



Brussels, 30.7.2019
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.7.2019

on the Annual Action Programme in favour of ENI South countries Part 1 for 2019

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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 Union¹, 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 action² and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the 'Annual Action Programme in favour of the ENI South countries Part I for 2019', it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2019. 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 TFEU³.
- (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; (iii) promoting connectivity and the sustainable use of natural resources; (iv) support for capacity development/institution building of regional bodies.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁶ are to: contribute to improving energy interconnections, the regulatory framework and to promoting reforms as well as investments towards energy efficiency; to further develop the concept of a sustainable cooperation mechanism of effective coordination and cooperation on justice and security matters; to strengthen partner countries' capacity to prevent and to respond to

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.

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).

cross-border health security threats and finally to foster rights-based migration governance-systems in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

- (5) The first action entitled ‘Promoting the Energy Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood’ aims to support partner countries in the development and implementation of sustainable medium to long-term energy policies. Enhancing energy security while fostering the transition to a low carbon economy is a priority, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts.
- (6) The second action entitled ‘2019 Security Package’ aims to further develop the concept of a sustainable cooperation mechanism for cross-border police cooperation and on judicial cooperation in criminal matters, between EU Member States and the partner countries; and to set up a regional competent workforce for the prevention and control of challenges posed by transferable diseases and to enhance regional cooperation to tackle cross-border health security threats.
- (7) The third action entitled ‘Euromed Migration V’ will support three components; (1) strengthened ‘Dialogue and Cooperation’ which aims to improve cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance, (2) ‘Knowledge management and development’ which aims to improve migration-related knowledge and data management by building and accruing evidence to better inform policy-making in the field of migration governance and (3) ‘Communications and Narrative on migration’ which aims to foster a realistic and fair narrative on migration, promoting intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and mutual understanding.
- (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 Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) as it is the only platform for the construction of a coherent and efficient regulatory framework and the promotion of a shared regulatory culture at regional level. It is appropriate to authorise the award of a grant without a call for proposals to the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO) as it is an extension of the Mediterranean region European Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E) and is the only association bringing together the electricity companies operating the grids (from 19 Mediterranean countries), including both EU and non EU Member States at regional level. It is appropriate to authorise the award of a grant without a call for proposals to the partnership between the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), which brings together most agencies in the region responsible for energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources, and the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), which is the only institution working on promoting energy efficiency measures in the buildings sector and for appliances with all Arab countries of the Southern Neighbour region (among others). It is appropriate to authorise the award of a grant without a call for proposals to the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME) as it brings together the leading energy companies operating in the Mediterranean region, and which has been formally nominated as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform. It is appropriate to authorise the award of a grant without a call for proposals to the ‘East Mediterranean Gas Forum’ (EMGF) as it is the only formal platform for sub-regional cooperation between gas producing countries, buyers and transit countries in the region.
- (9) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.

- (10) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (11) Entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management shall ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union as referred to in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (12) To this end, such entities have been subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (13) 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.
- (14) 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.
- (15) 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 Annual Action Programme in favour of ENI South countries Part I for 2019, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- (a) Annex I: Promoting the Energy Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood;
- (b) Annex II: 2019 Security Package;
- (c) Annex III: Euromed Migration V.

Article 2
Union Contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 35 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (d) Annex I - budget line 22.040102 for an amount of EUR 12 million;
- (e) Annex II - budget line 22.040103 for an amount of EUR 18 million;
- (f) Annex III - budget line 22.040101 for an amount of EUR 5 million.

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

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes II and III, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 5.3.1 of the Annexes II and 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, 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 may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 6
Grants

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

Done at Brussels, 30.7.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX I

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme – Part 1 – for 2019 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for Promoting the Energy Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood

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 No 236/2014.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number | Promoting the Energy Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood CRIS number: 2019/041-946 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⁾ , Tunisia and Syria ⁽³⁾ . In duly justified cases, specific activities may involve: Countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and Countries and territories neighbouring Neighbourhood South countries ⁽⁴⁾ : Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, Turkey and Mauritania. Africa: Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan and South Sudan, but also the Horn of Africa and in particular Somalia; Middle East: Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and more broadly the Arabian Peninsula (Gulf Co-operation Council and Yemen). |
| 3. Programming | Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014- |

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

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

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

⁽⁴⁾ In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) N° 232/2014 (ENI Regulation).

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| document | 2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020) | | | |
| 4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | <u>Main SDG:</u> Goal 7 on "Affordable and clean energy" <u>Secondary SDG:</u> Goal 13 in "Climate action" | | | |
| 5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area | Promoting connectivity and the sustainable use of natural resources | DEV. Assistance: YES | | |
| 6. Amounts concerned | Total estimated cost: EUR 14.9 million Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 12 million | | | |
| 7. Aid modality and implementation modality | Project Modality Direct management through grants | | | |
| 8 a) DAC code(s) | 23110 Energy policy and administrative management (42%) 23183 Energy conservation and demand-side efficiency (42%) 23210 Energy generation, renewable sources – multiple technologies (16%) | | | |
| b) Main Delivery Channel | 20000 Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil society | | | |
| 9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form) (5) | General policy objective | Not targeted | Significant objective | Principal objective |
| | Participation development/good governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x |
| | Aid to environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | x | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Gender equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment (6) | <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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | x | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Climate change adaptation | x | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(5) When a marker is flagged as significant/principal objective, the action description should reflect an explicit intent to address the particular theme in the definition of objectives, results, activities and/or indicators (or of the performance / disbursement criteria, in the case of budget support).

(6) Please check the Minimum Recommended Criteria for the Gender Marker and the Handbook on the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker. If gender equality is not targeted, please provide explanation in section 4.5.Mainstreaming.

| | |
|---|--|
| 10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships | Global Climate Change Alliance + (GCCA+) Climate Change Mitigation: Supporting low carbon development |
|---|--|

SUMMARY

The overall objective of the programme is to support partner countries in the development and implementation of sustainable medium to long-term energy policies. Enhancing energy security while fostering the transition to a low carbon economy is a priority, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts.

This programme will promote regional cooperation leading to:

- sound regulatory frameworks conducive to the efficient and sustainable production, distribution, trade and consumption of energy. Particular focus will be put on a gradual decreasing/removal of energy subsidies;
- the development of an enabling environment for increased public and private investments in sustainable energy, in particular for (i) the deployment of renewable energy sources (from large-scale to small-scale decentralised levels) and (ii) energy efficiency plans in the main energy-consuming sectors of the economy (with a specific focus on buildings and appliances).
- the integration of the electricity systems, including through the coordinated planning and development of electricity transport (and storage) infrastructures;
- the gradual embedding of digitalisation in all energy-relevant market segments (gas exploration, transport and distribution, electricity grids, demand side management in industry, buildings and transport sectors);
- the diversification of energy sources, suppliers and routes in particular for natural gas (including Liquefied Natural Gas), considering the recent gas discoveries and exploitation in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

This programme proposes a collaborative partnership between countries’ governments and national agencies, by sharing best practices in designing and implementing evidence-based energy policies and measures. The private sector and international financing institutions will be closely associated in the framework of its implementation. This program will provide an opportune format of mutually beneficial cooperation for sustainable energy sector developments both at regional and national levels.

Finally, it will contribute to reaching the objectives of the Union for the Mediterranean’s Ministerial Declaration on Energy (of December 2016), and determining new ambitious commitments for regional cooperation on energy to be formally adopted at the next Ministerial meeting (and Declaration) in December 2020.

1. CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

Access to sustainable and modern energy is one of the key preconditions for countries to achieve sustainable development, reach the Sustainable Development Goals and eradicate poverty. In particular, energy poverty is considered as one of the root causes of migration, as it drives people to try to pursue better livelihoods elsewhere.

The EU has set as a priority (within the EU and with its neighbour countries) to unlock the potential of the energy sector, by pursuing three interlinked key objectives. Addressing the lack of access to sustainable energy, increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, and contributing to the global fight against climate change in line with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (under the Paris Agreement).

The clean energy transition is a vector of economic opportunities, job creation and a strong incentive for dynamic research and innovation. This is particularly important for the Southern Neighborhood region, which overall endures fragile political and socioeconomic situations and is the world's most exposed area to climate change. Moreover, as energy demand increases at vertiginous rates (between 5-8% annually, on average), energy systems require substantial improvements in terms of efficiency and functionalities and in most of the countries, electricity tariffs remain subsidised (and therefore non cost-reflective), which imposes heavy fiscal burdens that undermine macroeconomic stability.

Furthermore, this region suffers from a very low degree of integration that prevents taking advantage of opportunities in particular on domains where a global approach would obviously bring significant benefits, such as energy and climate change. Better-interconnected gas and electricity networks embedding modern digitalisation technologies, coupled with energy efficiency and increased uses of untapped renewable energy sources would enhance the region's energy diversification and resilience.

Increased energy resilience and availability in the partner countries would bring benefits to the lives of women and men, boys and girls by reducing their energy dependence, consumption and expenses. It would also ultimately serve EU interests in terms of diversification of energy sources and routes, and potential for new market opportunities for the European energy business industry.

At political level, the ministers in charge of energy from the 43 Members of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have agreed in December 2016 to step up regional co-operation in order to deliver a secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply. They decided that policy dialogue and concrete initiatives would be carried out under three UfM energy platforms covering the priority policy areas, namely the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform (UfM REM Platform), the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform (UfM REEE Platform) and the UfM Gas Platform. This Action supports the policy dialogue and initiatives in this framework.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was launched in 2004, to support and foster stability, security and prosperity in the countries closest to the EU's borders. Since then, radical changes have occurred in a large number of the Southern Neighbourhood countries, and the EU's own interdependence with its neighbours has been placed in sharp focus. In particular, energy crises, and tense situations with some of its main providers, have underlined the EU's need to work more with its neighbours on energy security, including diversification of energy sources, routes and suppliers.

Within the European Union, Member States are committed to developing a sustainable, competitive, secure and decarbonised energy system. The Energy Union and the Energy and Climate Policy Framework for 2030 establish ambitious Union commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions further by at least 40 % by 2030 as compared with 1990, to increase the proportion of renewable energy consumed, to make energy savings in accordance with Union level ambitions ⁽⁷⁾, and to improve Europe's energy security, competitiveness and sustainability. Inspired by these dynamics, the EU is also committed to strengthen its energy dialogue with neighbourhood countries on energy security, energy market reforms and the promotion of sustainable energy.

Moreover, the EU has naturally ⁽⁸⁾ linked energy and climate actions within its Energy Union Strategy as well as its external action. This was recognised when the 2015 review of the ENP ⁽⁹⁾ introduced for the first time climate action as a thematic priority, together with energy security under a single heading. This approach was reiterated in March 2017, when the European Council recalled that the EU's climate and energy objectives are mutually reinforcing, and called for strengthening synergies between EU climate and energy diplomacies ⁽¹⁰⁾. The Council underlined the need for partnership with third countries to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Energy Union Strategy and the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to foster the linking of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with national development strategies. The EU climate and energy objectives should also be actively included in partnerships with the International Financial Institutions, Development Banks, and other financial institutions as well as within other multilateral organisations and fora.

Finally, the European Commission proposal to step up climate mainstreaming to at least 25% in the next Multiannual Financial Framework demonstrates that the EU budget would continue to act as a catalyst to leverage sustainable private and public investment and channel EU support for the clean energy transition to where it is most needed. It is also a key part of EU's credibility in advocating for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050.

⁽⁷⁾ The revised energy efficiency directive establishes an energy efficiency headline target of at least 32.5 % savings at EU level by 2030. The revised renewables energy directive sets a binding target of at least 32 % energy from renewable sources at EU level by 2030.

⁽⁸⁾ Energy generation produces over two thirds of greenhouse-gas emissions, and increased energy efficiency measures would significantly reduce total consumption.

⁽⁹⁾ Joint communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy" (SWD(2015)500; 18 November 2015).

⁽¹⁰⁾ EU Council conclusions on "Implementing the EU Global Strategy – strengthening synergies between EU Climate and energy diplomacies and elements for priorities for 2017" (6981/17 ; 6 March 2017).

1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region

From the perspective of energy security, partner countries' economic stability mainly depends on a sustainable balance between their energy consumption and the profile of their energy supplies or production. Most of the region's countries are vulnerable to over-dependence on specific suppliers, and therefore have a vital interest in increasing their sovereignty by diversifying their sources of supply, while embedding modern digitalisation technologies.

In addition, all Southern Neighbour countries have ratified the Paris Agreement. The comprehensive climate mitigation and adaptation strategies put forward in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) have become a formal part of their national policy frameworks. These national plans include specific objectives and actions (including the need for enhancing resilience of infrastructures to climate change's impact, in key sectors like energy, water, and solid waste), and form a useful basis to determine priority support areas – including for energy cooperation, as the mitigation objectives are largely based on actions in the energy sector.

In terms of energy consumption, it is estimated that the Southern Mediterranean region will undergo a 40% increase in its overall energy demand by 2040. Partner countries must therefore alter their energy trajectory through robust implementation of NDCs, implying massive energy efficiency measures and deployment of renewable energy.

Encouraged by incentives, forward policies and technological progress, renewables (and especially non-hydro renewables) are expected to exhibit robust growth trends in the coming decades. The Southern Neighbourhood benefits from a huge – untapped - potential of natural resources (sun and wind mainly) that, thanks to substantial progress in setting up stable regulatory frameworks, is attracting more and more investments in large-scale infrastructures. The increased use of renewables in the countries' energy mix will be pivotal.

Energy efficiency shall also play a decisive role in both the end-use sectors and power generation. This subsector historically lagged behind in most of the countries' national policies, due to a priority given to increasing the total energy supply through renewables, and limited developments and enforcement of appropriate energy efficient regulatory frameworks. Addressing energy efficiency is however becoming more of a priority, as witnessed by each country's adoption of its National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) in the past years, and mainly due to the high share of energy consumption from sectors such as buildings (40% in average) and transport.

Furthermore, the energy mix will remain fossil fuel based, and oil demand will continue to increase, particularly for transport fuels. However, recent massive gas discoveries in the Levantine Basin have further promoted the natural gas alternative, being less climate-harmful and more efficient than oil. Gas developments (including in its liquefied form) have therefore become more of a priority in national energy policies, as witnessed by the January 2019's sub-regional initiative (led by Egypt with Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Cyprus, Greece and Italy) to set up an intergovernmental "Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum".

1.4 Stakeholder analysis

Following the Paris Agreement, most of the Southern neighbor countries have increased attention to strengthening the skills and resources of their public administrations responsible for energy-related policies (mainly the Ministries of Energy and national agencies). This dynamic was commended by the donor community and the private sector (among others), considering the key importance of sound, efficient and transparent governance structure, and regulatory frameworks that help to attract foreign and domestic investments. This Action aims at accompanying the endeavors of these national administrations, as direct beneficiaries of the

action, through specific capacity building, training programs and exchanges of experiences that will in particular promote gender equality. Sex-disaggregated data could possibly be produced on this element.

The private sector is involved as projects promoter, equipment providers, energy service companies, from domestic and international investors to energy operators (generation, transmission, distribution). This Action will indirectly support the domestic and European private sector, by improving the business environment and fostering more attractive business opportunities, mainly through enhanced regulatory frameworks, relevant options to address market failures and clear signals for switching towards digitalized energy systems.

The Action will also partially and indirectly benefit Southern Mediterranean municipalities, by promoting at national levels the key role that local authorities play in developing and implementing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs).

Other relevant stakeholders benefitting directly or indirectly from this Action, include energy regulators and transmission system operators, International Financial Institutions ("IFIs"), the civil society and regional authorities. Finally, the population of partner countries shall also benefit from positive outcomes of this program in their daily energy supply and consumption.

1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

Countries from the Southern Neighbourhood region have shown interest in increasing cooperation on energy, but so far the implementation of their key sector reforms remains uneven for political, economic and social reasons. In particular, energy prices remain heavily subsidised in most countries, which does not favour much progress as regards energy intensity. Similarly, the involvement of non-state actors (including local and regional authorities), civil society and the private sector varies considerably from one country to another. Civil society organisations dealing specifically with energy matters are very rare, moreover with extremely few women-led initiatives.

