in the Sahel region. There is continuing tension in the region between secular and religious identities in the public sphere, with implications linked to ethnicity, gender, and youth. In addition, the Israel-Palestine situation remains unresolved. In situations where political instability or security problems threaten the destruction of the State and the social and cultural cohesion of societies, the collective mobilisation of the social partners with NGOs, for economic and social development can become a hard to meet. **In such a context, reaching solutions and adopting policies for specific components of society, i.e. young people and women, becomes particularly important.** Foremost amongst these challenges is the need to create jobs for the high numbers of young people coming onto the labour market every year. Almost 60% of the regional population is today under the age of 30 and the number of young people under the age of 15 is forecast to increase by over 18% by 2020. Labour market indicators also reflect acute **gender-based heterogeneity and youth marginalisation in the labour market**. This is aggravated by the fact that the informal economy represents a large share of economic activity in countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region. In Tunisia it is estimated to account for at least one-third of gross domestic product. Algeria and Morocco also have large informal economies and Libya's is even bigger, in view of the chaotic situation in that country. The importance of informality is higher still when considering employment. In the Middle East and North Africa, close to 70 per cent of all employment is informal. The share of informal employment in total employment is higher among young workers (15-24 years of age) than among adults (25-64 years of age) in all regions of the world, including in the Euro-Mediterranean region and where they often **lack access to job security, social protection and other fundamental rights**.

Informal employment is strongly correlated to workers' level of education.⁽¹⁶⁾ **In addition to growing social inequalities**, mismatches on the labour market between demand and supply maintain both those who have access to quality education, jobs, services and goods and those who, at the contrary, are low skilled, at the margin of, or excluded from the labour market. The advent of the digital revolution has further intensified dichotomies. The extension of precariousness in some segments of the labour market has exacerbated further the **vulnerability of some groups, especially those living in remote and rural areas** as well as deprived urban neighbourhoods that suffer from the deterioration of public services delivery. On the other hand, it has generated the paradox for the part of the population who is increasingly better educated and who aspires to get decent jobs but cannot get them as too many jobs remain below decent work standards or require low skills. This leads to **higher migratory pressures (both lowly skilled labour and brain drain) and poses a key and volatile ingredient for the risk of instability in an already turbulent region**. One way of responding is by way of investing in key sectors of national economies both for job creation and growth perspective. Another way is by investing in skills development. Better skills can contribute to shaping the future of work and societies, as they are a stepping-stone for economic, social and personal advancement. They are also key to ensure personal fulfilment, **social inclusion**, successful life and **active citizenship**. This requires a permanent dialogue with the private sector in order to understand how qualifications and training provisions can adapt to change, notably on how to stimulate and support at best lifelong learning throughout, notably, appropriate re-skilling and up skilling. **Social partners have a key role to play as regards the design of an appropriate policy mix and of decent working conditions at the work place.**

Ensuring social justice and decent work for all (by also formalising the informal economy in a sustainable way) is pivotal to reach the objectives of the Agenda 2030. Social dialogue has a key role to play in achieving these objectives, contributing thereby to achieve the SDGs and notably SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peaceful and inclusive societies).

1.4 Stakeholder analysis

The following are an indicative suggestion of the different stakeholders to be involved in different stages and activities of the action.

The main partner for **Component 1** is the **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**, which represents the sole organisation, at global level, representing trade unions, working on development co-operation, through the Trade Union Development Co-operation Network (TUDCN). ITUC's European chapter, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) is one of the recognised social partner at the EU level. ITUC also acted as main applicant in the SOLiD Pilot Project and has extensive experience in managing EU grants of large amounts. ITUC's implementing partners are the Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC) and BusinessMed, representing respectively the workers' and employer's organisations in the Southern Mediterranean region. The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) represents the civil society partner in the action, through which societal dialogue is achieved. They have all three established and consolidated offices and

⁽¹⁶⁾ Worldwide, 94% of individuals with no education are in informal employment, compared to 52% of those with secondary education and 24% of those with tertiary education, Women and men in the informal economy: a statistical picture, ILO 2018.

human resources with years of experience and proven technical management capacity in managing their constituency and in running important projects with the support of external donors (including the EU). Furthermore, their political understanding and experience of social dialogue in the region, at national and international level (representing their constituencies at the ILO, as part of the ITUC and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) are a guarantee for ensuring relevance, feasibility and sustainability for the project and its results.

Target groups from the Southern Neighbourhood and EU countries are: representatives from Economic and Social Councils, representative national employers' and workers' organisations representatives of civil society, especially socio-professional organisations - along country specific contexts- such as trade unions, business organisations, social actors, including women and youth organisations, farmers, fishermen, co-operatives, consumers' organisations and representatives of the governments and public administrations involved in socio-economic issues, representatives of universities and training centres of the ILO.

Final beneficiaries are the population and workers, with a particular focus on women and young people from the target countries and other countries of the Southern Mediterranean region and particularly precarious groups in remote areas of the concerned countries.

The main partner for **Component 2** is the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** and its respective regional offices in the Southern Mediterranean region.