In this context, the three UfM energy platforms, under the co-ordination of the UfM Co-Presidency, represent appropriate structures for organizing and supporting systematic dialogue and exchange of experience among UfM members.

National public authorities from Southern Neighbourhood countries are key stakeholders. These are not limited to energy ministries: given the transversal dimension of energy consumption (concerning all sectors of the economy), authorities in charge of cross-sectoral or inter-ministerial coordination have an increasingly important role to play in driving the energy reforms.

The EU will therefore offer cooperation and promote:

- sound regulatory frameworks conducive to the efficient and sustainable production, distribution, trade and consumption of energy, while particularly focusing on a gradual removal of energy subsidies;
- the creation of an enabling environment for increased public and private investments in sustainable energy, in particular for (i) the deployment of renewable energy sources (from large-scale to small-scale decentralised levels) and (ii) energy efficiency plans in the main energy-consuming sectors of the economy (with a specific focus on buildings and appliances).

- the integration of the electricity networks, including through the coordinated planning and development of electricity transport (and storage) infrastructures;
- the gradual embedding of digitalisation in all energy-relevant market segments (gas exploration, transport and distribution, electricity grids, demand side management in industry, buildings and transport sectors);
- the diversification of energy sources, suppliers and routes, in particular for natural gas (including Liquefied Natural Gas).

The issues of comprehensive and attractive regulatory frameworks and facilitated access to finance will particularly be mainstreamed in all activities of this Action, being identified by all energy stakeholders as the main bottlenecks of opportune and sustainable energy developments in the Mediterranean region. As regards climate finance in particular, various existing sources of funding will be taken into account including the Green Climate Fund ⁽¹¹⁾. Innovative approaches will be sought with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks as well as private finance, in order to make finance flows consistent with the needs for implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that contribute to lowering greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resilient development.

Finally, this Action will consider all possible synergies with climate-related actions in associated sectors such as water, food, waste management, thereby contributing to fostering the “nexus” approach.

2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

| Risks | Risk level (H/M/L) | Mitigating measures |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Political instability within some of the partner countries, preventing a regional focus on energy and climate mitigation actions | H | Adoption of a progressive or variable projects' approach |
| Limited willingness of partner countries to cooperate and design possible regional and/or sub-regional energy-related strategies/action plans | M | Dedicated awareness means and collaborative actions to promote the importance and interest of regional cooperation |
| Limited involvement and uneven interest from programme's key stakeholders | M | Flexibility to keep in all components of the programme, in order to allow partner countries to choose between different levels of partnerships without jeopardizing the overall programme's implementation. |
| Assumptions | | |
| Countries' policy makers and specific agencies dealing with energy (and climate action) are | | |

⁽¹¹⁾ Established at the 2010 COP 16 ‘Green Climate Fund (GCF)’ - decision 1/CP.16.

willing to cooperate and share their experience within the region.

Energy security and climate action remain amongst the main priorities of partner countries' national development plans for the coming decades, and governments show willingness and readiness to adopt proactive and innovative political initiatives in this sense.

All partner countries show willingness and proactivity in allocating necessary human, financial and material resources that ensure a sound implementation of the Action.

In each partner country, gender balance strategies (well aligned with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) are in place to guarantee women's involvement in relevant capacity building, decision-making and implementing processes.

3. LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

- The UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy in December 2016 has proven the willingness of partner countries to better cooperate at regional level.
- Regional cooperation facilitates the relations between neighbouring countries, and sub-regional cooperation approaches may prove effective in certain sectors or as demonstration cases.
- Flexibility in both the approach and the proposed cooperation instruments must be sought to enable the EU and its partners to respond to ever-changing circumstances and needs.
- Energy market integration and interoperability/interconnections require the adoption of minimum comparable technical and economic standards.
- Regional programmes require extensive organisational work in order to secure adhesion of the participating countries and stakeholders, which in turn requires consistent dedicated resources.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

This Action is complementary to the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, aiming at (i) ensuring universal access to modern energy services, (ii) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, (iii) doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. It is also complementary to the Covenant of Mayors initiative, as well as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

It will build on the achievements of (and ensure continuity of) previous EU-funded projects that have supported regional energy associations which have been formally nominated as key stakeholders of the Union for the Mediterranean Energy platforms: the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG), the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO), the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Énergie (OME).

Improved synergies will be sought with other EU-funded bilateral and regional programmes, projects funded by the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) and the two energy-related guarantee schemes financed under the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD),

and launched in 2019. The outputs from the EU-funded regional projects “ClimaMed” (in particular its support to municipalities and enhanced access to climate finance), “MedENEC” (addressing energy efficiency in buildings from 2006 to 2016), “MedSTAT” and “Euro-Arab Mashreq Gas Market” will be acutely considered. Cooperation programs from other International Financing Institutions will also be carefully considered.

The recent Commission initiative on “Africa-EU Alliance for Sustainable Investments and Jobs” has led to the creation of a “High Level Platform for Sustainable Energy Investments”, whose specific activities (on energy investments/business models with impact on growth and jobs, regulatory frameworks, and business-to-business and private sector partnerships) will be coordinated with this programme’s actions.

Enhanced donor co-ordination is essential to maximise resources, but also to make the EU's contribution more visible. Wherever possible a joint EU response in the region should be shaped around the EU brand enhancing the use of joint programming with EU Member States on and of shared analysis from all EU sources (including EU Delegations).

The EU will pursue coordination with other donors and major international financial institutions as well as working with the Union for the Mediterranean, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council and its Member States.

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 enhancing energy security of beneficiary countries while fostering their transition to low carbon economy, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts. Moreover, the Action will contribute to enhancing energy security in the EU by fostering the diversification of its sources of supply and a gradual integration of the regional power systems (as a prerequisite to markets' integration).

Throughout the Action, the gender equality dimension will be fully embedded in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda’s provisions. Indeed, women’s and men’s needs and priorities for energy and access to energy resources often remain differently and unequally shaped by their roles and responsibilities in societies, in particular in rural contexts. This tends to limit economic opportunities for women, bring negative effects on their families and communities, and hamper broader socio-economic development and stability at local, national and regional levels.

The following specific objectives will be achieved:

- The massive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region accelerates the energy transition.
- Euro-Mediterranean electricity and gas systems are strengthened to become gradually more integrated.
- Public awareness on energy's major stakes and challenges increases.

Expected outputs are as follows:

- enhanced harmonized regulatory frameworks for gas and electricity that favour cross border interoperability and promote investments, with a specific focus on (i) options for a gradual

removal of subsidies and (ii) consolidation of common principles for renewables' integration into the network (including at prosumers' level);

- promotion of smart digitalisation technologies at all levels of the energy supply chain;
- more efficient functioning of electricity transmission systems operators through optimised planning capacities and operations' processes (including the issue of energy storage facilities);
- development and gradual enforcement of regulatory and institutional frameworks (at regional or sub-regional levels where possible) that promote energy efficiency measures for buildings and appliances;
- increased (European and domestic) private sector investment in the renewables and energy efficiency markets in Southern neighbour countries;
- formulation of regional and sub-regional gas development plans (including LNG), based on existing and future gas supply-demand schemes and infrastructures in the Mediterranean region and its neighbour countries (mainly countries from GCC, Caucasus, Sub-Saharan Africa);
- efficient functioning of the 3 UfM Energy platforms, leading to policy convergence and dissemination of good practices.

The Action's activities will consist of (i) training and capacity building at national and local levels, with particular attention to gender equality and the increasing involvement of women's CSOs (where they exist) as key actors for sustainable energy transitions and change; (ii) seminars and workshops allowing for policy dialogue, increased cooperation and sharing of experience in which women will be actively involved (which will promote their presence and engagement in decision-making processes); (iii) specific technical assistance, as well as studies; (iv) tailored awareness campaigns on relevant strategic themes, with a gender sensitive and responsive angle and in which women will be portrayed as leaders and implementers at micro and macro levels for sustainable energy development, (v) grants to support the technical partners/secretariats of the UfM energy platforms. Some small-scale demonstration projects on energy efficiency measures shall possibly be financed too.

4.2 Intervention Logic

The strategic intervention of the "Promoting the Energy Transition in the Southern Neighbourhood 2019-2022" programme aims at fostering more efficient, secure and better integrated energy systems and markets in the Southern Neighbourhood region, which would become more climate-adapted and climate-resilient.

Expected impact, objectives and results of this Action will be reached by entrusting ambitious work plans and activities to qualified associations that are well recognised within the UfM Energy framework and that have already been active on the energy sector for many years. Direct grants will be awarded to the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG), the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO), the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), the Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME). The grant to the OME will - among others but not exclusively - finance some of its activities as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform. The European Commission intends to provide reduced co-financing

rates for each of the grant contracts (compared to previous rates), as a requirement towards more financial sustainability of these regional associations in a mid/long term.

A direct grant shall also finance the launch of the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF), an international organisation initiated on 14 January 2019 in Cairo by the Ministers of Energy of Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan and Palestine Ministers of Energy. This Forum will foster sub-regional cooperation following the significant offshore gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The political dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean remains a powerful leverage to progress on issues of common interest at regional (or sub-regional) level, which justifies the choice of addressing key energy challenges within this framework. The perspective of a new UfM Ministerial Declaration on Energy at the end of 2020 and its subsequent commitments constitute a strong incentive for increasing the support to the key regional stakeholders active in the UfM Energy framework (identified here above).

4.3 Mainstreaming

Considering the domain of intervention of the Action, environmental sustainability and climate change are obviously embedded into its design and implementation phases.

Moreover, in the EU's neighbour countries (and particularly in rural areas) access to modern and sustainable energy is a crucial aspect for poverty reduction, acting as an important engine of economic growth and social development (including better health and education). As men and women's roles and responsibilities are significantly different in households, markets and communities, all activities within this programme will entail (to the extent possible) a gendered sensitive and responsive approach in line with the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, that encourages equality and equal opportunities. Finally, the action will support and enable women's active participation in decision-making processes with regards to more sustainable political and local energy governance. Among other things, women play a critical role on a sustainable energy and climate change agenda due to their local knowledge of and leadership in sustainable resource management, and/or leading sustainable practices at the household and community level.

All of the Action's implementing bodies will be required to ensure (when possible) women's and women CSOs' active participation in training and capacity building activities, as well as active and regular consultation with women's CSOs who work on sustainable development and energy from a gender sensitive angle. EU Delegations can provide support and guidance on who to approach nationally and locally.

Finally, through the Action's focus on regulatory reforms, institutional support and capacity building at national and local levels, good governance will be fully promoted.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets 7 on "Affordable and clean energy", 13 on "Climate action", while also contributing to 12 "Sustainable consumption and production", 11 "Sustainable cities and communities" and 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

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 ⁽¹²⁾.

5.3.1 Grants (direct management)

5.3.1.1 Grant: direct award – Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG)

(a) Purpose of the grant

This grant aims at contributing to the gradual development and setup of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean energy market, by harmonizing energy market design and rules that ensure open and non-discriminatory market access, adequate and sustainable investments (in particular for renewables), and consumer protection. Expected results entail (i) enhanced harmonized regulatory frameworks for gas and electricity that favour cross border interoperability and promote investments; (ii) promotion of smart digitalisation technologies at all levels of the energy supply chain; (iii) consolidation of common principles on renewable energy sources' integration in the market (including at consumer level); (iv) identification of criteria for Mediterranean Projects of Common Interest; (v) tailored support to the setup of independent regulators and enhanced staff capacities; (vi) efficient support to secretarial tasks of the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform, in close collaboration with the MED TSO Association.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

⁽¹²⁾ 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.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG).

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 Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG) as it is the only platform for the construction of a coherent and efficient regulatory framework and the promotion of a shared regulatory culture at regional level.

5.3.1.2 Grant: direct award – Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO)

(a) Purpose of the grant

This grant aims at promoting the progressive integration of partner countries' transmission networks (taking into account energy efficiency requirements), the enhancement of cross-border electricity exchanges as well as renewable energy sources' integration in the Mediterranean region, through the coordination of both national development plans and access rules to the grids. Expected results entail (i) improvement of the Mediterranean Transmission Network Development plan, (ii) consolidation of common technical regulatory frameworks, (iii) identification and operationalization of Interconnected Electricity Exchange Zone (IEEZ), with a view to increasing electricity exchanges, (iv) optimized planning capacities and operations processes, and (v) efficient support to secretarial tasks of the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform, in close collaboration with MEDREG Association.

(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 Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO).

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. MED TSO is an extension of the Mediterranean region of the European Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E). Therefore, MED TSO is the single and only association gathering electricity companies operating the grids (from 19 Mediterranean countries), including both EU and non EU Member States at regional level, and whose contribution remains at the core of the dynamics of Mediterranean energy markets' integration.

5.3.1.3 Grant: direct award – Support to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region

(a) Purpose of the grant

This grant will support a partnership between the Mediterranean association of national agencies for energy conservation (MEDENER), and an intergovernmental organisation

aiming at increasing the adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices in the Arab region (RCREEE). This partnership between the two recognized stakeholders of the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform is active since 2018. Within this Action, priority will be given to promoting energy efficiency measures in the buildings sector and for appliances, while pursuing efforts in supporting the deployment of renewable energy systems at utility scale as well as at smaller scale levels (decentralised generation), considering the massive potential of untapped sustainable energy sources in the region. The related opportunities for job creation and the contribution to reducing carbon emissions will be mainstreamed in all grant's actions. The International Energy Agency (IEA) will possibly be invited to collaborate within this framework.

Expected results entail (i) contribution to the drafting, adoption and enforcement of energy efficient building codes; (ii) widened public awareness on energy efficiency in buildings and appliances (possibly through small-scale demonstration projects); (iii) development of standardisation and labelling processes for appliances, and contribution to a gradual enforcement of national and/or regional market surveillance mechanisms; (iv) enhancement of regulatory frameworks that contribute to de-risking business environments; (v) increased European and domestic private sector involvement in the renewables and energy efficiency markets, (v) tailored support to national agencies and line ministries and enhanced staff capacities; and (vi) efficient support to secretarial tasks of the UfM Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Platform.

(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 Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER) in partnership with the RCREEE centre. The choice of the lead applicant will be done during the formulation phase.

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 (already existing) partnership between these two (recognized) stakeholders of the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform:

- the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER), which brings together since 1997 most agencies in the region in charge of energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources; and
- the RCREEE centre, which is since 2008 the only institution working on the themes specified here above with all Arab countries of the Southern Neighbour region (among others).

5.3.1.4 Grant: direct award – Support to regional co-operation towards an integrated gas market in the Southern Neighbourhood region

(a) Purpose of the grant

This grant aims at contributing to the gradual setup of a secure, sustainable and integrated Euro-Mediterranean gas market, by promoting security, transparency and predictability of

both supply and demand (while fairly taking into account the interest of producing and consuming countries).

Expected results entail (i) assessment of gas supply-demand balances and perspectives for trade evolutions in the Mediterranean region, (ii) identification of the potential for small-scale LNG (liquefied natural gas) applications and LNG in maritime transport; (iii) affirming the accurate role of natural gas in the Mediterranean energy transition (coupled with renewables and energy efficiency and taking into account the issue of fugitive methane emissions); (iv) assessment of the opportunities for storage systems and for power to gas technologies (i.e. blue and green hydrogen, synthetic gas, sectorial integration); and (v) efficient secretarial tasks of the UfM Gas Platform and coordination of the drafting of “Mediterranean Energy Perspectives 2020 and 2022” (with MEDREG, MED TSO, MEDENER, RCREEE) that would support policy developments at regional level.

(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 Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie (OME).

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 Observatoire Méditerranéen de l’Energie (OME) which gathers since 1988 the leading energy companies operating in the Mediterranean region, and has been formally nominated as Secretariat of this UfM Gas Platform.

5.3.1.5 Grant: direct award – Support to the East Mediterranean Gas Forum

(a) Purpose of the grant

This grant aims at contributing to the establishment of the nascent “East Mediterranean Gas Forum” (EMGF), an international organisation initiated on 14 January 2019 in Cairo by the Ministers of Energy of Egypt, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan and Palestine. Following the significant offshore gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean that have a profound impact on the region’s energy and economic developments, partner countries have affirmed their commitment to foster cooperation and initiate a structured and systematic policy dialogue on natural gas, potentially leading to the development of a sustainable regional gas market that could unlock the full gas resource potential in the region. Until the final institutional structure of the EMGF is formally adopted by its Member States, this grant will support the activities of the existing High Level Working Group.

(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 “East Med Gas Forum”.

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 East Med Gas Forum, as the only formal platform for sub-regional cooperation between gas producing countries (including new potential producers), buyers and transit countries in the region, also involving the gas industry and the private sector (including investors, traders, financing entities and other stakeholders in this regard).

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 (amount in EUR) | Indicative third party contribution (amount in EUR) |
|---|--|--|
| Grants under section 5.3.1 | | |
| 5.3.1.1 Direct grant: Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG) | 3 000 000 | 333 000 |
| 5.3.1.2 Direct grant: Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO) | 2 000 000 | 667 000 |
| 5.3.1.3 Direct grant: Support to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region (MEDENER and RCREEE) | 5 000 000 | 900 000 |
| 5.3.1.4 Direct grant: Support to regional co-operation towards an integrated gas market in the Southern Neighbourhood region (OME) | 1 500 000 | 500 000 |
| 5.3.1.5 Direct grant: Support to the East Mediterranean Gas Forum (EMGF) | 500 000 | 500 000 |
| Evaluation Audit/Expenditure verification | Will be covered by another Decision | N.A. |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Communication and visibility | N.A. | N.A. |
| Totals | 12 000 000 | 2 900 000 |

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 and other relevant stakeholders. For each component, in cases where a Steering Committee is created, the participation of relevant Commission services is foreseen.

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, the implementing partners 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 partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (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 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 programme, and (ii) the highly 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.

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.

1.6 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 LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

| | Results chain | Indicators | Baselines (incl. reference year) | Targets (incl. reference year) | Sources and means of verification | Assumptions |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| verall objective: Impact | To enhance energy security of regional partner countries while fostering their transition to low carbon economy, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive, climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts. | Evolution of the partner countries' energy balance Progress of partner countries in achieving their NDC's (Nationally Determined Contributions) commitments | Country specific (2019) | Country specific (2022) | - Partner Countries' National Development Plans - Annual reports from Partner countries' Ministry of Energy - Reports from Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) | |
| Specific objective: Outcome | The massive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region accelerates the energy transition. Euro-Mediterranean electricity and gas systems are strengthened and become gradually more integrated. Public awareness on energy's major stakes and challenges increases. | Evolution of the partner countries' energy mix and energy intensity Increase of cross border electricity and gas exchanges Number of regional awareness actions, conferences and seminars | Country specific (2019) Country specific (2019) 0 | Country specific (2022) Country specific (2022) 20 | - Annual reports from Partner countries' Ministry of Energy - Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) reports - Regional and local surveys | Countries' policy makers and specific agencies dealing with energy (and climate action) are willing to cooperate and share their experience within the region. |
| Outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory frameworks for gas and electricity sectors improve (thanks to skills' enhancement actions) and gradually converge at regional or sub-regional levels The governance and performance of electricity transmission systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developed and commonly agreed regulations at regional or sub-regional level Number of man days of technical assistance being | 0 0 | 20 120 | - Annual reports from Partner countries' Ministry of Energy - Annual reports from TSOs and regulatory agencies - Reports from Observatoire | Energy security and climate action remain amongst the main priorities of partner countries' national development |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <p>operators (TSOs) is improved through optimised planning capacities and operations' processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart digitalisation technologies are promoted at all levels of the energy supply chain • Development and gradual enforcement of regulatory and institutional frameworks (at regional or sub-regional levels where possible) that promote energy efficiency measures for buildings and appliances • Increased (European and domestic) private sector's investments in the renewables and energy efficiency markets in Southern neighbour countries • Formulation of regional and sub-regional gas development plans (including LNG), based on existing and future supply-demand schemes and infrastructures in the Mediterranean region and its neighbour countries (mainly countries from GCC, Caucasus, Sub-Saharan Africa) • The 3 UfM Energy platforms meet at regular and efficient pace | <p>successfully provided to TSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of events highlighting the opportunities of smart digital technologies • Evolution of the adoption and enforcement of Energy Efficiency Buildings codes and/or Standardisation and Labelling regulations • Amount of financial commitments and disbursements from private companies in renewables and energy efficiency projects • Number of studies and assessment being drafted and disseminated • Number of meetings and workshops within the 3 UfM Energy platforms | <p>0</p> <p>Country specific (2019)</p> <p>Country specific (2019)</p> <p>0</p> <p>10</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Country specific (2022)</p> <p>Country specific (2022)</p> <p>10</p> <p>24</p> | <p>Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports from the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean - Annual reports from Partner countries' Ministry of Industry and/or Ministry of Economy and Trade - Regional and local surveys | <p>plans for the coming decades, and governments show willingness and readiness to adopt proactive and innovative political initiatives in this sense.</p> <p>All partner countries show willingness and proactivity in allocating necessary human, financial and material resources that ensure a sound implementation of the programme.</p> |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX II

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme – Part 1 – for 2019 in favour of ENI South countries

Action Document for 2019 Security Package

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 No 236/2014.

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number | 2019 Security Package CRIS number: ENI/2019/042-049 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument |
| 2. Zone benefiting from the action/location | <p>The action shall be carried out at the following location: Southern Neighbourhood countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel ⁽¹⁾, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ⁽²⁾, Tunisia and Syria ⁽³⁾) for Euromed Police and Euromed Justice.</p> <p>Enlargement countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), Neighbourhood East (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and Neighbourhood South for EU Initiative on Health Security.</p> <p>In duly justified cases, other countries outside the Neighbourhood may be added, in particular Sahel countries.</p> <p>Countries referred to as “partner countries” in the present document are the ones mentioned above.</p> |
| 3. Programming document | Regional South Strategy Papers (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programmes (2018-2020) |

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

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

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

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions for components 1 and 2 SDG 3: Good health and well-being for Component 3 SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals for all components | | | |
| 5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area | Building resilience and promoting stability | DEV. Assistance: YES | | |
| 6. Amounts concerned | Total estimated cost: EUR 18 million Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 18 million | | | |
| 7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies) | Project Modality Indirect management with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) for police cooperation. Indirect management with the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) for justice cooperation. Indirect management with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for health security. Implementation through the above-mentioned EU Agencies will take into account the conditions laid down in Article 7 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715. | | | |
| 8 a) DAC code(s) | 15130 Legal and judicial development : - 15131 Justice (27.8%) - 15132 Police (38.9%) 12250 Infectious disease control (33.3%) | | | |
| b) Main Delivery Channel | 90000 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 | x | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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) | Not applicable | | | |

SUMMARY

The Euromed Police and Euromed Justice programmes will develop further the concept of a sustainable cooperation mechanism for cross-border police cooperation and on judicial cooperation in criminal matters, between EU Member States and the partner countries with a more direct involvement of EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies (namely CEPOL, Europol, Eurojust) and the European Judicial Network. They build upon lessons learnt from the previous phases.

The EU Initiative on Health Security aims to set up a regional competent workforce for the prevention and control of challenges posed by transferable diseases and to enhance regional cooperation to tackle cross-border health security threats. The first part of the programme is the continuation and further development of the existing EU-funded MediPIET (Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training). In order to facilitate regional cooperation, the programme seeks to bring partner countries closer to the work of the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC). The programme is open to all countries of the Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Review ⁽⁴⁾ places a stronger emphasis on security in order to make partner countries more resilient against threats they currently experience. The new focus on security opens up a wide range of new areas of cooperation under the ENP. Security cooperation includes security sector reform, fighting organised crime and cybercrime, cybersecurity, border protection and protection of critical infrastructure, tackling terrorism and radicalisation, and disaster and crisis management.

The Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-2020 ⁽⁵⁾ highlights that the Southern Neighbourhood region is facing an unprecedented level of security threats. These threats often have a cross-border dimension or possible spill over effects on neighbouring countries. This warrants that the EU fosters regional dialogue and collaborative action on these issues, among Southern Neighbourhood countries, and between those countries and their neighbours, including the EU.

The programming document identifies four priority sectors of which the first one deals with “building resilience and promoting stability”.

The EU continues to place rule of law, democracy and human rights at the heart of its engagement to strengthen regional cooperation against security threats such as terrorism and serious organised crime. A renewed emphasis is placed on prevention, be it against violent extremism or against natural and man-made disasters including health security threats.

One of the specific objectives in the sector is to set up effective regional mechanisms to enable the EU and partner countries to respond to factors promoting instability, security challenges and their longer-term impact on resilience in the Southern Neighbourhood.

⁽⁴⁾ SWD(2015) 500, 18 November 2015.

⁽⁵⁾ C(2018) 6362 5 October 2018.

One of the expected results is that South Partner Countries/regional organisations seek closer alignment on methodologies, such as the EU Policy cycle against serious and organized crime.

Another expected result concerns regional dialogue platforms allowing for exchanges and for capacity reinforcement notably through the expertise of European agencies and the partnership with relevant international actors.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

In 2015, the European Neighbourhood Policy Review led to the adoption of a Joint Communication in November 2015 ⁽⁶⁾, setting out a new framework for building more effective partnerships between the EU and its neighbours, and supporting stabilisation and resilience as overarching priority. The review reinforced the principle of flexibility to tailor our cooperation to the specific needs and expectations of each partner country and to ensure cooperation can adapt to rapidly evolving circumstances and priorities.

Rolling out the ENP security dimension has also built on the European Agenda on Security⁷ and the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy presented to the European Council on 28 June 2016.

On 27 March 2017, the Council decided to continue the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime for the period 2018 - 2021. This multi-annual Policy Cycle aims to tackle the most important threats posed by organised and serious international crime to the EU in a coherent and methodological manner through improving and strengthening co-operation between the relevant services of the Member States, EU institutions and EU agencies as well as third countries and organisations, including the private sector where relevant ⁽⁸⁾.

EUROPOL plays a central role. Except for Israel, EUROPOL does not have a formal framework in place for cooperation in place with the other Southern Neighbourhood countries. Since May 2017, Europol may cooperate with third country authorities on an ad hoc basis (excluding the transfer of personal data), and may formalise this strategic-level cooperation via working arrangements. In 2018, the European Commission received a mandate from the Council to open negotiations with seven of these countries with a view to conclude agreements that will allow the exchange of personal data between EUROPOL and competent law enforcement authorities in those countries. A central part of the model agreement concerns ensuring adequate safeguards with respect to fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals, including privacy and data protection.

On judicial cooperation, EUROJUST has no cooperation agreement with any of the Southern Neighbourhood countries, but contact points in most of the countries. EU-led regional judicial cooperation has primarily focused on promoting relevant UN instruments and Council of Europe conventions.

On health security, the security chapter of the ENP also reads, *“the EU will also put stronger emphasis on health security aspects by strengthening country capacities to respond effectively to health threats including communicable diseases”*.

⁽⁶⁾ JOIN(2015)50 of 18 November 2015.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2015) 185 of 28 April 2015.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact>

The ECDC Single Programming Document ⁽⁹⁾ refers to the ECDC International Relations Policy. It highlights that “*By working in coordination with the European Commission and the health authorities in EU enlargement and ENP partner countries, ECDC aims to progressively integrate country experts into its activities, systems, and networks, thereby assisting them in aligning with the relevant EU acquis, and exchange information and best practices on communicable diseases threats of common interest as appropriate*”. These activities should continue beyond 2020 in a sustainable, comprehensive, and programmatic way.

1.3 Stakeholder analysis

Euromed Police

Following the same approach as for CEPOL’s intra-EU activities, the main stakeholders and beneficiaries of the action are law enforcement agencies (including police, gendarmerie, immigration services, customs, border guards and other services with tasks relating to the prevention and fight against serious organised crime, terrorism and other crimes), as well as public ministries, central authorities, and legislative and judicial institutions, taking a holistic approach in encouraging cooperation of all relevant security agencies in partner countries.

The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) addresses training needs of the law enforcement sector in the EU and follows this same pattern when providing assistance to third countries. As a result, under an EU-funded project ⁽¹⁰⁾, CEPOL has built solid collaboration with multiple law enforcement services in several Southern Neighbourhood countries (Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). The multidisciplinary approach of CEPOL training, encompassing customs, prosecutors and other relevant services, is a key value added in the international training environment, thus the project will extend the target to the wider law enforcement community instead of putting only police in the focus.

Euromed Justice

EuroMed Justice brings together the most relevant stakeholders in the field of justice (judges, prosecutors, magistrates ...), from the partner countries, but also EU Member States, as well as, representatives of other relevant EU and international organisations.

The cooperation mechanism encourages justice practitioners to work together in criminal law, in national and regional platforms directly connected with, and sustained by, Eurojust and the European Judicial Network, which are currently closely involved, as associate entities, in Euromed Justice. Some of the project activities will also be developed in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), the Council of Europe (in particular, the European Committee on Crime Problems), and the International Association of Prosecutors.

EU Initiative on Health Security

⁽⁹⁾ <https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/ECDC-Single-Programming-Documents%202019.pdf>

⁽¹⁰⁾ IcSP/2017/394-210 EU/MENA Counter-Terrorism Training Partnership 2 (CEPOL CT 2).

Building on existing networks of ECDC Correspondents in EU Enlargement and ENP partner countries, as well as networks created under the current MediPIET programme, ECDC will continue engaging with all partners already involved in the project.

ECDC will continue to associate Israel and Turkey proposing to these countries to be full member and not only observers to the programme and invite Belarus as well as Azerbaijan to join this cross-regional programme.

Emergency response teams and policy/decision makers are also targeted.

1.4 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

Euromed Police

Despite fighting serious and organised crime often has trans-boundary features and is a shared challenge, strengthening strategic and operational police cooperation within the region, and with the EU, remains highly complex and sensitive, due to a lack of trust or of an established relationship, or the absence of formal agreements. Still, interest in strengthening cooperation on common threats and objectives has been persistently increasing among partner countries and a number of EU member States.

Law enforcement systems and forces differ from country to country. While some have already been reorganised and modernised, others remain out-dated in terms of knowledge and reaction capacity. Some countries are well equipped with training academies, while others do not have the required structures to cover their needs and significantly rely on bilateral aid and capacity building support.

Southern neighbourhood countries are points of origin, transit and destination for trafficking (drugs, human beings, firearms and explosives). Terrorist networks operating in the region are also involved in criminal activities (e.g. kidnapping for ransom and extortion) and terrorist operations that target local populations in those countries pose a significant threat to domestic security, and regional stability.

Tackling serious and organised crime requires that regional cooperation mechanisms be strengthened, starting from having a shared threat assessment based on strategic cooperation.

Euromed Justice

The fight against new and emerging forms of transnational crime has transformed in recent years due to: globalization, growth in the volume of international trade, larger freedom of movement of goods and persons, new forms of international crime and highly sophisticated money-laundering schemes.

The development of information and communication technology is leading to a growing number of crimes being committed in various jurisdictions simultaneously.

The need for assistance of other States for the successful investigation, prosecution and punishment of offenders, particularly those who have committed transnational offences, is vital.

The international mobility of offenders and the use of advanced technology make it more necessary than ever for prosecutors and judicial authorities to collaborate and assist the State that has assumed jurisdiction over the matter.

Bilateral and multilateral treaties, conventions, protocols and covenants contain rules for cooperation in the form of a legal relationship providing legal certainty and security, but

international cooperation can also be informal. Some States do not require a treaty basis for judicial cooperation, and many are able to provide assistance based on reciprocity.

Euromed Justice offers this possibility of informal cooperation and can help pave the way to formal cooperation.

EU Initiative on Health Security

The Western Balkans, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions which are the closest neighbours of the European Union, are particularly exposed to health security threats/risks and disasters (natural or man-made). This may concern communicable diseases, but also Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats, be it by accidental exposure or for organised crime and terrorist purposes.

For example, the resurgence of measles is of serious concern, with extended outbreaks occurring across regions, and particularly in countries that had achieved, or were close to achieving measles elimination. Reported cases increased by more than 30 percent worldwide from 2016.

As disease outbreaks do not know borders, it is essential for the EU to build the necessary capacity to reduce the exposure of the partner countries' population as well as EU citizens, but also to provide evidence for effective and efficient decision-making, to strengthen public health systems, and to support the response to public health threats. Geographical proximity requires the establishment of sustainable networks of highly skilled experts across the regions to address the health threats and risks in an efficient and timely manner.