The target groups are the representative national employers and workers' organisations, Ministries of Labour and other concerned ministries, tripartite social dialogue institutions and representative membership-based organisations in the informal economy in the target countries, as well as vocational training institutions.

The ultimate beneficiaries are workers and economic units in the informal economy, with a focus on youth and women.

Other stakeholders:

For the two components they will include: representatives of regional and local authorities, as best placed to shape or deliver policies closer to citizens; partners involved in discussions on issues at a regional level, namely European Commission through its DG EMPL services, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), European Training Foundation (ETF), the UfM, relevant regional offices of the ILO as well as all parties involved in the preparation or follow-up of high level meetings on topics of relevance for the region.

1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

The Regional South Multi-annual Action Programme (2018-2020) notes that many citizens of the region's countries do not believe that their governments can or will take care of their most basic needs – shelter, health, education, security. **Poor governance and unwillingness to engage constructively with media and civil society organisations** (which include but are not restricted to human rights advocacy bodies) is also a contributory factor to instability and, eventually, violent extremism. **Building resilience requires institutions which citizens can trust and is therefore intrinsically linked to democracy, accountability and the rule of law** and more broadly to the consolidation of open, pluralistic societies. The EU will therefore sustain its work towards achieving **deeper partnership with civil society in order to support a more enabled environment and strengthen societal resilience**. It will do so by,

among others, developing civil society's capacity to act as a credible interlocutor and partner in the framework of the dialogue with regional organisations and to foster pluralism. **Social dialogue, particularly will be promoted and the capacity of trade union and employer organisations will be strengthened.**

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Protracted political and security instability of the region	M/H	Constant monitoring will be undertaken to evaluate the political and security risks in each country and decide on possible changes in the intervention and the level of involvement in each country. Effective and informed selection of targeted countries in close consultation with implementation partners.
Lack of national involvement in the initiatives presented	L/M	Participation and engagement of national institutions will be ensured at the early stages of the action. Communication efforts will emphasize on the ownership of the initiative by the national institutions involved in the project.
Limited involvement and uneven interest from programme's key stakeholders	L/M	Each key stakeholder's role and responsibility will be clearly defined at an early stage of SOLiD II; they will have specific interventions/activities to implement. Stakeholders may be different, according to each country social and economic context.
The number and diversity of partners may hinder the project implementation planning	L	Rationalisation of the partners to include those active ones with specific activities to implement.
Sustainability of the action	M	Capacity building for key stakeholders in the implementation of both components of the project, institutionalisation and follow-up actions will be ensured after its completion. SOLiD II to develop a Sustainability Plan within the first 6 months following the start of the action.
Overlapping with other on-going initiatives at the national level	L	Close contact will be established with NEAR B2, the EU Delegations and other development partners in order to avoid duplication and ensure synergies. In

		some cases, this may result in adapting the proposed approach.
Assumptions		
<p>-All relevant stakeholders are ready to conduct dialogues and exchange on best practices and that they have a mandate to do so. This assumption is supported by the fact that previous long standing programmes helped identifying relevant stakeholders and dialogues.</p> <p>-Continued support and interest of the relevant Commission line DG (EMPL) to participate significantly in the dialogues is ensured since this programme covers domains of interest for them.</p> <p>-The success of the previous phases of past programmes should help handle these resistances and lack of interest</p> <p>-The material and studies derived from the previous phase will be shared with new partners and will constitute basis for formulating concrete proposals and actions.</p>		

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

As highlighted in the mid-term review of the ENI, neighbourhood countries have made varying degrees of progress in political and economic reforms. Nonetheless, both the political and the economic situation remain challenging in many of them, notably because of high unemployment, an unfavourable business climate and high corruption levels. ENI operations are addressing the root causes of these challenges but partner countries' commitment to reform varies greatly and limits the effectiveness of ENI interventions. In addition to partners' political commitment to reforms, their institutional capacity is key for the sustainability of reform and meaningful policy dialogue with the EU.

Phase II of the SOLiD project capitalises on past achievements of the successive TRESMED projects (I to IV) and more recently of the SOLiD Pilot Project. The latter's mid-term review (MTR), in 2017 and more recent ROM exercise of 2018, both confirm need to continue and to build on the seeds planted by the EU since 2004. The MTR noted the relevance of the SOLiD project, that it *“responds to the needs and context in the target countries and that the inclusion of NGOs is a relevant choice for the wider societal dialogue and to address key development challenges (e.g. gender, social protection, migration, and climate changes).”* It further goes on to confirm that *“an initial strategic focus on regional levels is adequate and relevant in order to create a cross-border MENA learning platform and in bringing experiences and know-how from Europe in play”*. Assessing the impact and sustainability and considering the adoption of joint position papers and a regional Charter, the report recognises that *“neither of these results can be considered as having any direct impact on the population in the three target countries. **To create impact and sustainability, the regional agreed position papers and the charter needs to be translated into national action plans with concrete actions on how to deliver in terms of improving the living and working conditions of the poorer segment of the population”***.

The MTR further highlighted national studies and surveys undertaken during the SOLiD Pilot project, in the three countries. They confirmed, among other, that *“the context is dynamic in full evolution in the three countries despite different levels of development”*. These studies and surveys show, in a practical way, the importance of bipartite social dialogue. Trade unions and employer partners place great emphasis on this priority given to conventional relations at sector and company level and which to develop them at the territorial level. Many problems

are created by strikes, but it is clear that most conflicts arise from failure to comply with laws or collective agreements; hence, the emphasis on the quality of social dialogue at all levels. Finally a promising concrete result to which the SOLiD Project contributed to is the set-up, by the Government of Tunisia, of a National Council for Social dialogue (November 2018). A final evaluation of the SOLiD project is currently underway.

The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Employment, in September 2016, and more recently, in April in 2019, underlined the need to promote social dialogue and collective bargaining and insisted on the “*crucial role, at all pertinent levels, of an effective and on-going social dialogue, both tripartite and bipartite, to help addressing the challenges of growth, democracy and social justice in the region.*” Ministers further called on including the involvement of social partners in the design, implementation and monitoring of economic and social policies.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

The action is complementary to the Thematic Programme on “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities”⁽¹⁷⁾ (CSO-LA), of the Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI) and with the EIDHR Programme. The objective of the CSO-LA include (i) to support civil society at global, regional and country level in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; (ii) contribute to the enhancement of citizens' understanding, sense of responsibility, skills and critical engagement regarding sustainable development and its underlying causes. To meet the EU promises for CSOs and in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda, all stakeholders must have the capacity to play their full part in a coherent and co-ordinated manner.

More concretely, ITUC through the Trade Union Development Co-operation Network (TUDCN), financed by the CSO-LA Programme since 2009, is conducting its own national monitoring and analysis of the SDGs to ensure that countries are on track to fulfil their commitments as outlined in their Strategy on the 2030 Agenda.

The action will build synergies with the other ENI regional civil society programmes: (i) the Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality in the Southern Neighbourhood region (*MED Dialogue for Rights and Equality*), which objective is to strengthen the role of CSOs active at the regional scale, in building sustainable development, regional cohesion and resilience, as well as in influencing policy making in the Southern Neighbourhood and the Euro-Mediterranean space; and (ii) the MAJALAT project, which is creating spaces for constructive dialogue between the EU and CSOs (Civil Society Organisations), Tus (Trade Unions), social movements and academics from both shores of the Mediterranean, with a view to influencing the vision and policies related to the region. This will particularly be done through MAJALAT's Working Group on Economic development and Social Dialogue.

¹⁷ Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019 and 2020 to be financed under the Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development co-operation for the period 2014-2020. And: Commission Implementing Decision of 18.07.2018, C(2018) 4569 final.

The present action will complement the work carried out by ILO on mainstreaming employment into Trade and Investment policies in the Neighbourhood South countries- another intervention under the third component of the Action Document for *Trade and investment facilitation to support regional integration, sustainable growth and job creation* (under the current Decision). While both actions will address issue of decent work and job creation in the region, their target groups, the skill development techniques as well as the sectors of the formal economy they cover are different. The action will also complement actions of DG EMPL, following common issues of social dialogue and employment at the international level.

Improved synergies will be sought with other EU-funded bilateral and EUDs will be involved in activities and events.

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

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

The action proposes the following **indicative implementation**:

The **Overall Objective** of the SOLiD II programme is to **build resilient societies through enhanced and reinforced social dialogue and partnerships, promotion of decent work to foster social inclusion and access to social justice for all in the Southern Mediterranean region.**

Component 1: Towards an inclusive and structured social dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighbourhood

The objective of this component is to strengthen the consultative role of economic and social partners, including the broader civil society, in the Euro-Mediterranean region; to promote a dynamic, inclusive and reinforced institutionalised social dialogue and to promote social inclusion through social dialogue tools and organised tripartite institutions.

Specific objective 1: Create and improve an enabling environment for social dialogue between social and economic actors in the Southern Mediterranean region

Expected output 1: Increased understanding of the economic and social situation in the new target countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Palestine) and of the mechanisms of social dialogue, including the work of the ESCs.

Expected output 2: Enhanced knowledge of tools and modalities for improving and institutionalising social dialogue between social partners, including the functioning of ESCs in the new target countries.

Specific objective 2: Promote democratic and functional civic and multi-stakeholder dialogue among civil society organisations (CSOs) and regional and local authorities to build consensus on issues of common interest (i.e. decent work)

Expected output 1: Reinforcement of institutional social dialogue through inclusion of economic and social partners in consultative processes in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Expected output 2: Enriched South-South learning on regional and sub-regional integration on economic and social issues among targeted stakeholders.

Expected output 3: Promotion of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean in the new target countries, Algeria, Lebanon and Palestine.

Expected output 4: Implementation of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean through the development of National Action Plans in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.

Specific objective 3: Promote a Euro-Mediterranean Community of Practice (CoP) on effective social dialogue to better address challenges related to sustainable economic and social development in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Expected output 1: Knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices in the Euro-Mediterranean region aimed at promoting policies for social dialogue among Southern Mediterranean countries.