EU candidate countries, as well as gradually EU potential candidates need to be in a position upon accession to assume responsibilities and obligations of an EU Member State.

ENP countries have also stressed their interest in continuing and deepening this cooperation with the EU and ECDC on early warning, prevention and preparedness, and key EU global health priorities such as antimicrobial resistance and vaccine-preventable diseases.

Based on the work carried out by ECDC together with other partners (e.g. WHO, EU MS), including the assessments of communicable disease prevention and control systems, there is a good understanding of gaps in some of the countries (e.g. Western Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Partnership).

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Successful implementation and sustainability of the projects can only be achieved if partner countries provide full governmental, technical and administrative support. Their commitment is crucial to both the implementation of project activities and the achievement of the objectives.

| Risks | Risk level (H/M/L) | Mitigating measures |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Complex heterogeneity of the SPC with different development and security challenges, languages and levels of institutional capacity to implement some of the components | H | Inclusion of countries in more complex activities that already have minimum capacity (e.g. analysis), and demonstrate a readiness to fully engage in the initiative. The initiative will take into |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| of the Action. | | consideration different development stages, capacities and specificities, and avoid ‘one size fits all’ approaches. |
| Inappropriate nomination of participants in project activities by national authorities. | H | Nomination of POCs (Points of Contact) to facilitate authorities in the selection of relevant participants. Terms of reference, required qualifications and skills and specific professional experience must be fulfilled in order to participate. |
| Lack of trust and limited cooperation among countries. | M | The cooperation between participating countries will be promoted in a gradual manner and around consensual matters through a phased approach with clear deliverables and milestones to ensure results and sustainability. |
| Lack of trust towards the EU Agencies. | M | The Agencies will have to clearly explain their mandate, how they operate and explain what is the added value of working with them and the mutual interest of doing so. |
| The security context could interfere with the implementation of activities. | M | Close dialogue and coordination with EUD in the region and the EEAS. |
| High turnover of staff in the partner countries. | M | Train-The-Trainer approach at national level. |
| Assumptions | | |
| National authorities in the ENI SPC are committed to actively collaborate with the Action. | | |

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

Where possible, working with and through EU Agencies is probably the best solution to guarantee continuity and to provide outreach to a maximum of EU Member States enabling real opportunities for a partnership between EU countries and partner countries.

A recent global evaluation of the EUs engagement on Counterterrorism ⁽¹¹⁾ calls the EU to consider an increased mandate for EU agencies (especially Europol and Eurojust) in external capacity building assistance, beyond the increased operational cooperation foreseen in the 2017 Council Conclusions.

Euromed Police

The Mid-Term Evaluation Euromed Police IV ⁽¹²⁾ (the project ends in January 2020) has concluded that the project is ambitious in its objectives and complex in its formulation. It is ambitious because it seeks to achieve a number of challenging objectives with relatively

⁽¹¹⁾ IcSP/2018/396-902.

⁽¹²⁾ ENI/2018/400-072.

limited inputs. It is complex because it includes a number of innovative initiatives that need to interact with each other in order to be effective. Notwithstanding this, the project has succeeded in planting the seeds for a future cooperation mechanism between EU Member States and South Partner Countries. In particular, the involvement of EUROPOL and CEPOL as supporting entities has been a strong asset to enhance the credibility of the project among partner countries. The project has started to promote the principles of the EU Policy Cycle, particularly the threat assessment methodology. Having a fully-fledged threat assessment for the Southern Neighbourhood requires more capacity building support and further trust building. The evaluators consider the programme highly relevant and recommend the continuation.

The ongoing programme has led to tangible results: a regional threat assessment, development of a regional strategy and action plans. It also increased informal cooperation between EU Member States and our partner countries. Tools have been created that are sustainable beyond the implementation of the programme (Euromed Knowledge Base and Euromed Threat Forum).

Both the current Euromed Police project and CEPOL's CT 1&2 project have addressed terrorism. It proved difficult to really engage with the counterterrorism community in partner countries, because it is different from the one dealing with organised crime (intelligence and State security services instead of traditional police forces). In addition, the EU has other CT projects running in the Southern Neighbourhood, in particular CT MENA and one expected to commence in 2020 on counterterrorism information exchange to be implemented by CEPOL. Therefore, the next phase of Euromed Police will exclusively focus on serious and organised crime.

Euromed Justice

The External Evaluation of EU Support for Rule of Law in Neighbourhood Countries and Candidates and Potential Candidates of Enlargement (2010-2017) ⁽¹³⁾ includes a case study on Euromed Justice. The innovative approaches and mechanisms developed in Euromed Justice IV are presented as a best practice and, as a side result, have led to tangible results in solving concrete pending cases (EU – South and South-South). The programme delivered legal and gaps analysis in a diversity of sectors which serve for the preparation of action plans. It also delivered practical tools facilitating cooperation but requiring continuous updates in the future: Euromed Fiches (a compendium of legislation and procedures in our partner countries), Euromed Manual on digital evidence (in close cooperation with Euromed Police) and a handbook for international cooperation in criminal matters.

Despite these are relevant issues, the next phase of Euromed Justice will no longer address issues such as access to justice and civil/family law, and instead will entirely focus on criminal matters, for the sake of more homogeneity and impact, but also complementarity with Euromed Police. The topics are better addressed either by TAIEX, twinning or through our bilateral cooperation programmes active in all of our partner countries, of which some of them are directly dedicated to these.

EU Initiative on Health Security

⁽¹³⁾ Final report still to be approved.

The Final Evaluation MediPIET ⁽¹⁴⁾ (2018) reads that MediPIET is a particular initiative that includes participants from EU and non-EU countries in communicable disease epidemiology. Participants perceive this is very important for monitoring diseases, trends and outbreaks as the programme creates a network of scientists from many countries around the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions, and provides a space for interaction and collaboration.

However, training is not enough and the present programme will complement the capacity-building component with a mechanism for prevention, preparedness and response, securing the participation of the alumni into more operational activities in these systems.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

Euromed Police and Justice

Euromed Police IV and Euromed Justice IV have already been working very closely together and delivered already common outputs such as the Manual on Digital Evidence. This cooperation will continue.

They both also developed synergies with projects such as Interpol South Sharaka ⁽¹⁵⁾, CyberSouth ⁽¹⁶⁾, CT MENA ⁽¹⁷⁾, EU Global facility on CFT AML, CEPOL CT 1&2 ⁽¹⁸⁾ and Council of Europe Programme South III ⁽¹⁹⁾ at regional level and the ongoing bilateral programmes in order to avoid overlaps.

EU Delegations are closely involved at all levels in preparing activities and participating in events.

Complementarities will be sought, as appropriate, with the new programmes such as EU4Monitoring drugs ⁽²⁰⁾ and EU4BorderSecurity ⁽²¹⁾.

Close cooperation with EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies is embedded in the design.

Euromed Justice will liaise with the Council of Europe, for any of its activities promoting the Council of Europe's Conventions (on substantive criminal matters).

Euromed Justice and Euromed Police are part of the CT MENA coordination platform established under the IcSP project CT MORSE. Such platform allows for coordination of relevant initiatives funded under ENI and ICSP on Counterterrorism but also broader security branded projects.

EU Initiative on Health Security

Synergies will be sought with related programmes that are funded under the umbrella of CBRN (EU Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation) Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative, such as the MediLabSecure II project (project 75)²², Stronglabs

⁽¹⁴⁾ Final Evaluation: "Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training- MediPIET" PROEVAL CONSULTORES S.L.;25/01/2018.

⁽¹⁵⁾ ENI/2017/382-572.

⁽¹⁶⁾ ENI/2017/385-202.

⁽¹⁷⁾ IcSP/2016/376-309.

⁽¹⁸⁾ IcSP/2017/394-210.

⁽¹⁹⁾ ENI/2018/395-924.

⁽²⁰⁾ ENI/2018/401-149.

⁽²¹⁾ ENI/2018/398-919.

⁽²²⁾ IcSP/2018/402-247.

to minimise potential biological risks increased by environmental and climate change (project 76) ⁽²³⁾.

The initiative will also seek complementarities with ongoing bilateral activities in the health sector.

Finally, the programme will develop complementarities with European and partner countries' coordination capacities for emergency response. This also requires synergies with civil protection mechanisms and programmes like PPRD South ⁽²⁴⁾ the regional CBRN Centres of Excellence⁽²⁵⁾ and the future PPRD East program⁽²⁶⁾.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

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

With the aim of ensuring of coherence and effectiveness of EU financing and fostering regional and trans-regional co-operation, the Commission decides to extend the eligibility of this action to the Enlargement countries and Sahel if needed.

Below activities are indicative and may be modified and/or completed during the negotiation and inception period of each component.

Euromed Police

Overall objective:

- Contribute to enhancing institutional capacity to protect EU neighbours' citizens against transnational serious and organised crime

Specific objectives:

- Enhance capacities of the South Partner Countries (SPC), to fight serious and organised crime.
- Strengthen strategic cooperation between national law enforcement authorities in SPC, as well as between SPC and EU MS and EU agencies

Expected outputs:

- Enhanced coordination in SPC and with EU (Component 0)
- Training needs based on a joint permanent training platform for SPC and EU MS Law Enforcement officials (Component 1)
- Enhanced evidence-based identification of priority crime areas in the Southern Neighbourhood region, action plans and ad hoc assistance (Component 2)

Activities:

Component 0: Enhanced regional networks

- Yearly High-Level meetings involving Heads of EU MS and SPC National Police to increase political and strategic ownership, building trust and offering also the opportunity for informal bilateral meetings on real operational cases in particular between SPC and EU MS

⁽²³⁾ IcSP/2018/402-649.

⁽²⁴⁾ ENI/2017/392-714.

²⁵ <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/>

²⁶ ENI/2017/392-714

- Regular meetings of the Euromed Capacity Building Network composed of Capacity Building Single Points of Contact (CAPASPOC) (support to Component 1)
- Regular meetings of the Euromed Analysis Network composed of Analysis Single Points of Contact (ANASPOC), with Europol and EU MS, (support to component 2)

Component 1: Training

- Operational Training Needs Assessment
 - a) Sharing and building analytical capacities of the beneficiaries on self-diagnosing their gaps and needs
 - b) Conducting regional Operational Training Needs Assessment (OTNA) led by CEPOL in collaboration with the partners countries
 - c) Design robust training program on evidence basis provided by the OTNA
- Fostering E-learning and blended learning via CEPOL Learning and Management System with the integration of Euromed Knowledge Base and providing support for building such capacities in the partner countries
- Joint residential training on thematic areas for Law Enforcement specialists from partner countries and EU MS organised in SPC on identified training needs corresponding to EU crime priorities
- Euromed Mobility Scheme implemented via CEPOL's flagship Exchange Programme (CEP) and SPCs participation in meetings of EMPACT Operational Action Plans where relevant and in agreement with the responsible OAP drivers and in other relevant meetings at Europol
- SPC participation in CEPOL standard residential training activities organised in the EU
- Joint simulation exercises for SPC and EU MS Law Enforcement specialists in close cooperation with any specific operational action in relevant OAPs

Component 2: Regional Threat Assessment, strategy and ad hoc assistance

- Specialised training on the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime (threat assessments, strategic plans, implementation through Operational Actions and evaluation), jointly with Europol and other JHA agencies if needed
- Moderate inputs on the Euromed Threat Forum, on the European Platform for Experts (EPE) hosted by Europol for thematic discussions on threats and exchange of strategic intelligence
- Fine-tune the Euromed Strategy and Euromed Threat Assessment with the National Coordinators, in alignment with the EU Policy Cycle on serious and organised crime
- Ad hoc technical assistance upon request of minimum 2 partner countries.

Euromed Justice

Overall objective:

- Contribute to protecting the EU neighbours' citizens against criminal activities respecting the rule of law and human rights

Specific objectives:

- Strengthen the strategic cooperation in criminal matters between national judicial authorities in South Partner Countries (SPC), as well as with EU MS and EU agencies

Expected outputs:

- The regional training platform is strengthened (Component 1)

- Practical tools facilitating cross border cooperation are updated and new ones developed (Component 2)
- Joint cross border cooperation activities are supported (Component 3)

Activities:

Component 0: Coordination

- Regular meetings of the EuroMed Justice Expert Group in Criminal Matters (CrimEX). CrimEx brings together experts in a regional forum to build trust and mutual confidence, to exchange good practices and lessons learned, to carry out thorough analyses of the situation in each SPC and in the whole region, to set up specific recommendations, guidelines, manuals, studies and researches.
- Set up the EuroMed Judicial Network in Criminal Matters, a network of national contact points. The contact points assist with establishing direct contacts between competent authorities and by providing legal and practical information necessary to prepare an effective request for judicial cooperation or to improve judicial cooperation in general.
- Organise the Euromed Forum of Prosecutors General: yearly high-Level meetings involving Prosecutors of EU MS and SPC to increase political and strategic ownership and offering the opportunity for informal bilateral meetings on real cases

Component 1: Training and exchange (possibly to be implemented with external service providers)

- Create a repository for all Euromed Justice training materials (in close cooperation with EJM and the European Commission)
- Update the existing training materials: training needs and training the trainers (manual, methodology and curricula)
- Organise joint specific training on thematic areas for judicial specialists from partner countries and EU MS
- Finance study visits and exchanges
- Finance the participation of SPC specialists in the training programme of other platforms (for example the Euro-Arab Judicial Training Network (EAJTN))

Component 2: Practical tools facilitating cross border cooperation

- Continuous update of the “living” CrimEx documents: legal and gap analysis, Euromed Fiches (equivalent of the Fiches Belges), handbook for judicial cooperation, manual on digital evidence
- Preparation of new CrimEx documents: for example legal and gap analysis on personal data protection

Component 3: Joint cross border cooperation activities

- Facilitate cooperation on cross-border cases, including via the coordination of parallel investigations and the organisation of joint investigations.
- Ad hoc technical assistance upon request of minimum two partner countries.

EU Initiative on Health Security

Overall objective:

- To contribute to health security by protecting EU neighbours’ citizens against cross-border health threats posed by communicable diseases.

Specific objectives:

- Strengthen partner countries' skills and institutional mechanisms to respond to health threats
- Support cross-border cooperation between the EU and partner countries on health security threats of common interest through exchange of information, best practices and lessons learnt.

Expected outputs:

- Continuation and further development of MediPIET as Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) (component 1)
- Stronger countries' systems and capacities necessary to effectively assess, detect, respond and prevent threats from communicable diseases (component 2)
- Progressive integration of the partner countries in the work of ECDC (component 3)
- Enhanced regional cooperation in the field of preparedness, response and emergency operations (component 4)

Activities:

Component 0: Coordination

- Yearly High-Level meetings involving Heads of EU MS and SPC National Public Health Institutes to increase political and strategic ownership and building trust

Component 1: Increasing capabilities

- Adapt the content of the training modules to tackle areas with remaining gaps such as emergency preparedness and response, risk assessment and risk communication; emerging diseases; rapid response teams
- Training successive cohorts of fellows, through the MediPIET (FETP) to respond timely and adequately to health threats
- Mobility of the MediPIET FETP Alumni for cascading knowledge
- Strengthen the national training centres and the MediPIET Training Centre Forum (TCF) (representing all MediPIET countries)
- Set up a virtual platform for communication, exchanges of ideas and experiences, thematic discussions, sharing of training materials, using existing ECDC infrastructure
- Develop collaboration with relevant centres and networks (EMPHNET, AFENET, WHO Emergency Programme, SEEHN, Africa CDC, US CDC ...) in order to increase efficiency and synergies

Component 2: Strengthen countries' systems and capacities necessary to effectively assess, detect, respond and prevent threats from communicable diseases

- Conduct assessments of country capacities following procedures and methodologies of ECDC with Technical Assessment Reports (TAR) and recommendations for system improvement
- Support to countries in the implementation of their action plans, in collaboration with other partners

Component 3: Participation of partner countries in the work of ECDC

- Participation as observers in ECDC meetings, networks and conferences
- Development of rules and procedures for exchange of national data and technical information with ECDC
- Training on requirements, standards and workflows for data submission
- Training on ECDC Rapid Risk Assessment (RRA) methodologies
- Integration into the European Surveillance System (TESSy), Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS) (ETMS) and other relevant data sharing platforms

- Identify synergies and promote integration between the activities of MediPIET FETP and the ECDC Fellowship Programme (EPIET and EUPHEM)

Component 4: Enhanced regional cooperation

- Establish and pilot a Regional Health Security Network to enhance the regional exchange of information, interoperable with EU-level networks
- Exchange of experience on the ECDC and national Emergency Operation Centres, operational procedures and standards
- Regional simulation exercises and preparedness capacity building for Public Health Experts (PHE), including PHE protocols and tools

4.2 Intervention Logic

Both programmes Euromed Police and Euromed Justice have a Technical Assistance Facility ("TAF"). This flexible tool allows for integrating ad hoc activities not foreseen in the original plans, upon request of minimum 2 countries. Both programmes are also encouraged to develop joint activities enhancing the linkage between law enforcement, investigations and prosecution.