Expected output 2: Strengthened multi-stakeholder advocacy networks to advance the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean.

Indicative activities:

- Extend the geographic coverage of social dialogue actions to new countries in the region (Algeria, Lebanon, Palestine);
- Including new target groups according to their role and influence in each specific countries opening the spaces for a wider societal dialogue;
- Awareness raising of the Charter for Social Dialogue in pilot countries (Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia) (i.e. media visibility, including social media to target younger populations)
- Dissemination of the Charter for Social Dialogue to new countries in the region, through public hearings, workshops and media coverage.
- Capacity building on the Charter for Social Dialogue targeting employers and workers' organisations in the new countries through South-South and Euro-Mediterranean exchanges.
- Specific training on advocacy skills for effective and efficient policy dialogue, with a focus on women both as participants and decision-makers.
- Advocacy actions aimed at disseminating/implementing the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean.
- One to one coaching/twinning activities to enhance multi-stakeholder networks in the region.
- Expert seminars on the 12 thematic topics of the Charter in view of concrete proposals at national level (policy development).
- Development of a communication strategy based on previous experience and achievements under SOLID I (Newsletters, website, social media, dissemination of studies and joint papers...)

Component 2: Social dialogue to bridge the employability gap

The objective of this component is to support the progressive formalisation of the informal economy through an effective use of **social** dialogue as an enabling tool to understand and

tackle informality. This knowledge will then feed into the design of more inclusive socio-economic policy frameworks that will respond to the employability demands of women and youth for sustainable formal employment. Social partners will particularly be involved in diagnostic studies to understand the informal economy in specific contexts (including the main incentives and drivers of informality and obstacles to formalisation ⁽¹⁸⁾), ultimately leading to the formulation of interventions in a wide range of policy areas.

Programme interventions will aim to reach all proposed target countries of the Southern Mediterranean region, paying attention to the particular socio-economic realities shaping informality at country level. For example, in a core group of countries, a more intensive approach may be adopted incorporating a wider range of interventions while in others, interventions may focus on participation in tripartite diagnostic studies, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.

Specific Objective 1: Support the tripartite partners to develop enabling policy frameworks through social dialogue to facilitate informal workers' transition to the formal economy.

Expected output 1: Country level **identification** of decent work deficits as foundations of informality, from a social dialogue framework.

Expected output 2: Strengthened social dialogue mechanisms at national and regional levels to formulate sound **policies and measures** on the transition to the formal economy, in line with the provisions of ILO Recommendation No. 204 (2015).

Expected output 3: Development of **national strategies and roadmaps** (with short, medium and long term objectives) to enable the progressive transition from the informal to the formal economy (implementation of chapters 4 and 11 of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean), including measures to extend social protection, ensure universal respect of fundamental labour rights and incentivise the formalisation of enterprises, developed and implemented in selected countries.

Specific Objective 2: Foster skills development systems to enable young people and women in the informal economy to access formal employment.

Expected output 1: Development of a joint mapping of skills, training delivery mechanisms, and employability gaps among workers in the informal economy by governments, social partners and training institutions.

Expected output 2: Improved access of women and youth to trainings and lifelong learning to enter the formal economy.

¹⁸ Such as lack of protection of workers in the informal economy and decent work deficits (denial of rights at work, absence of sufficient opportunities for quality employment, inadequate social protection, absence of social dialogue).

Expected output 3: Development of a governmental, nation-wide skills-recognition system to enable workers' transitioning to the formal economy.

Indicative activities:

Activities may include:

- Capacity-strengthening of members of national tripartite social dialogue institutions on informal economy and transition issues;
- Analysis of the diversity of drivers of informality and employability gaps, and the characteristics, circumstances and needs of workers and economic units in the informal economy in both rural and urban areas, with emphasis on youth and women workers;
- Tripartite elaboration and validation of national strategies and road maps to support the transition to the formal economy,
- Measures to promote a conducive legal and policy environment for the formalisation of enterprises and workers;
- Support to social partners' organisations to enable them to extend their membership and services to workers (including own account workers) and employers in the informal economy, and to better represent them in social dialogue mechanisms;
- Design, through social dialogue, and implementation of skills training programmes and other measures to increase participation in the formal labour market;
- Sensitisation campaign towards decent work potentials in the formal sector, particularly in formal SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises);
- Measures and visibility strategy to promote entrepreneurship among women and youth;
- Upgrading of informal apprenticeship systems;
- Technical support on skills recognition systems for informal economy workers;
- Use of existing regional networks to sharing experience, expertise, lessons learned and good practices between tripartite partners in participating countries;
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national road maps, using social dialogue.

4.2 Intervention Logic

The two components of the actions are closely inter-linked in the realisation of the global objective.

Social dialogue, as a mechanism for participation and consensus building in the world of work, is a key element of decent work and must play a central role in the transition to formality. Ensuring social justice and decent work for all (by also formalising the informal economy in a sustainable way) is pivotal to reach the objectives of the Agenda 2030. Social dialogue has a key role to play in achieving these objectives, contributing thereby to achieve the SDGs and notably SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peaceful and inclusive societies).

For social dialogue to be inclusive and effective, an enabling framework must exist, including strong, independent and representative employers' and workers', political will and mutual recognition among all the parties; an appropriate institutional framework; and access to adequate information and training so that participants can effectively exercise their right to

participate. Governments have a critical role to play in terms of providing the conditions and an enabling environment for fruitful social dialogue.

The transition to formality is fundamental to achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development and making decent work effective for all. Assessment and diagnosis of the causes and circumstances that give rise to informality, particularly for young people and women, and its persistence are needed to inform the formulation and implementation of policies or other measures aimed at facilitating the transition to the formal economy. The role of social dialogue as a mechanism for the exchange of information and consultations to improve the design, implementation and assessment of policies on the informal economy and its formalisation is important, including the design of vocational skill training programmes. This requires active participation of tripartite constituents in all stage of the exercise.

4.3 Mainstreaming

The action will follow a **Rights-Based Approach (RBA)** to development co-operation, through including all human rights, participation and inclusion, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability principles. The RBA implies that target groups are considered as ‘rights-holders’ with legal entitlements, and government institutions are not mere service providers but ‘duty-bearers,’ who are under an obligation to deliver on people’s human rights. Development co-operation should contribute to the development of the capacities of ‘rights-holders’ to claim their rights and ‘duty-bearers’ to meet their obligations. The action will assess the capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers and develop the appropriate strategies to build these capacities. At the heart of the RBA is the recognition that unequal power relations and social exclusion deny people their human rights and often keep them in poverty. The action respects the principles of dignity and **non-discrimination, the rule of law, and good governance** ⁽¹⁹⁾, and takes into account the participation, buy-in of, and accountability to local populations, especially youth and women.

Having **gender equality** at the core of European values and enshrined within the EU legal and political framework, the action is framed in a gender-responsive RBA. The action is rooted in the EU gender equality policy (GAP II) ⁽²⁰⁾. Gender equality and women's empowerment must be addressed through concrete, tangible, and measurable elements.

Apart from being the recipient of specific programmes, **civil society**, including trade unions and employers' organisations, will be a full partner in all sectors and is recognised as an important actor for development and governance. Particular attention will be paid to young people and to protecting the space for civil society to operate freely

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

Participation of the social partners and other civil society actors and decent work are two key components of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are identified as

⁽¹⁹⁾ EU strategic framework on Human Rights and Democracy, 2012.

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131181.pdf

⁽²⁰⁾ The EU Gender Action Plan in third countries, II, with the target of mainstreaming gender across 85% of all new initiatives by 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/gender-equality-and-womens-empowermenttransforming-lives-girls-and-women-through-eu-external_en

cross-cutting elements, as specific goals, and in various targets and indicators. Ensuring access to decent work for all is crucial to progressing in the direction proposed by the 2030 Agenda, as stated in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Decent work reduces inequalities, increases resilience, and creates the conditions for the effective exercise of rights and the full development of human potential.

In addition, in SDG 8 on decent work and SDG 16 on just, peaceful and inclusive societies, the 2030 Agenda makes specific reference to the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining (indicator 8.8.2), to the effectiveness and transparency of institutions, to inclusive, participatory and representative decision making (target 16.7), and to public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms (16.10). These are all **building blocks of effective social dialogue** and, at the same time, point to the different angles from which contributions can be made, based on the specific features of social dialogue.

Strengthening social dialogue processes in the formalisation of informal economy, can significantly contribute to SDG 1 (ending poverty), SDG 5 (promoting gender equality), SDG 8 (ensuring decent work) and SDG 10 (reducing inequalities).

Moreover, through social dialogue processes, the action can contribute to the **national monitoring and analysis of the SDGs** for the countries concerned.

Through targets 10.2 on empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status and 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard. The inclusion of CSOs, particularly women’s organisation and youth, in the social dialogue process, leading to societal dialogue is key in ensuring social inclusion. Capacity building activities, on social dialogue, advocacy and policy influencing, for these different actors can lead to the adoption of policies promoting equality and social and justice for all. The transition from the informal to the formal labour should also contribute to reach this goal.

The action will also particularly work on SDG 5 and promote gender equality and the empowerment and participation of women in social and societal dialogue, in policy formulation and implementation through capacity building and skills development.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

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

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision.

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

5.3 Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁽²¹⁾.

5.3.1 Grant (*direct management*)

(a) Purpose of the grant

The grant will contribute to achieve Component 1 of the action, which objective is to strengthen the consultative role of economic and social partners, including the broader civil society, in the Euro-Mediterranean region; to promote a dynamic, inclusive and reinforced institutionalised social dialogue and to promote social inclusion through social dialogue tools and organised tripartite institutions.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals, to the **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on the condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. This is the case of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the main international trade union organisation, representing the interests of working people worldwide. It represents 207 million workers in 163 countries and territories and has 331 national affiliates and has general consultative status at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). ITUC promotes and defends workers' rights and interests, through international co-operation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy, and works towards achieving international frameworks for social dialogue and collective bargaining.