Euromed Police

CEPOL will pursue the inherited unique regional approach of Euromed Police IV, putting focus on multidisciplinary activities combining expertise, good practices and modern methodologies of relevant law enforcement bodies in Southern Neighbourhood countries and in the EU. To further improve the effectiveness of the intervention, CEPOL aims to transfer the already established partnerships under the IcSP funded action with Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia to the Euromed Police umbrella.

In the context of the action, Europol horizontal support is instrumental along with close collaboration with the respective EMPACT OAP⁽²⁷⁾ drivers.

With the horizontal component, the action will ensure that the regional networks (on threat analysis and capacity building) support the achievement of the objectives and foster ownership and interest at the highest level among law enforcement services by allowing them to attend the annual meeting organised back-to-back with the European Police Chief Convention hosted by Europol.

A central element of Euromed Police remains the promotion of the EU Policy Cycle tools, in particular the methodology to conduct a multi-country threat assessment. The project will provide substantial capacity building to pursue this objective.

Euromed Justice

The EuroMed Justice objective is to build the fundamentals for a Euro-Mediterranean, cross-regional mechanism for judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

The mechanism, composed of criminal justice professionals (judges, prosecutors, legal advisors from the Justice Ministries) will be directly connected with and supported by Eurojust and the European Judicial Network (EJN).

The EuroMed Justice Expert Group in Criminal Matters – CrimEx, is placed at the core of EuroMed judicial mechanism of cooperation and coordination. CrimEx members have been

⁽²⁷⁾ European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT); the Operational Action Plan (OAP).

designated according to the criteria defined in consultation with Eurojust and the EJM in criminal matters. CrimEx fosters the region's ownership in the implementation of the project activities and the monitoring of the results. Benefiting from Eurojust, EJM, the UN Counterterrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) support, CrimEx builds trust and mutual confidence, exchanges good practices and lessons learned, carries out thorough analyses of the situation in each SPC and in the whole region, to set up specific recommendations, guidelines, manuals, studies and researches. This should lead progressively to the creation of a EuroMed Judicial Network in criminal matters.

The "CrimEx Documents" (Legal and Gaps Analysis, EuroMed Fiches, and the practical Handbook on judicial cooperation in criminal matters) are "pioneer documents" in the Mediterranean region and constitute major practical tools for cross-regional cooperation in criminal matters. These are however, living documents and need continuous updates.

The EuroMed Forum of Prosecutors General has been launched and now needs to meet on a regular basis. Its main objectives are to facilitate successful cooperation, identify and discuss prosecution-related difficulties, challenges and obstacles and possibly recommend solutions through cooperation. It should also encourage the implementation of the relevant international and regional legal instruments for combatting serious and organised crime and terrorism, such as various Council of Europe Conventions on substantive criminal matters.

EU Initiative on Health Security

The Western Balkans, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions which are the closest neighbours of the European Union, are particularly exposed to health security threats/risks and disasters (natural or man-made).

As disease outbreaks do not know borders, it is essential for the EU to build the necessary capacity to not only mitigate the exposure of our partners' population as well as EU citizens but also to create the necessary conditions to build a sustainable prevention and preparedness health response system. Geographical proximity requires the establishment of sustainable networks of highly skilled experts, early warning and rapid response systems across the regions to address the health threats and risks we are and could be facing, in an efficient and fast manner.

4.3 Mainstreaming

Human rights and the respect of rule of law are at the core of Euromed Police and Euromed Justice. They also provide a better defence of victims, mostly vulnerable groups, of criminal acts.

EU Initiative on Health Security contributes to the protection of vulnerable groups since they are the most exposed to the consequences of epidemiological outbreaks.

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

The projects will be aligned to the EU Gender Action Plan ⁽²⁸⁾, putting specific focus on thematic priority 3 that stipulates political voice and participation, moreover objective 17 on

⁽²⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/staff-working-document-gender-2016-2020-20150922_en.pdf

equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG(s):

- 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", for components 1 and 2.
- SDG 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" for component 3.
- SDG 17: "Partnerships for the goals" for all components by promoting institution building and regional cooperation.

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 66 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 ⁽²⁹⁾.

5.3.1 Indirect management with entrusted entities

This action may be implemented in indirect management with:

CEPOL for Euromed Police

Eurojust for Euromed Justice

ECDC for EU Initiative on Health Security

⁽²⁹⁾ 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 entities have been selected because they were increasingly active in the previous phases of the three programmes. Cooperation of these agencies with third countries has been encouraged over the last years, but requires ad hoc funding to perform these non-core tasks. These agencies also offer the possibility for an increased partnership between all EU Member States and our partner countries. Indirect management through EU Agencies and consortia thereof mostly enhance partnerships only with the EU Member States part of the implementing consortium.

Implementation through the above-mentioned EU Agencies will take into account the conditions laid down in Article 7 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/715.

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

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 based on 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): | |
| - CEPOL for Euromed Police | 7 000 000 |
| - Eurojust for Euromed Justice | 5 000 000 |
| - ECDC for EU Initiative on Health Security | 6 000 000 |
| Totals | 18 000 000 |

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Euromed Police: This programme will be directly implemented by CEPOL, in partnership with Europol. The European Commission will supervise the agreement in close liaison with the EU Delegations in the ENP South Partner countries. A Steering Committee will be

established with the participation of the relevant Commission Services, especially the Directorate General CEPOL reports to.

Euromed Justice: This programme will be directly implemented by Eurojust. The European Commission will supervise the agreement in close liaison with the EU Delegations in the ENP South Partner Countries. A Steering Committee will be established with the participation of the relevant Commission Services, especially the Directorate General Eurojust reports to.

EU Initiative on Health Security: This programme will be directly implemented by ECDC. The European Commission will supervise the agreement in close liaison with the EU Delegations in the ENP East and South Partner Countries and the Enlargement countries. A Steering Committee will be established with the participation of the relevant Commission Services, especially the Directorate General ECDC reports to.

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, the implementing partners 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 Logframe matrix (for project modality) or the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (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), taking into account in particular the fact that these are innovative approaches.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least 3 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, based on 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.

CEPOL, Eurojust and ECDC will be using their regular communication channels and tools. The mere fact that they are EU bodies will guarantee that EU visibility is ensured at all times.

6 PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing Decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

| | Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10) | Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result) | Sources of data | Assumptions |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Impact (Overall Objective) | Contribute to protect EU and EU neighbours' citizens against transnational serious and organised crime and health security threats. | SDG 16: Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere; Indicator 16.1.4: proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live SDG 16: Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all; Indicator 16.3.2: un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population SDG 3: Target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases; Indicator 3.3.2: tuberculosis incidence per 1.000 population | SDG Reviews | <i>Not applicable</i> |
| Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s)) | 1/ Euromed Police: - Enhance capacities of the South Partner Countries (SPC), to fight serious and organised crime. - Strengthen strategic cooperation between national law enforcement authorities in SPC, as well as between SPC and EU MS and EU agencies 2/ Euromed Justice: - Strengthen the strategic cooperation in | 1/ Euromed Police: - Number of updated threat assessments at country level and regional level - Number of strategies and action plans based on the threat assessments - Number of MoUs, working arrangements or joint investigations between South Partner countries but also with EU agencies and/or EU Member States, facilitated by the programme 2/ Euromed Justice: - Number of MoUs, working arrangements or | 1/ Euromed Police: - Security dialogues - Sub-committee reports from DG HOME-EEAS 2/ Euromed Justice: - Sub-committee | The security context does not interfere with the implementation of activities Complex heterogeneity of partner countries with different development and |

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|
| | <p>criminal matters between national judicial authorities in South Partner Countries (SPC), as well as with EU MS and EU agencies</p> <p>3/ EU Initiative on Health Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen partner countries' skills and institutional mechanisms to respond to health threats - Support cross-border cooperation between the EU and partner countries on health security threats of common interest through exchange of information, best practices and lessons learnt. | <p>joint investigations between South Partner countries but also with EU agencies and/or EU Member States, facilitated by the programme</p> <p>3/ EU Initiative on Health Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A sustainable capacity building mechanism after completion of project | <p>reports from DG JUST-EEAS,</p> <p>3/ EU Initiative on Health Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports ECDC | <p>security challenges, languages and levels of institutional capacity does not impede implementation of activities</p> |
| Outputs | <p>1/ Euromed Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced coordination in SPC and EU - Training needs based on a joint permanent training platform for SPC and EU MS Law Enforcement officials - Enhanced evidence-based identification of priority crime areas in the Southern Neighbourhood region, action plans and ad hoc assistance <p>2/ Euromed Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The regional training platform is strengthened - Practical tools facilitating cross border cooperation are updated and new ones developed - Joint cross border cooperation activities are supported | <p>1/ Euromed Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of EU MS actively participating in the High level meetings - Number of multilateral/bilateral cooperation initiatives that can be attributed to Euromed Police - Quality of the Training Needs Assessments - Number of participants in E-learning - Number of joint residential trainings - Number of exchanges under the Mobility Scheme - Number of inputs in the Euromed Threat Forum - Quality of the Euromed Strategy and Euromed Threat Assessment - Number of joint simulation exercises <p>2/ Euromed Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of EU MS actively participating in the High level meetings - Number of multilateral/bilateral cooperation initiatives that can be attributed to Euromed Justice - Number of inputs in the repository of Euromed Justice documents - Number of joint specific trainings - Number of participants in existing training | <p>1/ Euromed Police:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Cepol web <p>2/ Euromed Justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Eurojust web | <p>Partner countries trust EU Agencies.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>3/ EU Initiative on Health Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation and further development of Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) - Stronger countries' systems and capacities necessary to effectively assess, detect, respond and prevent threats from communicable diseases - Progressive integration of the partner countries in the work of ECDC - Enhanced regional cooperation in the field of preparedness, response and emergency operations | <p>platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of study visits exchanges under the Mobility Scheme - Frequency of updates of the "living" CrimEx docs - Number of new CrimEx docs - Number of formal or informal joint investigations facilitated - Quality of results of the activities organised through the Technical Assistance Facility <p>3/ EU Initiative on Health Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of fellows graduated from the MediPIET FETP - Number of country experts trained with input from MediPIET Alumni - Statistical data on the use of the virtual platform - Number of technical assessment reports with recommendations accepted by the country - Average annual attendance rate to ECDC events - Number of non-EU participants accessing ECDC data sharing systems - Number of Regional Health Security Network meetings - Number of regional simulation exercises | <p>3/ EU Initiative on Health Security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - ECDC web | |
|--|--|--|--|--|



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX III

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme – Part 1 – for 2019 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for EUROMED Migration V

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 | EUROMED Migration V (EMM5) CRIS number: 2019 <input type="text" value="2019"/> /042-098 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument | |
| | | |
| 2. Zone benefiting from the action/location | European Neighbourhood Instrument South Partner Countries (ENI SPCs). Algeria, Egypt, Israel ⁽¹⁾ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ⁽²⁾ , Syria ⁽³⁾ and Tunisia. The action shall be carried out at the following location: ICMPD Regional Coordination Office for the Mediterranean (Valletta, Malta). | |
| 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. SDGs | 10 ‘Reduce inequality within and among countries’, 10.7 ‘safe, regular and responsible migration’ and the implementation of ‘well-managed migration policies’. | |
| 5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area | Public sector policy and administrative management | DEV. Assistance: YES ⁽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 | Total estimated cost: EUR 5 055 000 Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 5 000 000 | | | |
| 7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies) | Project Modality Indirect management with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) | | | |
| 8 a) DAC code(s) | 15190 Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility | | | |
| b) Main Delivery Channel | 21000 International NGO | | | |
| 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 | 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 flagships | Migration and Asylum: Promote effective governance of migration and mobility and capacity building of developing countries of origin, transit and destination | | | |

SUMMARY

The Euro-Mediterranean region is at an important juncture. In this current context of fluid, complex migration flows, the distinction between source, transit and destination countries is becoming increasingly blurred. Civil war, political and economic instability are having a transformative effect on human mobility and on the demographic makeup of the region. States are challenged with the need to put in place informed and effective migration policies that both effectively tackle deriving challenges and devise ways to harness the potential of this mobility. The way ENI SPCs and EU MS are able to address this critical challenge and govern migration will be determinant for the long-term development and stability in the region.

Mindful of this, the Action aims to foster rights-based migration governance-systems in the Euro-Mediterranean region. It capitalises and builds upon a successful trajectory of the EUROMED Migration as the technical dialogue on migration in the region. The EUROMED Migration is the only ENI-funded

framework that brings together all the countries of the European Neighbourhood South to exchange and discuss on migration issues, providing a flexible platform to adapt to volatile context and priorities.

Based on the lessons learned from previous phases, the Action foresees three complementary components.

At the core of the Action, a strengthened **Dialogue and Cooperation** aims to improve cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance at local/ national/ regional/ international level. Activities carried out build upon outcomes of consultations, and encompass both North-South and South-South dimensions, with a focus on the thematic priorities of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM).

Knowledge management and development aims to improve migration-related knowledge and data management by building and accruing evidence to better inform policy-making in the field of migration governance. This component foresees the continuation of the EUROMED Migration Governance Traineeship programme aiming to create migration managers through a comprehensive and intersectoral approach.

In a context of a polarised public debate on migration, the Action's third component of **Communications and Narrative on migration** aims to foster a realistic and fair narrative on migration, promoting intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and mutual understanding. This component has been introduced following the growing need to invest on communication on migration and builds on concrete activities launched under Euromed Migration IV.

The Action is implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), an international organisation with over 25 years of expertise on migration and a proven track-record of innovation in the field. ICMPD strives to ensure coherence and create the right conditions for multiplier effects among related initiatives.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

The situation in the Mediterranean has put the spotlight on migration, placing it at the heart of the political discourse on immigration, identity and security in Europe. While Europe's economic and demographic context solicits efficient legal instruments to address labour market shortages through migration, the focus of the debate in Europe has centred on the mixed migration flows crossing the Mediterranean and the immediate needs generated by this so-called crisis. While Mediterranean sea crossings continue to fall, the perilous journey still claims thousands of lives per year, with around 2 275 people perishing in 2018 ⁽⁵⁾. 2018 also saw significant changes to the pattern of routes taken by migrants heading for Europe, with the situation unlikely to abate as long as root causes that trigger displacement and migration, including search of better opportunities, continue.

The Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), as of 2017, has two ongoing civil wars, and accordingly is also home to the two countries that host the highest per citizen number of displaced, Lebanon and Jordan at 208.91 and 89.55 per 1 000 inhabitants respectively ⁽⁶⁾.

In the **North of Africa**, the combined effect of inward flows from Sub Saharan Africa and outwards movement towards Europe has blurred the division between source, transit and destination countries ⁽⁷⁾. As an example, Egypt has become a migration crossroad, and

⁽⁵⁾ UNHCR. 2018. *Desperate Journeys* Report.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/mid2015stats.zip>

⁽⁷⁾ H. Malka, *Destination Maghreb*, Changing Migration Patterns in North Africa, CSIS, April 2018. P.7.

increasingly a destination country for migrants. The exact number of economic and forced migrants in Egypt is difficult to assess since an unknown number of Syrians and other nationalities remain unregistered living among Egyptian communities across the country. Moreover, an approximate 100 000 migrants, mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa, are currently residing in both Morocco and Algeria respectively. Whilst Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia continue to serve as main transit “hubs” for Sub Saharan migrants on their way to Europe, they are also at the same time increasingly becoming countries of destination. In the meantime, the persistence of strong emigration aspirations among country nationals, especially youth, remains cause of concern as a potential drain on national resources. Furthermore, the consequences of the Libyan civil conflict, despite solid progress in peace and state-building efforts, are still rippling through the region, remaining a potential source of instability and displacement. This context has driven North African states to seek to reinforce their migration apparatus and, in these efforts, take steps towards ramping up bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

In this sense, given the rising migratory trends, Egypt has taken major steps towards developing a comprehensive strategy to curb smuggling and trafficking activities on its territory. In October 2016, the Government of Egypt launched a new “National Strategy on Combating Illegal Migration” for the period 2016-2026. In 2017 irregular outflow from the Egyptian northern coast has sharply decreased due to tightened control measures, which proves step forward have been made.

The Kingdom of Morocco and the People’s Republic of Algeria remained stable throughout the Arab springs. Morocco is building its experience in managing migration and circular labour migration to Europe as well as domestic migration management that is expected to be strengthened through the implementation of the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy. Algeria on the other hand, has the most effective approach to managing irregular immigration, and the associated security concerns. Though Algeria has a vast and remote southern border its engagement with the Tuareg clans in the Sahara has resulted in a stable and calm southern border, even while its southern neighbours Mali and Niger, and Libya to the East struggle with civil wars.

The **Middle East** is a region traditionally at the crossroads of global mobility and embodiment of the increased complexity in migration trajectories. Migration has recently been on the spotlight as the region faces political instability coupled with strain on resources generated by a sudden, high volume of Syrian displacement to neighbouring countries. As the biggest migrant host countries from the region, with an estimated 1.7 m refugees ⁽⁸⁾, Lebanon and Jordan have experienced unprecedented strain on resources that puts social cohesion in local communities at risk ⁽⁹⁾. Notwithstanding, the Middle East continues to be a source of skilled labour force in the region, as reflected in the steady outflow of Arab skilled workers towards European or Gulf countries, with the reaffirmation of prominent migration corridors, such as between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia alone hosts an estimated 200 000 Jordanian, 160 000 Lebanese and up to 2 million Egyptian workers. Upper estimates indicate a total of 210,000 Lebanese, 400 000 Jordanians and up to 2.9 million Egyptians residing in the Kingdom. Moreover countries such as Jordan and Lebanon continue to represent attractive destinations for migrant workers from South/South-East Asia, namely Bangladesh and the Philippines.

The forcibly displaced by the Syrian Civil War, the persistent insecurity in Iraq, and the continued displacement of Palestinians, make the Middle East region (especially Lebanon and Jordan) a major region of origin and destination worldwide. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan’s approach of applying a strong rule of law coupled with an emphasis on cultural on solidarity and integration has proven to be successful in ensuring a stability few other countries enjoy in the region. After periods of unrest during and immediately after the Arab springs Egypt, as in the

⁽⁸⁾ The Welfare of Syrian refugees: Evidence from Jordan and Lebanon. The World Bank, 2016.

⁽⁹⁾ Y. Maha, Policy Framework for Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, Carnegie Middle East Centre, 2018.

case of Tunisia, has politically stabilised but remains vulnerable economically. Furthermore, the continued tense situation between Israel and Palestine inherently complicates Middle Eastern Affairs and limits opportunities for regional integration and cooperation. Excluding Palestinians officially registered as residents in the West Bank, the Israeli labour market still hosts a significant foreign workforce. An estimated 166 000 (non-Arab) foreign workers resided in Israel in 2017.

As such, the current context in the Euro-Mediterranean region is heavily impacted by these mixed migration flows and their effects on local populations and political processes. The region's deep and long-held interconnection of economic, social and cultural phenomena translates into mobility dynamics which transcend both pre-existing legal structures and territorial boundaries. Against this backdrop, states are challenged with the need to effectively tackle deriving challenges, notably in terms of settlement, displacement, migrant smuggling, and, most importantly, devise ways to harness the potential of this mobility. Across the region, policy-makers' ability to formulate policies based on evidence and in favour of the general interest has been hampered by a prevalence of distorted narratives on migration.

Criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings take advantage of the irregular migration routes. In the context of migration, the early identification and referral for support of potential victims and victims of trafficking in human beings should be appropriately addressed, taking into account patterns such as the disproportionate women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.⁽¹⁰⁾

The proposed Action is therefore positioned at this important crossroads. The way states decide to (or not) devise evidence-based solutions to migration or address mobility from a rights-based approach will have irreversible, long-term consequences for the stability, prosperity, development of the region and its citizens.

The EUROMED Migration is currently the only regional programme on migration bringing together all the countries of the European Neighbourhood South as well as EU Member States to exchange and discuss on migration issues, providing a flexible platform to adapt to volatile context and priorities. In the current phase of the EUROMED, this approach has proven to be successful in terms of supporting countries in supporting dialogue and exchange based on commonly identified priorities. The EUROMED has also demonstrated its added value in supporting dialogue exchanges on specific EU priorities, also contributing through the development of targeted knowledge products to the formulation of country and regional programmes under different financial instruments. It is worth highlighting that, albeit the ENP review of 2015 has included migration as the main pillar of cooperation with countries of the neighbourhood, with the establishment of the EU Emergency Trust fund for Africa North of Africa window, the cooperation on migration has been centralised in this ad-hoc instrument with a geographical scope limited to the North of Africa Countries.

As stressed also by the ROM report and substantiated with lessons learned, there is the need to maintain a regional instrument that can serve as a platform of exchanges between the countries of the whole neighbourhood south and the EU MS.

1.2 Policy Framework on migration (Global, EU)

The proposed Action responds to objectives set out in the key global and regional EU policy framework such as the Global Migration Compact and the Global Refugee Compact.

⁽¹⁰⁾https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_com-2018-777-report_en.pdf

Through reinforcement of cooperation among migration stakeholders, and building of evidence, the Action will address the *EU's Global Approach to Migration and Mobility's (GAMM)* ⁽¹¹⁾ call for better management of migration flows through increased cooperation with third countries.

The four GAMM priorities ⁽¹²⁾ will serve the thematic reference framework to inform dialogue and exchange activities. The Action will align to more recent policies and communications, in particular to the *European Agenda on Migration*¹³'s and the Communication on the New Partnership Framework with third countries¹⁴ proposing the establishment of structured dialogues on migration, mobility and security with the Southern Mediterranean countries ⁽¹⁵⁾.

In June 2016 the Communication “Lives in Dignity: From Aid-dependence to Self-reliance¹⁶” put forward a policy framework to gradually end dependence on humanitarian assistance in existing displacement situations by fostering self-reliance and enabling the displaced to live in dignity as contributors to their host societies, until voluntary return or resettlement.

The *Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration* ⁽¹⁷⁾ highlights how a comprehensive and multi-thematic approach to migration management has impacted positively in facing the challenges the Euro-Mediterranean has faced in the past five years. In this perspective, the Action is one of the initiatives that contribute to achieve better regional cooperation in strategic sectors, alongside with EUROMED Justice and Police.

The Action is grounded on the *European Neighbourhood Policy* ⁽¹⁸⁾ (ENP) strategy regulating the EU's relationship with countries of the European neighbourhood, in a spirit of achieving mutual benefits, and bringing the EU and its neighbours closer together to bring stability and security throughout the region. In this framework, the Union for the Mediterranean which replaces the 2008 Barcelona Process and complements bilateral cooperation under ENP aims to strengthen regional economic integration. EU cooperation with Southern Mediterranean countries on migration-related issues is recognised as strategic priority, focusing mainly on supporting cooperation on mobility and discouraging irregular migration.

While having a primary focus on the Neighbourhood South, the Action follows the principle of the expansion to the “Neighbours of our Neighbours” for dialogue, as mentioned in the revision of the ENP in 2015 where the consultations confirmed a strong interest in developing new ways of working with the neighbours of the neighbours ⁽¹⁹⁾.

It also responds to, and aims to make a marked contribution to the *Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP)*'s implementation of enhanced mobility management between Europe and African countries and tackle root causes of migration. It also aligns to the Communication on *Forced*

⁽¹¹⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility COM/2011/0743 final.

⁽¹²⁾ GAMM's four thematic priorities are: irregular migration, legal migration, migration and development and international protection and asylum.

⁽¹³⁾ Communication from the Commission – “A European Agenda on Migration” COM(2015) 240 final.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Adopted in June 2016 (COM(2016)385).

⁽¹⁵⁾ Such as Rabat Process and Khartoum Process.

⁽¹⁶⁾ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/refugees-idp/Communication_Forced_Displacement_Development_2016.pdf

⁽¹⁷⁾ Communication from the Commission – “Progress report on the Implementation of the European Agenda on Migration” COM(2019) 126 final.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Communication from the Commission - European Neighbourhood Policy - Strategy paper COM(2004) 373 final.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy JOIN(2015) 50 final.

Displacement and Development ⁽²⁰⁾ to set out to contribute to durable solutions for forcibly displaced people and their host communities.

Regionally, the Action contributes also to the *Migration on the Central Mediterranean route. Managing flows, saving lives* ⁽²¹⁾, by inter alia supporting dialogue for reinforced protection of borders and specific measures against smuggling as a way to address irregular migration, and better management of migration flows at the EU's southern borders, including increased cooperation with migration authorities in three target countries of the Action: Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt.

Globally, the Action aligns to the 2030 Agenda and follows the *European Consensus on Development* ⁽²²⁾, considering Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as cross-cutting elements of all actions, and harnessing the development potential of mobility through promotion of a nuanced and balanced narrative on migration.

These policies are the subject of, and are informed by two relevant regional dialogues on migration: The Rabat Process and the Khartoum Process. The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) is a regional migration dialogue. Since 2006, the dialogue has offered a framework for consultation, bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination of the migration routes linking Central, West and Northern Africa with Europe. Over 60 stakeholders, including the European Commission (EC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), are involved. The result is an open dialogue between national administrations about technical and political questions related to migration and development.

Both the Khartoum and Rabat processes Secretariats are supported and coordinated by ICMPD with funding from the European Union.

1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region

In the **Middle East**, the ongoing Syrian civil war has heavily impacted the social and political context. Until now, the perspective of return for the millions of people displaced by this conflict and settled in Lebanon and Jordan is still uncertain. At the same time, this sudden demographic change for these small countries places an additional stress on already strained social systems and represent additional factors that inhibit consolidation and effective responses to the issue of migration and protracted displacement. Meanwhile, in Palestine and Israel, political instability and conflict signifies a major hurdle in devising long-term development paths for communities and migrants alike.

In the **North of Africa**, the situation is characterised by socio-economic turbulences. Under such circumstances, supporting the design and implementation of national strategies on migration and related priorities, is essential in a context of challenged governance.

The Action aims to enhance cooperation on migration at regional level, between EU Member States (EU MS) and ENI SPCs and among SPCs. By facilitating cooperation and reinforcing

⁽²⁰⁾ Communication from the Commission - Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance COM(2016) 234 final.

⁽²¹⁾ Joint Communication on 'Migration on the Central Mediterranean route – Managing flows, saving lives' JOIN(2017) 4 final.

⁽²²⁾ The new European Consensus on development 'Our world, our dignity, our future'- Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

dialogue in the field of migration, at the technical level, the capacity of ENI SPCs and EU MS to manage and address migration challenges, and the intersectionality between their roles as places of origin, transit and destination of migration will be enhanced. The linkages created by diaspora settlement on both sides of the Mediterranean represents here a distinct opportunity.

This will ultimately contribute to the attainment of rights-based migration governance in the region and go towards establishment of mechanisms that ensure policy coherence in a framework of safety, human rights and development.

The proposed Action will engage institutional actors at the regional level, taking national and regional priorities and local contexts into account and developing activities in accordance with partner countries' strategic objectives.

1.4 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders of the Action are the official representatives from ENI SPCs Ministries in charge of cooperation and migration, as duty bearers with the mandate to implement and enact migration policies in their respective territories. These include Ministries of Foreign Affairs and/or of Interior/Migration, among others.

As a comprehensive approach on migration entails the cooperation of various ministries and government institutions, the participation and proactive engagement of other government bodies such as Labour, of Finance, Statistics Offices, Finance, and Law Enforcement Authorities, where relevant to the action, is organised through the NFPs.

In order to streamline communication to both EU MSs and SPCs, a process of formally appointing National Focal Points (NFPs) from relevant ministries was undertaken in 2017. While the main stakeholders are the aforementioned ENI SPCs ministries, specifically technical level officials, secondary stakeholders that mirror the ENI SPCs in EU MSs are crucial to the success of the Action.

Donor institutions represent also secondary stakeholder, in that the action seeks to propose innovative concepts that drive cooperation, support better coordination, and the identification of cross-Mediterranean shared thematic priorities.

Tertiary stakeholders are media actors, academia and civil society working on migration related topics. Target stakeholders include also public communicators as well as the general public. Through strategic partnerships, the Action will address relevant stakeholders such as local and regional authorities, private sector, and migrant associations. An in-depth stakeholder analysis and matrix will be developed at the beginning of the implementation period to identify actions as catered and suitable to these specific stakeholder groups.

1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

The migration “crisis” as experienced in 2015-2016 revealed a lack of coordination of policy responses to the fast evolution of mobility dynamics in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

National administrations in ENI SPCs are often experiencing lack of resources (and in-house capacity) to face the challenges of changing migration patterns as well reap on the potential benefits. Reinforcing capacities within SPCs and laying the groundwork for more fruitful long-term coordination with EU MS will contribute to deliver policy responses that guarantee safe, orderly and regular migration.

The proposed Action intends to build upon a successful trajectory of cooperation of EUROMED Migration with partner countries in order to enhance management and governance of migration both at the regional perspective. The action will target various thematic areas of support reflecting EU policy and cooperation framework as detailed in section 1.2, including: promotion of legal channels of mobility, strengthening of border management cooperation, enhancing diaspora engagement and dialogue with host and origin countries and combatting irregular migration/smuggling of human beings ensuring better migration governance and promoting rights based approach.

Component 3 of the programme on communications addresses a rising trend of negative reporting on migration which polarises the debate and abates efforts to enact pragmatic evidenced-based solutions. This has been identified as a pre-condition to building long-lasting, successful systems that contribute to rights-based migration governance.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

| Risks | Risk level (H/M/L) | Mitigating measures |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Low level of engagement from partner institutions and particularly from nominated National Focal Points (NFPs – both from SPCs and EU MS). | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asserting the participatory approach through better coordination mechanisms as to increase engagement during events • Define a coordinated NFPs outreach strategy with the support of the European Commission • Establishing a comprehensive calendar of events in coordination with relevant dialogues and regional initiatives, that strikes a balance between keeping momentum and enables continued participation of NFPs that are often serving as focal points for many initiatives • Developing a stakeholder management plan to coordinate with partner organisations and build economies of scale • Incorporating a targeted partner communications plan as part of the broader communications plan to build ownership and keep participants abreast of project activities and development |
| Low level of cooperation and coordination among relevant entities affecting engagement with the dialogue component in targeted countries | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in closer bilateral consultations with the nominated NFPs to provide needed support in coordination efforts and ensure commitment and ownership |
| Stereotypical and simplified narrative on migration undermining efforts towards discussing migration in a constructive and outcome-oriented | M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasising the positive outcomes of migration, stressing the role of evidence and engaging more directly |

| | | |
|--|----------|--|
| way in the Mediterranean | | with communicators, media, policy makers as well as the general public |
| Instability of the political context in SPCs | H | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EUROMED Migration programme is anchored in a long-term approach and based on a series of phases that allowed ICMPD to establish in those countries a solid relationship based on cooperation, trust and coordination, in particular the administrative structures independently of political level |
| Assumptions | | |
| <p>1-SPCs and EU MS and official stakeholders demonstrate the necessary political will and sufficient trust to engage in and support project activities.</p> <p>2- Regional and national political and economic stability as well as stable participating institutions and entities, working in an environment that encourages participation and cooperation</p> <p>3- The media and general public in SPCs and EU MS are open to learning about and, where needed, reconsidering their perception on migration/migrants on the basis of solid evidence</p> <p>4- Project partners and participants are committed to and active in coordination, communication and dialogue through the project as well as migration management more broadly</p> <p>5-DG NEAR provides input and perspectives on project design, methodologies, and deliverables and engages and supports project deliverables</p> | | |

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Main achievements and Lessons learnt

Euromed Migration IV achievements

This section provides an overview of the main outputs delivered under the Euromed Migration IV, which is due to end in December 2019. The final evaluation of the programme will allow furthering fine-tuning the activities of the phase V.