The European partner of ITUC, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), is on the list of the European social partners' organizations consulted under Article 154 of the Treaty TFEU.

ITUC's Strategic Plan is in line with the three priorities of the EU Communication on
"The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil

⁽²¹⁾ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

Society in External Relations”, namely on development through the engagement on trade union advocacy, partnerships and capacity development.

That is:

- To enhance efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs to act in partner countries. This includes the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining but also the respect of other core labour standards which unions are championing in order to realize equitable development based on rights.
- To promote a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies of partner countries, in the EU programming cycle and in international processes. This is supported by trade union advocacy on development policies in order to promote sustainable jobs, secure incomes and social protection at the international, regional and national levels
- To increase local CSOs capacity to perform their role as independent development actors more effectively. This is supported by the engagement of trade unions in improving the quality of their partnerships and capacity development.

ITUC has become the European Commission's main interlocutor on development issues concerning trade unions and acted as an active stakeholder in the Aid Effectiveness debates as well as various EU fora.

5.3.2 Indirect management with an entrusted entity

Component 2 of this action, which objective is to support the progressive formalisation of the informal economy, may be implemented in indirect management with the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

This implementation entails carrying out the activities identified in section 4.1, related to the objectives of the action.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: as the only tripartite UN agency, the ILO brings together representatives of governments, employers and workers in its 187 member States to set labour standards, develop policies and implement programmes to promote decent work for all women and men. Promoting social dialogue in the transition to the formal economy is at the heart of the ILO approach. Tripartite mechanisms and consultations with workers’ and employers’ organizations are promoted and used in all areas of work relating to the transition to formality. In June 2015 ILO adopted Recommendation No. 204 on “Transition from the informal to the formal economy. The ILO has extensive experience in working with its tripartite constituents to strengthen skills development systems to improve employability of workers, productivity of enterprises and support economic development. This includes capacity-building and technical advice on skills governance, financing of skills system, quality apprenticeship systems, skills anticipation and skills for social inclusion.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission’s services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria: long-term experience in tripartite dialogue and setting of labour standards, development and promotion of labour policies in numerous countries around the world; experience in capacity-building and technical advice on skills

governance, financing of skills system, quality apprenticeship systems, skills anticipation and skills for social inclusion.

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution 2019 (amount in EUR)	EU contribution 2020 (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution (amount in EUR)
Grant (direct management) for Component 1 (cf. section 5.3.1)	3,000,000		300,000
Indirect management with ILO for Component 2 (cf. section 5.3.2)		4,000,000	400,000
Evaluation (cf. section 5.8) Audit/Expenditure verification (cf. section 5.9)	will be covered by another Decision		N.A.
Communication and visibility (cf. section 5.10)	N.A.		N.A.
Total	3,000,000	4,000,000	700,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by Commission services (Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant in close co-operation with other Commission services (DG EMPL). One Steering Committee will be established for the entire action, bringing together the two components to ensure co-ordination, complementarity and synergies. Two Advisory Groups, one for each component, will be set-up to provide technical

support in each component. The participation of relevant Commission services is foreseen in each of these.

5.7 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partners' responsibilities. To this aim, each implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log frame matrix.

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators as for instance per Joint Programming document should be taken into account.

The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

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

5.8 Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular (i) the innovative approaches fostered through numerous activities financed under this action, and (ii) the expected potential for synergies and complementarity with other actions financed by the European Union in the frame of its bilateral co-operation with each country in the region, with the UfM and other organisations working on this thematic area.

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

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

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

5.9 Audit

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

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

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable.

[APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOG FRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ⁽²²⁾

The indicative Action Document log frame should have a maximum of 10 expected results (impact, outcome and output) and associated indicators.

On the basis of this indicative log frame matrix, a more detailed log frame(s) might be developed at contracting stage linked to this AD. The indicative log frame matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the Intervention. The activities, the expected outputs and related indicators are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the Intervention as agreed by the parties (the European Commission and the implementing partner/s).

The log frame matrix must be used for monitoring and reporting purposes. At the latest in the first progress report, implementing partner/s should include the complete log frame including all baselines and targets for each indicator. Each progress report should provide the most up to date version of the log frame as agreed by the parties (the European Commission and the implementing partner/s) with current values for each indicator. The final report should enclose the log frame with baseline and final values for each indicator.

Indicators to be presented, when relevant and possible, disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, disability, any disadvantaged group, income quintile etc.

Additional notes: The term "results" refers to the outputs, outcome(s) and impact of the action. Assumptions should reflect risks and related management strategies identified in the Risk analysis.