Outcome: Cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance at local/ national/ regional/ international level is improved

- **13** out of 18 dialogue and exchange activities conducted to foster cooperation between regional stakeholders. Such dialogue events take the form of peer-to-peer conferences; workshops, sub-regional workshops. Those activities saw the participation of 31 Countries (23 EU MS and 8 ENI SPCs), with a variable level of participation according to the interest in the topic under discussion.
- EMMIV has produced publications and research outputs. Namely, **a study on the matching of labour supply and demand at the regional level** and, **a mapping of labour-matching initiatives** between North African SPCs and EU MS as well as “**Tunisian Labour Market Inventory**”.
- **2** countries participating in the Migration Governance Process (MGP). For Tunisia, capacity-building efforts have focused on enlarging the knowledge base on migration while providing policy-makers with the appropriate tools to implement a national migration strategy. The delivered outputs have informed and prepared the ground for the development of a standalone project, ProGreS-Migration ⁽²³⁾. The standalone project will accompany and support the effective implementation of the national migration strategy. Palestine has been committed to reinforce its governance of migration since EMM3 notably through the establishment of a migration body composed of different ministries and agencies. EMM4 currently supports various domestic work

⁽²³⁾ “Projet Gouvernance et Stratégie”, funded under the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

streams aiming to reinforce data collection capacities at borders and modalities of engagement of Palestinians residing abroad

- **Five** cycles of the Traineeship have been completed, with the sixth cycle underway with a total of 633 applications, around 80 % from EUMS and 20 % from ENI SPCs. **24 trainees** have successfully completed the Migration Governance Traineeship, with 8 more traineeship to be undertaken by the end of the programme. The i.Map Migration Governance Traineeship aimed at strengthening the migration governance expertise of students and young professionals in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Outcome: a realistic and fair and balanced narrative on migration is fostered:

- A training curriculum for journalists on migration has been devised with a total of **30 journalists** coming from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia trained on how to better cover migration in their reporting. Target by the end of the programme is 80.
- **80 governmental communicators** trained on the importance of balancing the narrative on migration
- **1090 policy makers sensitised** on the importance of rebalancing the narrative on Migration
- **2 editions of the Migration Media Award** have been organised jointly with the ENI-funded Open Media Hub Programme.
- **109 journalistic pieces** which contribute to balance the narrative on migration as a result of the project's actions through the Migration Media Award 2017 and 2018
- **2 publications** on the narrative on migration produced, namely the study “**How does Media on both sides of the Mediterranean report on migration?**” and “**Compilation and analysis of existing opinion polls on public attitudes on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region**”. Fulfilling EMM4's commitment to boost its partnership approach, both studies were conducted in collaboration with specialised organisations: the Ethical Journalism Network (EJN) for the first study and the Observatory for Public Attitudes on Migration (OPAM) for the second.
- Through dissemination activities **800 journalists have been reached and sensitised** through the collaboration with Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) in Jordan, one of the main journalists network in Middle East, and co-organisation of events such as the Assises Internationales du Journalisme de Tunis

Lessons Learned

The EUROMED Migration programme capitalises and builds upon its 15-year trajectory as the technical dialogue on migration in the region (EUROMED Migration phases II to IV).

During the implementation of the phase IV, it has been observed that some issues can have a major impact in the implementation of the initiative, such as the fluctuant engagement of the National focal points, the capacity to adapt to a regional volatile political context as well as taking into consideration emerging priorities.

Additionally, it draws on lessons learned from similar initiatives and dialogues. Through the implementation of EMM4, the following main lessons learned contributed to the formulation of the proposed Action:

Ensuring National Focal Point (NFP) engagement

NFPs are instrumental in shaping long-term relations with national stakeholders and the dialogue's impact is to some extent determined by their level of engagement. High turnover, delayed engagement or deferred appointment of NFPs can have a detrimental effect on the effectiveness and continuity of dialogue. Mindful of the experience under EMMIV, the Action will invest in the reinforcement of ties with NFPs in all SPCs as well as EU MS. This gradual process will require conducting of regular missions to countries of interest in view of securing engagement and maintaining interest on the side of national institutions. The Action foresee a

strengthened role for NFPs through regular consultations with the aim of increasing their participation and ownership. In coordination with EU Delegations and European Commission, the Action will adopt a country-based approach considerate of country sensitivities and absorption capacities.

Investment in education on migration

The EUROMED Migration Governance Traineeship programme piloted as of 2017 has brought to light the need to invest in professionalization of the migration sector, by training future leaders and providing practical, hands-on experience on migration governance. The successful piloting of the traineeship scheme which benefited 32 young professionals from the region was positively evaluated as addressing a growing need in training for the migration field to link academic experience to professional know-how.

Mitigating effect of regional instability

EUROMED Migration operates in a relatively volatile regional environment. Beyond the protracted conflicts in Syria and Libya, SPCs currently face socio-political challenges which tend to monopolise state action and frequently challenge institutional foundations. Notwithstanding, EMM4 managed to attain in Palestine, in a context of high volatility, serious engagement and commitment to achieve long-standing national goals, thus opening opportunities that will be pursued under the proposed Action. In order to address a variety of migration-related challenges, the proposed Action closely involves partner countries in the design and implementation of activities. Capitalising on EMM4's practices, the Action will establish regular and thorough consultation and feedback channels throughout implementation, thereby placing partner countries' thematic priorities and objectives at the heart of the action. In line with partner's requests, the Action will work towards developing concrete work plans informing stakeholders of planned activities well ahead.

Capitalise on emerging interest in communications on migration

While it was not the main focus of the original formulation of the EMM4, the work undertaken on the narrative and communications on migration gradually became a flagship of the programme, responding to an emerging necessity expressed both by EU MSs and ENI SPCs to better understand how to balance the public narrative on migration after 2015/2016 so called "migration crisis". The proposed Action aims at keeping the momentum, and builds upon the positive dynamic created to continue supporting evidence-based communication and media reporting to promote unbiased and less polarised narrative on migration.

Adopt a flexible but structured approach to absorb rapid changes in the context

One of the lessons learned from EMM4 focus on the necessity of conceptualise flexible instruments which are easily adaptable to rapidly changing context and priorities. The challenges encountered at the beginning of the EMM4 implementation period entailed mainly the necessity to adapt the programme to changes in both regional context and national situations but also to a rapid shift in EU priorities in order to respond to the same regional changing scenario. With the Agenda on Migration and the Valletta Summit (and the related political declaration and action Plan), a reinforcement of both financial instruments and policies on Migration was promoted to respond to the necessity of saving lives at sea while ensuring a coherent and comprehensive approach to migration management. The initial features of the EMM4 (including a capacity building facility and small scale actions to be implemented) became rapidly redundant, overlapping and too limited in the approach, compared to the much more consistent efforts put in the EU Trust Fund for Africa. The present Action takes into consideration the change of context and aims at serving as regional framework to provide a platform to ensure coherence to all the initiatives implemented in the Neighbourhood South, without duplicating activities at country

level. The rational, integrated and well defined structure of the proposed Action will support efforts towards this end, providing a strong cooperation framework.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The proposed Action will be closely coordinated and implemented in complementarity with relevant EU-funded bilateral and regional initiatives as well as other donor's relevant actions in this field (see Annex I).

Following the Valletta Summit and the creation of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement in Africa, the initiatives funded by the EU on migration dramatically increased in number.

The EUROMED Migration provide the framework for discussing aspects of migration that are covered by the EUTF funded actions bringing the discussion to regional level, including partner countries from the Middle East into the scenario. It will focus on all the priorities covered by the EU TF, with a specific emphasis on the nexus between migration and development, labour migration, communication on migration.

Moreover, the dialogue component of Euromed Migration is also instrumental to discuss ad-hoc issues and feed DG NEAR with information useful for the formulation of new programmes.

Synergies will be ensured and reinforced with ICMPD activities and relevant programmes in targeted countries. Furthermore, links will be strengthened with other dialogues, including Rabat, Budapest and Khartoum processes, to ensure complementarity of actions and in particular in the monitoring and delivery of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP). As ICMPD is currently the implementing partner for all the above mentioned EU funded dialogues and support instruments, there is great added value in entrusting also the implementation of the EMMV to the same entity, in order to ensure coherence of approach and maximise synergies among the processes, while avoiding duplication and rationalising the efforts required from participating countries.

Moreover, ICMPD strives to go beyond enhancing coordination and ensure coherence among all its actions by creating the right conditions to create multiplier effects among related initiatives. Mechanisms are in place to apply the concept of economies of scale in project implementation processes in aligned areas of operation. The following initiatives are in particular taken into consideration:

- *Building, disseminating and operationalizing evidence-driven migration governance policy and practice in North Africa (eMGPP)* – by providing governmental institutional counterparts to the North Africa Migration Academic Network (NAAMAN) in their capacity to enhance migration and research in the region, as well as contributing to the development and implementation of a systematic evaluation framework for EUTF NoA
- *Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF)* – as a potential tool for developing positive spillover effects, for example by developing bilateral cooperation mechanisms in priority countries for the EU, focusing in particular in those countries that signed Mobility Partnerships or Common Agendas on Migration and Mobility Joint Declarations.
- *Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM)* – acting as a relay for inter-institutional coordination and multi-level governance vis-à-vis the local government network and joining up action in the support of awareness raising and promotion of a balanced narrative on migration
- *Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy on Migration of Tunisia (ProGreS Migration)* – by providing a relay on regional knowledge on migration governance processes and lessons and, where relevant, provide successful regional tools and mechanisms to enhance goals of improved migration management, cooperation and data collection in Tunisia

- *Strategic and Institutional Management of Migration in Libya* – by developing tools which have a regional relevance and can support in efforts to enhance capacity of Libyan administration, academia and civil society to improve the management of migration flows and conditions of migrants
- *Migration EU eXpertise (MIEUX)* – by further exploring the potential of this tool as a mechanism to support governments in accessing EU migration expertise and technical support
- *Strengthening the Evidence Base for Migration Policies: A Central Migration Data Management Solution for Jordan* – by promoting sharing of experience that can lead to development of mechanisms for collection of accurate and reliable data on migratory movements
- *Support to the Mobility Partnership (MP) between the European Union (EU) and the Hashemite Kingdom Of Jordan (JEMPAS)* – by providing technical expertise and support to strengthen the capacity of implementation of the national migration policy
- As an implementing body for a number of Integrated Border Management initiatives in the region, ICMPD seeks through this Action to enhance the institutional framework and thus contribute to mitigating vulnerabilities arising from irregular migration and further improve the framework of protection in these territories

The Action will also continue to consolidate and expand strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders and seek complementarity with other initiatives funded by EU and other donors, and in particular EUTF-funded programmes listed in the Annex I.

Donor coordination will be ensured through regular communication channels with the European Commission in Brussels as well as with relevant EU Delegations and Member States as required. The Operational Steering Committee will involve the EU as main donor in the decision-making structure of the project, allowing for a flexible mechanism that can adapt to rising needs and priorities.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

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

The Action includes three components, each of them linked to specific objectives contributing to the overall objective, as aligned to the Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the North of Africa window of the EU TF (MENOA):

Overall Objective (OO): To foster rights-based migration governance-systems in the region

Component 1: Dialogue and Cooperation

Specific Objective I (SO1): To improve cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance at local/ national/ regional/ international level.

Intermediate Outcome I (IO1): To enhance dialogue/ exchange of experiences between relevant actors at local/ regional/ national/ international level in consultation with DG NEAR

The proposed Action's main feature will remain the Dialogue component, to continue the activities carried out during previous phases and build on the outcomes of the consultations with participating Countries, encompassing both North-South and South-South dimensions. The overarching priority shall be determined with DG NEAR with a particular relevance and consideration on how discussions on the external dimension shall affect the EU internal aspects.

Based on lessons learned, the broad thematic structure is preferred to ensure a flexible approach, should priorities and context related challenges change rapidly during the implementation period.

The approach, developed in the previous phases of the programme, of linking the definition of the themes for the dialogue framework to consultation mechanisms and specific analysis carried out during the monitoring and evaluation processes will remain, with selected priorities organised along the following two main categories:

- Mainstreaming Priorities
- Emerging Priorities

The EUROMED Migration Dialogue and Cooperation framework will also be kept as flexible as possible to recognise the appreciation of stakeholders identifying it as a “Laboratory of ideas”. Taking account of country and regional priorities to determine the topics to be explored has been a critical factor in increasing and maintaining ownership of the process. This contributes to improved cooperation among stakeholders, ensuring that there is no duplication of work in related dialogues such as Rabat and Khartoum Processes and, on the other hand, maximise the potential impact of all these complementary settings and tools.

This flexible approach, within a framework that is adequately planned and directed, also enables maximisation in potential for innovation and synergies with activities carried out under the other components and relevant initiatives implemented at regional, national and global level.

National Focal Points (NFPs) both in EU MSs and ENI SPCs remain the main conduit for dissemination of information and requests as well as participation in consultation mechanisms envisaged to steer the dialogue.

The dialogue will encompass different types of meetings according to the specific nature of the thematic focus to be discussed. These may include Peer-to-Peer meetings, Sub-regional workshops, Experts’ retreats and specific settings to enhance broader stakeholders’ engagement. The EMM5 will follow Chatham House rules for all the meetings under the Dialogue component, unless agreed differently with all involved partners on a case by case approach.

Indicative list of Main Activities for Component 1:

- Organisation of EU Delegations and EUROMED migration NFPs’ consultations to identify mainstreaming and emerging priorities within the themes of the GAMM, including Migration Governance.
- Organisation of restricted workshops to address specific issues at technical level aimed at informing Peer to Peer (P2P) events or discussing new approaches and experiences on the development of migration governance systems/processes.
- Organisation of P2P Events to foster dialogue and cooperation on commonly identified priorities.
- Further development of the EMM3 and 4 Dialogue Monitoring Tool to analyse dialogue thematic trends.

Expected outputs under Component 1 include:

- The improvement of the EUROMED migration Dialogue Monitoring Tool.
- The formulation of conclusions and policy/operational recommendations for the follow up of the thematic work from NFPs’ consultations, P2P events and workshops.

Component 2: Knowledge management and development

Specific Objective II (SO2): To improve migration related knowledge and data management in the field of governance.

Intermediate Outcome II (IO2): To increase migration-related Knowledge in all relevant areas.

The focus on migration knowledge management and development aims at improving access to relevant studies and sources of information in order to build the knowledge of main stakeholders on migration governance to support evidence-based policy-making. It also focuses attention on the importance of knowledge and skills development to improve migration governance at national and regional level. Activities focus both on knowledge generation, development and analysis. They include addressing knowledge gaps on specific themes, country-based studies and knowledge management activities through identification and organisation of existing sources and knowledge products. This will increase accessibility to a broad range of content with the goal of informing evidence-based migration policy development. The interactive Map on Migration (i.Map) serves as platform that organises and presents this knowledge in an accessible and user-friendly way.

The focus of the thematic studies will be determined under Component 1, prioritising those themes which contribute to fostering the discussion undertaken in the framework of the dialogue in order to harmonise the activities to be carried out under the two work-streams and harmonising the definition of the annual work plan and expected outputs per component.

The Action foresees also the continuation of the EUROMED Migration Governance Traineeship programme, building on the success of the pilot experience carried out under EMM4.

Indicative list of Main Activities for Component 2:

- Conceptualisation and development of thematic and/or country based studies, policy and research outputs (encompassing qualitative and quantitative research) to provide the necessary information and knowledge to support constructive and fruitful dialogue exchanges, according to identified priorities.
- Continuation of the EUROMED Migration Governance Traineeship programme to contribute to the training of future migration governance experts from the Euro-Mediterranean region, with a focus on fostering exchanges among academic institutions (North-South and South-South) to identify strengths and weaknesses of existing curricula on migration and provide recommendations for the development of an adequate education offer that matches regional policy priorities.
- Further expansion of the i.Map, improving the quality and quantity of content available while identifying potential synergies with other ongoing initiatives to avoid duplication and maximise users' experience.

Expected outputs under Component 2 include:

- Development of thematic and country focused studies.
- Implementation of up to five cycles of the EUROMED Migration Governance traineeship (four trainees per cycle, each cycle of five months' duration).
- Development of an inventory of migration focused curricula in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Potential establishment of a community of practice to identify and discuss existing gaps in the academic offer on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Development of relevant recommendations to improve the academic offer of migration studies cross-referencing regional policy priorities (both mainstreamed and emerging).

- Upgrading of i.Map platform, with improved quantity and quality of reliable, available content as well user interface and experience.

Component 3: Communications and Narrative on migration

Specific Objective III (SO3): To foster a realistic and fair narrative on migration promoting mutual dialogue, and mutual understanding.

Intermediate Outcome III (IO3): To enhance awareness/sensitivity of general public regarding all aspects of migration.

The promotion of a more balanced, evidence-based and fair narrative on migration will support the development of a less polarised public debate which will then contribute to create the pre-conditions for the development of evidence-based and sound migration policies that promote intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and mutual understanding.

The approach aimed at rebalancing the narrative on migration entails three separate pillars (see below) to best address the targeted stakeholders of particular interest, namely: the media, the general public, and policy makers. These three target groups are considered interdependent, with the assumption that media play a role in the development of attitudes on migration and both public attitudes and media reporting contribute to generating an environment conducive to the development of evidence-based and sound migration policies.

- Pillar 1: ICMPD, under EMM4, developed and leads together with the DG NEAR funded initiative Open Media Hub (lead by Thomson Foundation), the Euro-Mediterranean Migration Media Award (MMA). From 2017 to 2019, the initiative has been implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Development of Malta, and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The MMA aims to recognise excellence, relevance, and newsworthiness of journalism pieces contributing to balance the narrative on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The long-term objective of the MMA is to foster coverage and reward outstanding pieces of journalistic work on migration issues, recognising the role media play in balancing the current narrative on migration.
- Pillar 2: During EMM4, collaboration was launched with the Observatory on Public Attitudes on Migration (OPAM) at the European University Institute to develop a series of studies targeting public attitudes on migration. The proposed Action will capitalise on the work already done and develop the necessary knowledge products to support an evidence-based approach to the issue of the narrative on migration and provide policy and operational recommendations to communication professionals and policy makers in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Pillar 3: Cooperation with the Club of Venice (CoV), an informal group of Europe's most senior and experienced government communications professionals, has been established to bring the discussion on the narrative on migration to the attention of professional institutional communicators and identify main challenges policy makers encounter when communicating on migration. Building on successful practices under EMM4, the Action foresees the continuation of the work done at technical level to foster experience-sharing and encountered challenges in public communication on migration and proposes to develop a long-term initiative to identify good practices in communicating on migration, enlarging the relevant stakeholders' group to include, among others, academia, professional communicators, private sector and all relevant actors in both EU MSs and ENI SPCs.

Encompassing the three pillars, specific visibility events to promote activities on the communication and narrative on migration will be organised to raise awareness vis-à-vis the general public and practitioners of the importance to align evidence to the perception of migration.

Indicative list of Main Activities for Component 3:

- Organisation of Migration Media Award on annual basis, including call for proposals, mentoring process and Award Ceremony.
- Establishment of a network of migration-trained professionals in journalism in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Conceptualisation and development of specific studies on public attitudes on migration and interdisciplinary knowledge products on communication on migration targeting the general public perceptions.
- Development of a network of public communicators in the Euro-Mediterranean region to foster knowledge and experience exchange on good and innovative practices in communicating on migration.
- Organisation of high level events on communications on migration to raise awareness of the importance of supporting a fair and balanced narrative at institutional level.
- Organisation of visibility events to enhance and raise awareness of the general public on all aspects of migration.

Expected outputs under Component 3 include:

- Implementation of MMA initiative on an annual basis.
- Development of specific policy recommendations for communicators.
- Development of specific curricula for journalists' training, encompassing different themes relevant to migration reporting.
- Mapping of good practices in communicating on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Establishment of a network of journalism and communication professionals in the Euro-Mediterranean region.
- Organisation of visibility and awareness raising events and communication materials and tools targeting different stakeholders' groups.

4.2 Intervention Logic

The Action will operate on the understanding that **if** a comprehensive, constructive and operational dialogue cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance, involving ENI SPCs and EU MS, at local/ national/ regional/ international level is improved. **And if** ENI SPCs are supported in their efforts to improve migration related knowledge and data management in the field of migration, **while** a realistic and fair narrative on migration promoting intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and mutual understanding is fostered across the Euro-Mediterranean region, **then** a common, inclusive and strong framework to foster rights-based migration governance-systems in the Euro-Mediterranean region could be developed and implemented by ENI SPCs and EU MSs, together with an effective mechanism of coordination at national and regional level as well as bilaterally.

4.3 Mainstreaming

The Action's overall and specific objectives directly target good governance issues, with regards to areas of immediate social and economic relevance for ENI SPCs. The Action also contributes to strengthen the protection of fundamental rights in respect of vulnerable groups. In line with SDG 5, the gender dimension will be given particular attention, and will be taken in due account

throughout the implementation of the Action, encompassing all the components and related activities. In particular, and building upon a thematic focus developed under the previous phases of the EUROMED Migration, specific attention will be dedicated to mainstreaming gender issues into migration dialogue, research and policy development. Taking into account gender disaggregated data ⁽²⁴⁾ in informing the development of migration policies, as well as specific gender related challenges in the migration experience, can determine the success of the implementation of such policies at local, national and international level. Rights-based approach and gender will be taken fully into account in the design of activities and outputs and mainstreamed in the development of action-related implementation documents.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDGs 10 and 17, while also contributing inter alia to SDGs 3, 4, 5 and 8.

The Action will contribute in particular to target 10.7 of facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. It will do so through consolidation of partnerships and capacity development of institutions in view of creating policy and institutional coherence in the region.

The Action will be implemented under the aegis of full respect of human rights of migrants, contributing to a reduction of vulnerabilities of migrants and ultimately a process of improvement of conditions in relation to access to services, health, education, well-being and productive employment as enshrined in the Agenda 2030.

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.

⁽²⁴⁾ In line with SDG 17 target 19: “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.

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 ⁽²⁵⁾.

5.3.1 Indirect management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the International centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). This implementation entails carrying out the activities identified in section 4, related to the main components of the action. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

ICMPD is an international organisation with a proven record in terms of experience and cutting-edge expertise on EU-funded project management, migration issues (specific institutional migration-focused mandate), implementation of migration governance projects, and facilitation of regional dialogues and co-operation platforms between the EU and third countries (Budapest Process since 1993, MTM Dialogue since 2002, Migration EU Expertise (MIEUX), EUROMED Migration III and IV. Last but not least, ICMPD acts as secretariat for the political dialogues on migration, Rabat Process and Prague Process since 2009 and Khartoum process since 2014).

Furthermore, ICMPD is well-suited organisation for the implementation of regional projects in the Euro-Mediterranean region as the entity has physical presence in the region, ensured by Regional Coordination Office for the Mediterranean (Malta) and Field Offices (Tunisia, Jordan and Lebanon) and thorough understanding of regional and national context. Coordination with other regional and national initiatives will be ensured through existing coordination mechanisms at country and regional level.

Finally, implementation by ICMPD will allow for effective continuity between the EUROMED Migration previous phases and this action.

The entrusted entity would be responsible of the entire implementation of the action. In addition, ICMPD is a pillar-assessed organisation.

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 realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

⁽²⁵⁾ 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.

5.5 Indicative budget

| | EU contribution (amount in EUR) | Indicative third party contribution (amount in EUR) |
|---|--|--|
| Indirect management with ICMPD (cf. section 5.3.1) | 5 000 000 | 55 000 |
| Totals | 5 000 000 | 55 000 |

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The steering mechanisms of the action encompass three dimensions.

1. In line with the activities related to SO1 and SO2, NFPs from both EU MSs and SPCs are invited to take part in periodic NFPs consultations, with the aim of identifying and mainstreaming priorities into the activities foreseen under Components 1 and 2. The Commission and ICMPD will be chairing the NFPs' consultations in the absence of a rotating chair mechanism for the dialogue component. Consultations in different format may be organised to involve relevant stakeholders and partners in specific activities/initiatives building on the experience of the Friends of the EUROMED meetings organised during the previous phases of the programme.
2. Building on the successful practice in place during EMM4, an Operational Steering Committee (OSC) is set in place, involving the Commission and ICMPD. The OSC will meet at least twice a year to discuss the work plan according to the results of the NFPs' consultations, discuss project implementation and monitor activities. The OSC can discuss and adopt mitigating/corrective measures if necessary. EU Delegations and other relevant EU services will be closely associated to the discussions and may participate in relevant meetings, upon indication of the Commission.
3. Internal ICMPD operational coordination meetings will aim at discussing, identifying and proposing areas for coordination and possible concerted actions under different EU funded projects and programmes to maximise impact and avoid duplication of activities.

5.7 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting

1. Data collection process: Regular collection of data according to the framework defined by DG NEAR for the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa – North of Africa window.
The project team will collect both quantitative and qualitative data required to update project indicators.
2. ICMPD's Quality Management System:
The project manager supervises the implementation of activities and the level of achievement of committed outputs, evaluates them on the basis of feedback provided by stakeholders and suggests, according to the analyses, a contingency plan if necessary. In addition, ICMPD' quality management system ensures compliance of the implementation with a number of predefined procedures that are ISO 9001 compliant.
3. Learning process:
Throughout the implementation phase, the team will develop a series of lessons learned from the program by highlighting some of the "success stories" achieved during project implementation. The purpose of these success stories is to identify key elements fostering a high

level of commitment and appropriation from the partner side and which positively impacted the achievement of the expected outcomes. In addition, in order to build know-how mechanisms based on a “doing by learning” process, the team will also summarise the main obstacles faced during the implementation phase and the different corrective actions undertaken in order to overcome these constraints.

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

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 mid-term evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes, in particular with respect to identify and formulate potential recommendation to revise priorities due to external challenges and change of regional/national/international context.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 60 days 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 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, 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 LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

The project log-frame is aligned to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the North of Africa window of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (2017).

| | Results chain: | Indicators | Sources of data | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | Main expected results (maximum 10) | (at least one indicator per expected result) | | Assumptions |
| Impact (Overall Objective) | To foster rights-based migration-governance systems in the region | Governance (institutional capacity) Governance (regional and international co-operation and partnerships) | To be collected by EU via external assistance | Not applicable |
| Specific Objectives | Specific Objective I: To improve cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance at local/ national/ regional/ international level. | Indicator 1: Operational Coordination Mechanisms involving relevant stakeholders | To be collected by EU via external assistance | <p>1-SPCs and EU MS governments and official stakeholders demonstrate the necessary political will and sufficient trust to engage in and support project activities. 2- Regional and national political and economic stability as well as stable participating institutions and entities, working in an environment that encourages participation and cooperation 3- The media and general public in SPCs and the EU MS are open to learning about and where needed, changing their recurrent perspectives and narratives on migration/migrants and increasingly base it on evidence and facts, rather than stereotypes, assumptions and prejudice. 4- Project partners and participants committed to and active in coordination, communication and dialogue through the project as well as migration management more broadly.5-DG NEAR provides input and perspectives on project design, methodologies, and deliverables and engage and support all project activities.</p> |
| | Intermediate outcome I: To improve dialogue/ exchange of experiences between relevant actors at local/ regional/ national/ international level. | Indicator 2: Number of National Focal Points who express confidence in the professionalism and efficiency of the established dialogue | Final Evaluation of respective National Focal Points | |

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| | Specific Objective II: To improve migration related knowledge and data management in the field of governance. | Indicator 3: Perception of national and international experts | To be collected by EU via external assistance |
| | Intermediate outcome II: To increase migration-related Knowledge in all relevant areas. | Indicator 4: Perception of institutional partners of the achieved Migration-related Knowledge | To be collected by EU via external assistance |
| | Specific Objective III: To foster a realistic and fair narrative on migration | Indicator 5: Content of public discourse on migrant population | To be collected by EU via external assistance |
| | Intermediate outcome III: To enhance awareness/sensitivity of general public regarding all aspects of migration. | Indicator 6: Number of policy makers and journalist that speak out on unrealistic or unfair narrative in public settings disaggregated by country, gender | ICMPD internal reports and Final assessment |
| For SO1: To improve cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the field of migration governance at local/ national/ regional/ international level. | | | |

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| Outputs | <p>Output 1: A series of consultative workshops, Peer to Peer and meetings are organised</p> | <p>Indicator 7: Number of implemented consultative workshops, Peer to Peer and meetings Baseline: 0</p> <p>Indicator 8: Level of participation: average number of participating ENI SPC and EU MS delegations for all event/activity; Disaggregated by country and gender Baseline:</p> <p>Indicator 9: Quality of participation: good match between profile of delegates sent by ENI SPC and EU MS and generic suited profile communicated for the event/activity ; Baseline: N/A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMPD internal reports • Attendance sheets • Workshop agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMPD internal reports • Attendance sheets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation Quality Monitoring tool: matching of profile of participants with generic suited profiles communicated ahead of the activity/event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high level of engagement of ENI SPC and EU MS in the different events/activities across all thematic areas |
| | <p>Output 2: A series of background documents, publications, studies and research papers are developed to facilitate the establishment of a constructive dialogue based on evidence base policy making</p> | <p>Indicator 10 :Number of background documents, publications, studies and research papers developed Baseline: 0</p> <p>Indicator 11: Number of stakeholders sensitised by the developed results Baseline: 0</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMPD internal reports • ICMPD final approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of copies shared with stakeholders (soft and hard copies) | <p>Willingness of stakeholders to cooperate and share information</p> |
| | <p>For SO2: To improve migration related knowledge and data management in the field of governance.</p> | | | |
| <p>Output 1: i.Map platform dedicated to sharing information related to migration issues in the Med is improved, promoted and widely spread</p> | <p>Indicator 12: Number of unique visitors on the platform per year. Disaggregated by country Baseline:To be defined by the end of EMM4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Analytics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability of the iMap to be known by relevant target users, be relevant to their needs, and provide quality of information commensurate with enduser expectations | |

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|--|--|---|---|--|
| | <p>Output 2: A pool of future professionals in migration governance is trained in migration related knowledge and data management to contribute to sustainability of regional governance approach</p> | <p>Indicator 13: Number of trainees trained on the governance of migration Baseline : 36</p> <p>Indicator 14: Quality of the traineeship program Baseline: To be defined by the end of EMM4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMPD internal reports • Attendance sheet • In depth interviews with a sample of a trainees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pool of Trainees are actively engaged in their countries of origin to develop and strengthen the local and regional governance framework |
| <p>For SO3: A realistic and fair narrative on migration promoting intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and mutual understanding is fostered</p> | | | | |
| | <p>Output 1: A pool of skilled journalists is trained in view to contribute to balancing the narrative on migration on both sides of the Mediterranean</p> | <p>Indicator 15: Number of journalists trained Baseline: To be defined by the end of EMM4</p> <p>Indicator 16: Percentage of training participants who demonstrate an increase in knowledge in specific migration areas Baseline: N/A</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMPD internal reports • Attendance sheets • Project reports, pre/post training surveys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness of the media in the South Partner Countries (ENI SPC) to comprehensively address migration issues at national and regional level |

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| | <p>Output 2:The media and policy makers of ENI SPC and EU MS are aware of the importance of balancing the narrative on migration on both sides of the Mediterranean</p> | <p>Indicator 17: Number of policy makers reached and sensitised. Disaggregated by country, gender Baseline: To be defined by the end of EMM4</p> <p>Indicator 18: Number of journalist reached and sensitised. Disaggregated by country, gender Baseline: To be defined by the end of EMM4</p> <p>Indicator 19: Number of journalistic productions developed participating to balance the narrative on migration on both sides of the Mediterranean as a result of the project's action Baseline: To be defined by the end of EMM4</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICMPD internal reports • Attendance sheets of events/conferences • Journalistic production available (soft or/and hard copy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The media in ENI SPC and EU MS are engaged in the development of a balanced narrative on migration on both sides of the Mediterranean |
|--|--|---|--|---|