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact (Overall Objective)	Build resilient societies through enhanced and reinforced social dialogue and partnerships, promotion of decent work to foster social inclusion and access to social justice for all in the Southern Mediterranean region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved work conditions (Social protection, Safety and security, Wage rate, Gender wage gap) - Informal Employment - Unemployment rate, by sex and age - Collective bargaining coverage rate - Child labour - Forced labour - Enabling social climate - Rate of lockouts and Number of sit-ins - Status of international conventions ratification and publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ILO reports on decent work, - OECD reports - National statistics - Collective agreements - SDG indicator 8.8.2 (Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status 	<i>Not applicable</i>

⁽²²⁾ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

			- SDG indicator 10.2.1 (Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities)	
COMPONENT I Objective	To strengthen the consultative role of economic and social partners, including the broader civil society, in the Euro-Mediterranean region; to promote a dynamic, inclusive and reinforced institutionalised social dialogue and to promote social inclusion through social dialogue tools and organised tripartite institutions.	-Inclusive and reinforced institutionalised social dialogue and consultations with the broader civil society -Number of effective dynamic, inclusive, reinforced institutionalised social dialogue that are taking place in the countries of the region	-Collective bargaining agreements, -International conventions, -ILO database -SOLiD's data base	
Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))	<p>SO I.1: Create and improve an enabling environment for social dialogue between social and economic actors in the Southern Mediterranean region</p> <p>SO I.2: Promote democratic and functional civic and multi-stakeholder dialogue among civil society organisations (CSOs) and regional and local authorities to build consensus on issues of common interest (i.e. decent work)</p> <p>SO I.3: Promote a Euro-Mediterranean Community of Practice (CoP) on effective social dialogue to better address challenges related to sustainable economic and social development in the Southern Mediterranean region.</p>	<p>-National / country-specific action plans derived from Charter thematic priorities with concrete actions on how to deliver in terms of improving the living and working conditions of the poorer segment of the population (disaggregated by targeted country and type of action plan)</p> <p>-Number of bipartite, tripartite and multipartite meetings between social dialogue stakeholders -Consensus-building between the social partners and CSOs on common thematic issues (namely decent work, informal sector, gender equality, employment, etc. ;)</p> <p>-Ability of key stakeholders in targeted countries and South Mediterranean countries to leverage the knowledge capital produced by the CoP (disaggregated by country-specific case studies) -Commitment and enrichment of</p>	-Adopted National Action Plans -Meetings & Conferences' reports & recommendations	<p>All relevant stakeholders are ready to conduct dialogues and exchange on best practices and that they have a mandate to do so.</p> <p>Governments are susceptible to co-operate with the social partners, ESCs & CSOs on common issues</p>

		SOLiD's charter general programme by all the stakeholders in the region		
Outputs	<p>SO 1:</p> <p>EO I.1.1: Increased understanding of the economic and social situation in the new target countries (Algeria, Lebanon, Palestine) and of the mechanisms of social dialogue, including the work of the ESCs.</p> <p>EO I.1.2: Enhanced knowledge of tools and modalities for improving and institutionalising social dialogue between social partners, including the functioning of ESCs in the new target countries.</p> <p>SO 2:</p> <p>EO I.2.1: Reinforcement of institutional social dialogue through inclusion of economic and social partners in consultative processes in the Southern Mediterranean region.</p> <p>EO I.2.2: Enriched South-South learning on regional and sub-regional integration on economic and social issues among targeted stakeholders.</p> <p>EO I.2.3: Promotion of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean in the new target countries, Algeria, Lebanon and</p>	<p>-Number of national diagnosis reports on the socio-economic situation in the new target countries</p> <p>-Awareness raised on social dialogue approaches, mechanisms and actors among the beneficiaries in the new target countries</p> <p>-Promotion and sharing meetings on the diagnosis results in the three new target countries</p> <p>-Agreements between social partners</p> <p>-Mapping of the representativeness of social partners in the target countries</p> <p>-Number of interactive meetings between south-south social dialogue stakeholders, recommendations, lessons learned</p> <p>-General programme of the charter is disseminated and awareness on its derived action plans is raised in the new</p>	<p>- Expert's Diagnosis mission</p> <p>- ILO Database</p> <p>- Project database</p> <p>-Diagnosis Reports uploaded online (website of the project and its partners)</p> <p>-Agreements and meetings reports</p> <p>-Mapping report in the three new target countries</p> <p>-Meetings reports</p>	<p>National involvement in the initiatives presented.</p>

	<p>Palestine.</p> <p>EO I.2.4: Implementation of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean through the development of National Action Plans in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.</p> <p>SO 3:</p> <p>EO I.3.1: Knowledge transfer and exchange of best practices in the Euro-Mediterranean region aimed at promoting policies for social dialogue among Southern Mediterranean countries.</p> <p>EO I.3.2: Strengthened multi-stakeholder advocacy networks to advance the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean.</p>	<p>target countries</p> <p>-Declination of the charter to institutionalised national action plans in the pilot countries</p> <p>Sharing of experiences and good practices, promotion of a CoP among South – South and North-South social dialogue stakeholders in the region</p> <p>-Involvement and commitment of the economic and social partners -Number of dynamic multipartite discussions -Number of Joint agreements between socio-economic partners and institutions of the region</p>	<p>-Reports on advocacy activities, follow up meetings and workshops with the final beneficiaries in the pilot countries Press articles and promotional campaigns’ reports in the three new countries</p> <p>Meetings & regional conferences’ reports Testimonials & success stories</p> <p>Meetings reports Established partnerships</p> <p>Project database</p>	
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<p>COMPONENT II Objective</p>	<p>To support the progressive formalisation of the informal economy through an effective use of social dialogue as an enabling tool to understand and tackle informality. This knowledge will then feed into the design of more inclusive socio-economic policy frameworks that will respond to the employability demands of women and youth for sustainable formal employment</p>	<p>-Proportion of informal employment in total employment, agricultural and non-agricultural employment, by sex and age -Agreement on pathways towards transition to formality concluded by social partners and social dialogue institutions Improved access of women and youth in the informal economy to quality and relevant training and skills recognition services -Proportion of women and youth obtaining recognised qualifications</p>	<p>National statistics, Tripartite agreements, Perception surveys, Administrative data On training provision/certification</p>	
<p>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</p>	<p>SO II.1: Support the tripartite partners to develop enabling policy frameworks through social dialogue to facilitate informal workers' transition to the formal economy</p> <p>SO II.2: Foster skills development systems to enable young people and women in the informal economy to access formal employment</p>	<p>Tripartite action plans, roadmaps, strategies or similar plans to support formalisation, including the role of skills development systems, developed and adopted through social dialogue in targeted countries</p> <p>A gender responsive monitoring system to assess progress towards formalisation of employment and economic units is in place in targeted countries.</p> <p>Baseline indicators on proportion of informal employment and registration of enterprises are available.</p> <p>Number of training providers that have introduced measures to improve access of women and youth in the informal economy to training services (outreach, admission, program design, delivery modes)</p> <p>Number and type of training delivery</p>	<p>Official Gazette; Annual reports of government bodies; intergovernmental official documents; tripartite agreements; official diagnostic reports; other published documents</p> <p>Media reports</p>	<p>Transition to formality is a priority policy issue for government and the social partners in the targeted countries</p>

		mechanisms available which enhance access of informal economy workers to training (financing arrangements, flexible delivery, online/distance)		
Outputs	<p><u>SO II.1:</u></p> <p>EO II.1.1: Country level identification of decent work deficits as foundations of informality, from a social dialogue framework.</p> <p>EO II.1.2: Strengthened social dialogue mechanisms at national and regional levels to formulate sound policies and measures on the transition to the formal economy, in line with the provisions of ILO Recommendation No. 204 (2015).</p> <p>EO II.1.3: Development of national strategies and roadmaps (with short, medium and long term objectives) to enable the progressive transition from the informal to the formal economy (implementation of chapters 4 and 11 of the Charter to promote social dialogue in the South Mediterranean), including measures to extend social protection, ensure universal respect of fundamental labour rights and incentivise the formalization of enterprises, developed and implemented in selected countries.</p>	<p>Number and quality of diagnostic studies on nature, extent, and dynamics of informal economy (urban and rural) in target countries, validated by tripartite partners</p> <p>Number of tripartite participants (disaggregated by sex) in capacity-building activities at different levels</p> <p>Number of social dialogue events/meetings to address transition to the formal economy held at cross-border, national and lower levels, and of participants (by sex)</p> <p>Extent to which national action plans on formalisation address key issues including protection of labour rights, social protection, employability, incentives to enterprises, business registration and licensing, taxation compliance and others to be defined</p> <p>Number of developed or revised integrated policies, legislation or compliance mechanisms to facilitate transition to formality, including for specific groups of workers or economic units.</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Government and social partners reports and websites</p> <p>Official Gazette; Annual reports of government bodies; Intergovernmental official documents; Tripartite agreements; Reports of supervisory bodies; Other publishes documents</p>	<p>Social partners are able and willing to participate in initiatives regarding formalisation</p> <p>High quality researchers and trainers can be identified in participating countries</p> <p>Training providers are willing to engage in service delivery for informal economy workers</p>

	<p><u>SO II.2:</u></p> <p>EO II.2.1: Development of a joint mapping of skills, training delivery mechanisms, and employability gaps among workers in the informal economy by governments, social partners and training institutions.</p> <p>EO II.2.2: Improved access of women and youth to trainings and lifelong learning to enter the formal economy.</p> <p>EO II.2.3: Development of a governmental, nation-wide skills-recognition system to enable workers' transitioning to the formal economy.</p>	<p>Number of social partner organisations taking action to address informality and transition issues</p> <p>Number of workers (disaggregated by sex) and economic units in the informal economy reached by extension of membership and services by employers' and workers' organisations.</p> <p>Number of diagnostic studies analysing skills and employability supply and demand gaps with a focus on women and youth</p> <p>Number of tripartite participants (disaggregated by sex) in capacity-building activities for more demand-led skills development and recognition systems, with a focus on improved access for informal economy workers</p> <p>Number of training providers participating in capacity-building activities</p> <p>Number of training programmes designed or revised based on the demands identified under EO II.2.1</p>	<p>Analytical reports; Training records; Designed/revised curricula</p>	
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